

Can You Find the Person with Mental Illness?



Probably Not.



2006 Annual Report

*Providing Hope, Dignity & Support for People with
Mental Illnesses for more than 30 years*

Board of
Directors

*Fiscal Year
7/1/05 – 6/30/06*

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VICE PRESIDENT
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors.....	Page 2
Mission Statement.....	Page 2
Services & Accomplishments.....	Pages 3 - 5
Community Outreach & Events.....	Page 6
Volunteers & Donors.....	Pages 4 - 7
Financial Highlights.....	Page 7

OUR MISSION

Project Return, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people experiencing mental illnesses through educational, vocational and supportive housing services, so that they may lead productive and fulfilling lives in the community.

Our Services & Accomplishments

Supportive Housing & Community Living

Project Return assists people, some who are homeless, to explore, acquire, and retain the housing of their choice. Project Return also offers its own safe and affordable housing options with services such as household management, medication assistance, and home visits so that residents can maintain their self-sufficiency.

Personalized services such as home visits, care phone calls, and budgeting help individuals maintain their autonomy in our community.



Anthony V. At the onset of my illness, I was unable to work, lost my job and soon after became homeless. After moving to Project Return's supportive housing complex, Friendship Palms, the staff helped me control my medication and assisted me in getting stable again. They give me a reason to carry on and I thank Project Return for the position I'm in today.

- Provided assistance with social security issues and helped a resident secure social security disability benefits after 10 years of attempts
- Helped chronically homeless individuals maintain permanent housing
- Increased medication independence among residents

New Initiatives

• Expanded the Community Living Program designed to support the needs of people with mental illness living independently in the community. Program Specialists assist with budgeting, communication skills, medication management, referrals, socialization opportunities, achieving personal goals and much more.

Accomplishments

- Provided a home and supportive services for 50 residents, 4 of which have been provided housing opportunities to avoid imminent homelessness
- Helped 9 individuals transition into their own homes in the community where they receive ongoing supports as needed

Advocacy

- Provided housing references for residents who transition from supportive housing to community living and helped individuals get connected with other community resources

Our Team

Fiscal Year
7/1/05 – 6/30/06

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Natalie Y. Mitchels

**DIR OF OUTREACH
& COMMUNITY DEV.**
Fred Mitchels

**ADMINISTRATIVE
MANAGER**
Michelle Fries

**SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING MANAGER**
Indra Dabek

**COMMUNITY
RESOURCE SPECIALIST**
Flavia Lindo-Porter

HUD SPECIALIST
Ian Ross

PROGRAM MANAGER
Michael Ross

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
Michael Hilson
Rhoda Zusman

**ART PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**
Angela Dickerson

ACEC TEACHER
Lucretia Dovi

COMPUTER TEACHER
Paula Jerkins

PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Donald Dwyer

FACILITIES SPECIALIST
Fred Fiedler

DATA SPECIALIST
Rose Norden

FACILITIES MANAGER
Madeline Ercolano

VOCATIONAL MANAGER
Laurel Jorgensen

FINANCIAL
Frank Galindo

FUNDRAISING
Malbrig, Inc.

Your Impact

(7/1/05 – 6/30/06)

Individual Donors

Robert Ableidinger
Katie Anders
Charlie Anderson
Julie Baker
Brenda Barnes
Tessie Barthelomew
Reuben & Lucille Bergstrom
Elizabeth Bettendorf
Joan Bieker
Robert & Sharon Blanchard
Mike Brawning
Barbara Cantero
Sherri Carkhuff
Belen Correa
Fernando Corredor
El & Jan Davis
J. C. Delotto
Angela Dickerson
James Dickerson
Gregory Doby
Lula Dovi
Carol Enters
Kristin Evancho
William & Marilyn Fennell
Angelo Fonte
Victoria Fortugno-Oliver
Michelle Fries
Stamie Garcia
Katherine Gibson
Linda Goldstein
Nancy Halvorsen
Jane Hennessy
Eddie Hicks
Robert Hyams
Mr. & Mrs. Jakubowski
Joseph Kennedy
Jim & Pat Laposa
Donald Lau
Elaine Lezcan
Timmi MacFarlane
Francesco Marchesini
Leonard Marsocci
Carolyn Maxwell
Julia McKinney
Billy McPhillips
Fred Meyer
Elizabeth Mitchels
Sandra Mooney
Kathleen Moore
Barbara Murphy
Denis Murphy
Evin & Linda Netzer
Robert Newman
Nestor Orfiz

Education, Personal Enrichment and Social Opportunities

Individuals may choose to take part in a variety of classes, engage in special activities, participate in support groups, and join in social gatherings and community outings. They can also explore talents or hobbies, learn new skills, utilize the Resource Room to access other community resources and engage in other activities to enhance the quality of their lives.

Accomplishments

- Provided a place for more than 330 people experiencing mental illnesses to learn, work and return to rewarding lives
- The Center for Lifelong Education, Training and Development was visited over 21,000 times, which increased more than 6% from last year



Shawna C. Project Return gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning. By participating in Algebra and English classes I'm forcing my brain to be more focused. My new goal is to attend Hillsborough Community College to learn more about science and social studies.

New Initiatives

- Implemented new classes including Wednesday dance, Swimming class and Geography/Travel class
- Implemented new activities including Drum Circle and field trips to the Museum of Science & Industry, Graphic Studio, the Florida Aquarium, art galleries and museums, parks, malls and plays
- Started a NAMI group on Friday's held at the Center for Lifelong Education, Training & Development

Advocacy

- Connected members with legal help through Bay Area Legal Services
- Assisted with Social Security issues and helped members obtain birth certificates
- Helped members find housing, case managers and psychiatric services through community mental health agencies and private physicians
- Connected members with transportation through Sunshine line and HARTline
- Supported members in reuniting with estranged family members, assisted with banking and financial issues, helped members register to vote and settle landlord disputes

We-CAN Work Preparation, Retention and Employment Services

Project Return offers a selection of personalized job support services (work preparation, job retention workshops and on-site job support), employment opportunities, and meaningful work routines for individuals to choose from in order to achieve their work and employment goals.



Narvell M. For 22 years, Project Return has given me a home away from home. I've been working as part of the cleaning crew 5 days a week, where I make sure the Center is clean for the members, including the kitchen, bathrooms and floors. Life is what you make of it and Project Return makes me very happy in my life.

New Initiatives

- Collaborated with the Workforce Alliance and the Boley Center/Vocational Rehab to gain job referrals and provide additional opportunities for employment
- Attended County Alliance meetings to discuss new county projects and to network and gain information about other valuable community resources
- Served on Disability Mentoring Day Committee to provide members with additional employment resources

Accomplishments

- Expanded the We-CAN work preparation and employment program to help more people return to work
- 23 people returned to work in the community and received supports from Project Return
- 48 Project Return members facilitated the operations of our sites and services; 33 were employed by Project Return and 15 were volunteers

Advocacy

- Made various new contacts with potential employers in the community and recommended other community resources
- Provided support to members prior to and during job interviews and participated with members in job fairs including the Customer Service Hospitality Career Fair; Mayor's Job Fair; University Community Center Job Fair; and Raymond James Job Fair

Your Impact

David Parker
Andre Partykevich
Scott Pugan
Robin Rahn
Rena Reisman Art
Patricia Riggs
Paula Rodriguez
Kelly Rogers
Sarah Romeo
John Setzer
Jeannie Sever
Tom Shannon II
Gloria Shelton
Susan Shoffstaff
Terry Sibley
Barry Smith
Noel Smith
Rosalie Sorrells
Ken Sponagle
Pat Stanton
Barbara Steck
Mary Stedman M.D.
Margery Stern
Rick Stolbach
K. Stoval
Catherine Thompson
Susan Thurston
Sara Jane Tindale
Kathy Troy
Jennifer Trujillo
Eric Velt
Dacia Wadsworth
Michael Wallace
Janet Whalen
Chris Whidden
Gena Woodward
Rhoda Zusman

Business Donors

Avila Golf & Country Club
Bay Area Injury Rehab
Specialists
Bern's Steakhouse
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay
Carrabba's Italian Grill
Casper's Company
Cello's Char House Inc.
Columbia Restaurant
DeBartolo Holdings LLC
Donatello
Emerald Greens Golf &
Country Club
Emergency Pest Patrol
Florida Aquarium
Franciscan Center
Fuzzy Zoeller Production

Your Impact

Gold Bank
Hadassah
Heidt & Associates
Hugh Harless Insurance
Kristianna's
Lazy Days RV Center
Lowry Park Zoo
Mental Health Center
Museum of Science & Industry
Outback Steakhouse Inc.
P.F. Chang's China Bistro
Palm Restaurant
Papia Roofing Company
Pepin Distributing Company
Reeves Import Motorcars
Saddlebrook Resort Tampa
Southern Laser Inc.
St. Lawrence Catholic Parish
Stonewood Grill & Tavern
Sweetbay Supermarket
Tampa Theatre
Vitality Foodservice Inc.
Walt Disney World Co.
Westchase Golf Course
Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Wyndham Westshore Hotel

Foundations

DeBartolo Family Foundation
The Lowry Murphey Family
Foundation
Sierra Foundation

Public Sector Supporters

Florida Department of
Children & Families
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Volunteers

Gabriele Ayala
Jennifer Bailey
Alicia Bardelli
Daniel Bethea
Laurie Brill
Gayl Christie
Justin Clafin
Lexey Covell
Tim Cunniff
Robert Davis
Angela Dickerson
Patrick Donatelli
Alvin Dozier

Community Outreach & Events

Project Return's focus during this year was to expand awareness and understanding of our services and mental illness throughout our community and engage individuals and businesses in our efforts to improve supports and services for people living with mental illnesses. Below are the highlights from this year's activities.



Diane M. Project Return has taken away that depressed, isolated feeling and made me feel valuable again. I have gained self respect and care about the impression I give others. The opportunity to do art gives me an escape from reality and is the icing on the cake!

Art Program

- A collaborative art exhibition, "Painting Out Stigma," with Mental Health Care, Tampa Crossroads and VSA Arts of Florida was held in May in celebration of Mental Health Month. The event demonstrated that art can be used to help eliminate stigma attached to mental illness in our society.
- More than 10 art exhibitions were held during the year, featuring Project Return artists, in the Lobby Gallery at the Center for Lifelong Education Training & Development and in the community.

Community Awareness and Outreach

Project Return aimed to engage individuals and businesses in collaborative efforts to better our community. By working together we were able to help people with mental illnesses to receive the services they need in order to live productive and fulfilling lives while also saving tax payers the costs of unnecessary hospitalizations and/or incarcerations.

- Presentations were held at local universities and other social service providers, including Safe Place and the University of South Florida
- Crisis Response Intervention Trainings were held with the Tampa Police Department and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department
- 94.9 radio broadcast and other media opportunities informed the community about mental illness and Project Return
- Developed relationships with community employers including Home Depot, Lowry Park Zoo, Enterprise & Publix
- Provided tours at our Center for politicians, mental health advocates, ALF operators, case managers, businesses, donors, doctors and pharmaceutical representatives

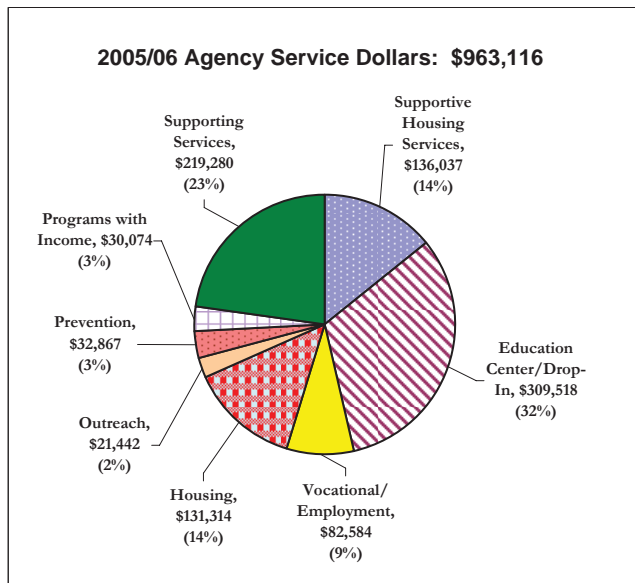


Events

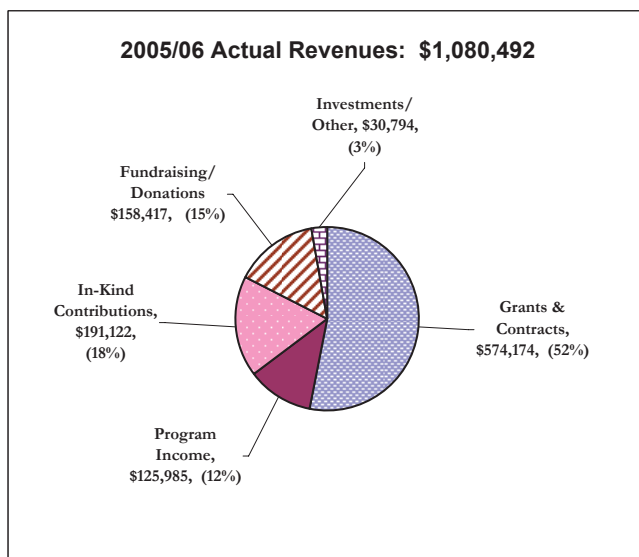
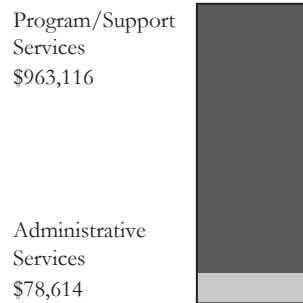
- In its third year benefitting Project Return, Florida's premier art auction, Art for Life, featured artwork by local, national and student artists. Community focus groups were held with artists and a collaborative mask project with member and local artists helped to integrate Project Return artists in the art community.
- The 15th Annual Allen N. Reeves Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by Sweetbay Supermarkets raised more than \$60,000

Financial Highlights

Your Impact



**2005/06 Actual Expenses
Total: \$ 1,041,730**



**Financial Highlights
2005/06**

Assets	\$999,126
Liabilities	\$116,196
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>\$844,168</u>
Revenues	\$1,080,492
Expenses	\$1,041,730
<u>Net Asset Increase</u>	<u>\$38,762</u>

- Jill Dubin
- Donald Dwyer
- Larry Ebelink
- Edwin Echeona
- Fred Fiedler
- Beth Fitch
- Bobbi Francis
- Michelle Fries
- Frank & June Galindo
- Kevin & Melody Geise
- Hugo Gonzalez
- Carlton Goode
- Melanie Hinton
- Jeanette Howland
- Lori Jakubowski
- Darby Jonaitis
- Laurel Jorgensen
- Lillian Klein
- Donna Landsburg
- Betsy Lanier
- Maria Lazus
- Flavia Lindo-Porter
- Arlene Malter
- Wendy Mangan
- Wendy Manouni
- Sean Mason
- Lois Matthews
- Julia McKinney
- Mark Minton
- Fred Mitchels
- Natalie Mitchels
- Marie Moretti
- Diane Murphy
- Luis Penna
- Kim Petrone
- Ian Ross
- Michael Ross
- Margie Sears
- Fred Setzer
- Renee Sharp
- Diane Shultz
- Linda Smith
- David Underhill
- Anthony Vassura
- Paul Watts

Please accept our apologies if we've missed you. We research carefully, but errors do occur. If you were missed or your name was spelled incorrectly, please contact our administrative offices at 813.990.8981 so that we may correct our records.

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Project Return, Inc.



Editor's Note:

Please help us keep our mailing list current. If you would like to make corrections to your address label, if you are receiving duplicate copies or to request additional copies of this report please call 813-990-8981.

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