



The Starry Night Gazette

Vincent House, 4801 78th Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Telephone 727- 541- 0321



Volume 6 Edition 10

www.vincenthouse.org

October 2008

Clubhouse Certification Process Brings a Busy Summer to a Close

At the end of August, Vincent House was up for certification renewal by the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD). The four-day visit by two Faculty members from the ICCD culminated a lengthy and thorough process of re-certification.

By Lee Atkins & Ursula Clarke

We had been preparing for the visit by Susie Deter and Mary Kistner from the International Center for Clubhouse Development for many months. Susie is an ICCD faculty as well as Director of "Threshold", a Clubhouse in Durham, North Carolina. Mary is an ICCD faculty as well as member from "Independence Center", a Clubhouse in St. Louis, Missouri. We spoke to Susie and Mary in order to learn about their experiences with ICCD Clubhouses. Susie has been in the mental health field for 30



Susie Deter presents her findings to Vincent House. The official written report is provided 2-3 months after the certification visit.

years. She has worked with Clubhouses in Michigan and North Carolina. Mary learned about the Clubhouse Model from a doctor in the 1990's.

Mary and Susie took a fine-toothed comb over our Clubhouse to review us for the ICCD. Here is a short overview of their verbal ICCD report: Vincent House has a strong commitment to work, a willingness to take on big programs, and employment is truly at the heart of Vincent House.

They were quick to mention the quality of our food, our vast menu, and the cleanliness of the kitchen and Clubhouse in general. They also mentioned our young adult member base, our bank, and birthday cards. Our employment program gives us experience in everything from data

entry to cleaning and maintenance. Consequently, we have a good work ethic. We take pride in our work and of course our Clubhouse. Vincent House has excellent community involvement.

At the Friday house meeting following their visit, the topic of discussion was the ICCD re-certification. The main suggestions given by the reviewers were to develop a strategic plan and subsequently increase space and staffing to better meet the needs of our growing membership.

The certification process was very beneficial. We enjoyed having such competent and caring ICCD faculty.

ICCD Certification and Beyond

By Clyde Kobayashi



A mountaineer was once asked why he climbed Mt. Everest. He simply replied "It gave me a sense of pride and accomplishment!" Clubhouses that choose to seek and attain certification with the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) offer higher quality services and hope for a new life, including opportunities to return to work if members choose; in short, "A sense of pride and accomplishment!" Our future is bright and we are shooting for the stars...



ICCD faculty, Susie Deter of Threshold Clubhouse, N.C., and Mary Kistner of Independence Center, St. Louis, prepare an oral presentation of their findings.

BREAKFAST OF HOPE

On Tuesday, October 28, 2008, Vincent House will launch its first "Breakfast of Hope." This is a free breakfast for people to come and learn about our Clubhouse. This will also be a fundraiser. Guests will be asked to consider making a contribution but there is no minimum and no maximum gift requested. The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel, and the doors will open at 7:30 AM with the breakfast beginning promptly at 8:00 AM and finishing at 9:00 AM.

We are sure that this will be a memorable experience for everyone who attends. Preparations are being made and tables assigned, so please call 727-541-0359 if you would like to attend. Come share the joy and witness the HOPE that Vincent House provides to its members on a daily basis. We would be delighted if you could join us!



Stumped: From the Stories of my Elders

Aloysia is one of about 35 Young Adult members here at Vincent House. Vincent House is actively supporting young adults in the Clubhouse and recognizes the importance of assisting young adults with building a future through work, education and community.

By Aloysia C. McPherson

A member I talked to recently had an attitude of "I've seen it all before." He's been through a lot and has done well for himself. His experience and testament answered a just and yearning *question* all young adults have. For all the right reasons we can better our plight, gain a different view or perspective, just by taking the time to talk and listen to our elder's experiences...and to work hard...and to make the right choices in life. If he can get through all that, then I can start with one day at a time...to learn from the best and to gather the stories of our elders...to connect our lives with theirs.

The tune of a simple conversation with your grandma or of older family



Tess Daniels *left*, sits with member. Aloysia McPherson *right* Tess is a member of the Clubhouse that Aloysia looks to for advice and friendship.

members has a lasting effect on the outlook of a young adult's life. For every young adult, there is an elder out there waiting to share their life experience, to warn you what might be ahead and mend a gaping hole in the hearts of many. The transference of life and interpersonal skills gained by just talking to your father, mother

and some other elder, in retrospect, can give some sense of comfort or tranquility to your soul.

...by taking the time to talk and listen to our elder's experiences...and to work hard...and to make the right choices in life.

Just by sharing advice in a simple conversation on the front porch, on a hot Sunday afternoon, sipping lemonade and sharing tea sandwiches after church with your grandmother or grandfather can heal the most deep and painful space in our hearts. Just by sitting back and listening to the stories of their lives and realizing that your life has only just begun and you have a long way to go. To listen to all their life experiences, trials and tribulations can educate any young adult on how to conduct and to better themselves to those who are willing to sit down and listen to an **elder!!!**

UPCOMING NAMI EVENTS

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Chocolate Extravaganza!

Friday, October 10, from 6pm-10pm, the 5th Annual "End the Mystery" Buffet and Fundraiser at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. Get in the mood and wear your favorite 'chocolate-colored' outfit. Enjoy the buffet, dancing, and a chocolate delight all night. Proceeds are used by NAMI for: Education, Support, and Advocacy programs.

Tickets: \$60 Call: 727-209-0890

"End the Mystery" Sunset Stroll for Mental Illness Awareness

One-mile walk to raise awareness of mental illnesses (bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, depression). Registration begins 5:30pm, walk starts 6:00pm, Sunday, October 12, 2008, at N. Straub Park, 5th Ave. & Bayshore Dr., St. Pete 33701. \$20 registration includes T-shirt & refreshments. Benefits NAMI for Education, Support, and Advocacy programs. Call: 727-209-0890

www.nami-pinellas.org

Join a Vincent House SHOWCASE

Choose from any of the following dates:

- Tues, Oct. 14 @ 5-6 pm
- Wed, Oct. 22 @ 10-11 am
- Wed, Nov. 12 @ 10-11 am
- Wed, Dec. 10 @ 10-11 am

A Vincent House Showcase can be a life changing experience!

Please RSVP: 727-541-0399
Ask for Elliott, Dianne or Fran

Your Support Makes Recovery Possible for our Members

The continued encouragement, assistance and donations of all of you - our friends, families and supporters, makes a real difference in the lives of our nearly 500 members. We thank you for joining with us in our daily endeavors as we strive to make our world a better place: one member and one life at a time.

This is our current WISH LIST:

- Clothing dressers
- Commercial Walk-In Cooler
- Part-time jobs for our members
- Color Laser Printer
- Upgraded Camcorder & Microphone
- Copy Paper
- Heavy Duty Gas Grill

A special Thanks to:

Geiger's Pest Control

Thanks for donating many years of quality services to our Clubhouse. You are part of our success!!



Michael is one of many members working independently in the community. Vincent House members currently earn over \$300,000 annually in paid employment settings.

By Michael Ralston

I have been working at Windmoor Healthcare for ten months as a Transportation Specialist and I love it! I enjoy going to work everyday. It gives me a chance to shave, clean up, put on a clean outfit and feel proud about my appearance. Working at Windmoor has helped to strengthen my mental health, writing and social skills. The drivers that I work with are always caring and the clients are great. At work, I assist the clients in and out of the vans and fill out important legal documents. I also get a chance to practice writing because my writing must be legible on the legal documents. I believe that my penmanship is improving daily. This job has given me the opportunity to gain self-confidence and has improved my self-esteem. Life is now much better for me since I am working and that is better than doing nothing at all. I feel better now that I am working and helping people .



TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Pamela Adams | Suncoast Center |
| Susan Alvey | Tri-Glo/Raytheon |
| Dimitri Byelov | Liberty Lanes |
| Adam Franz | SeashellBooks.com |
| Stephanie Freskos | SeashellBooks.com |
| Stephen Gregosky III | Suncoast Center |
| Larry Haines | Suncoast Center |
| Brian Howe | Liberty Lanes |
| Alex Houser | SeashellBooks.com |
| Carol Jackson | Senior Services |
| Gayle Marchiniak | Senior Services |
| Brittaney Spaulding | Liberty Lanes |
| Athena Steele | SCC-FACT Team |
| Michael Taddeo | Suncoast Center |
| Ed Wohlford | Tri-Glo/Raytheon |
| Abraham Youssouf | Galleria Plumbing |

Supported & Independent Employment

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Ballenger | Irrigation Specialist |
| William Champion | Recovery Specialist |
| Debbie Cibik | Driver |
| Jennifer Dickey | House Cleaning |
| Tess Daniels | Housekeeping |
| Eddie Gares | Recovery Coach |
| Dennis Hill | Theater Usher |
| Brian Howe | Prep Technician |
| Bonnie Lawniczak | Machine Operator |
| Brian Lutz | Food Preparation |
| Alvis Mills | Recovery Coach |
| Ralph Morphew | Food Service |
| Philip Noonan | Maintenance |
| Angela Parker | Transportation |
| Michael Ralston | Transportation |
| David Reed | Transcriptionist |
| Shannon Riley | Recovery Coach |
| Heidi Rippen | Service Clerk |
| Ron Ritchie | Transportation |
| Chris Schaer | Telemarketer |
| Justin Shea | Recreation Leader |
| Joe Stabile | Floor Maintenance |
| Jason Sulimay | Receptionist |
| Terry Taggart | Pet Groomer |
| Judy Wilson | Transportation |

Continuing Education in 2008

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Ballenger | Aloysia McPherson |
| Latoya Johnson | Shawna Rylander |
| Bob Krehbiel | Steve Scofield |
| Franklin La Torre | Justin Shea |
| Gayle Marchiniak | Jason Sulimay |

"I enjoy being back at Suncoast on Transitional Employment. It is nice to be back around old friends again." -Mike Taddeo

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October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Rueben Sandwich w/Chips <i>Alan Baldwin Mary Opalanko</i> Employment Dinner Stuffed Tilapia	Jen's Chicken and Rice <i>Janet Haydostian Eric Weisenfeld</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Malcom Campbell Eunice Carter Mary Ellen Emmert Mary Reed</i>	Vincent House Clean Up and Garden Day <i>Starlin Bradford</i>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Vincent Burgers <i>Harry Boucher Sharon Hollinrake Johna Klarich</i>	Bean Burritos with Nacho Chips <i>Jerry Rodante</i>	Gyros with Greek Salad <i>Kim Harrell</i>	Angela's Crabcakes	Chef's Surprise NAMI Chocolate Extravaganza \$60	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NAMI Sunset Stroll 5:30 pm <i>David Yeager</i>	Meat Lasagna <i>Paul A. Constantinoff Sherman George Sean J. O'Brien Susan Phillips</i>	Baked Stuffed Potatoes Vincent House Showcase 5:00—6:00 pm	Chicken Cordon Bleu <i>Michael Kilroy</i> Employment Dinner Pirogues with Cream Sauce	Alex's Shepard's Pie <i>Edward Creter</i>	Chef's Surprise	Dinner Cruise \$15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Chicken Caesar Salad	Tofu Stir-fry with Rice	Subs with Chips Vincent House Showcase 10:00—11:00 am	Penne Pasta w/ Italian Sausage <i>Mary V. Arauz Roger A. Koryus</i>	Chef's Surprise Pizza & Movie \$1.50 "Addams Family"	Bowling & Billiards <i>Art Hallman</i>
	27	28	29	30	31	
	Ravioli	Grilled Cheese w/Tomato <i>Scott Christenson Leslie A. Leuzinger</i> BREAKFAST OF HOPE	Meatball Subs with Chips	Teriyaki Wings with Rice <i>Robert Boehm</i>	Chef's Surprise Halloween Party 4:30 pm	

Menus are subject to change. Casey's Café offers alternative lunch – call to order before 11:00 A.M.