

# Can You Find the Person with Mental Illness?



**Probably Not.**



2007 Annual Report

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

## **Board of Directors**

*Fiscal Year*  
**7/1/07 – 6/30/08**

**PRESIDENT**  
**Pamela Townsend**

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Robin Kurtzman**

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**Rhoda Zusman**

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**Monsignor Laurence  
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**Francesco  
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**Marie Preston**

**George Thomas**

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## **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 goal planning, care phone calls, and budgeting, help individuals maintain their autonomy in our community.



**Karen D.** "If it wasn't for Project Return, I would be homeless, going in and out of hospitals. Project Return saved my life."

### **Accomplishments & Activities**

- Provided a home and supportive services for 46 residents, 6 of which have been provided housing opportunities to avoid imminent homelessness
- Helped 10 individuals transition into their own homes in the community where they receive ongoing supports as needed
- Provided housing references for residents who transition from supportive housing to community living and helped individuals get connected with other community resources

- Helped chronically homeless individuals maintain permanent housing
- Increased medication independence among residents
- Helped residents to access mainstream resources

### **New Initiatives**

• Continued to expand the Community Living Program designed to support the needs of people with mental illnesses living independently in the community, as we increased our program with 7 new members. Program Specialists assist with budgeting, communication skills, medication management, referrals, socialization opportunities, achieving personal goals and much more.

## **Our Team**

*Fiscal Year  
7/1/07 – 6/30/08*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
*Natalie Y. Mitchels*

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

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
& ADMINISTRATIVE  
MANAGER**  
*Madeline C. Ercolano*

**HOUSING PROGRAM  
MANAGER**  
*Ian Ross*

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
SPECIALIST**  
*Flavia Lindo-Porter*

**PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**  
*Michael Ross*

**PROGRAM SPECIALIST**  
*Michael Hilson*

**ART PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR**  
*Michelle Barron*

**ACEC TEACHER**  
*Lucretia Dovi*

**COMPUTER TEACHER**  
*Paula Jerkins*

**PROGRAM ASSISTANT**  
*Donald Dwyer  
Frances Murray*

**FACILITIES MANAGER**  
*Fred Fiedler*

**VOCATIONAL MANAGER**  
*Jo Ellen Greene*

**FINANCIAL**  
*Frank Galindo  
Elizabeth Rowe*

# Your Impact

(7/1/07 – 6/30/08)

## Individual Donors

Lisa & Danny Almeydas  
Shirley Balter  
Suzan Beckwith  
Daniel Bethea  
Bruce Benninghoff  
Dr. Lewis Berger  
April Biasi  
Carl & Patricia Biggs  
Joyce Biggs  
Charles & Elizabeth Bisbee  
Robert & Sharon Blanchard  
Julie Booker  
Donna Bright  
Laurie Brill  
Doug Brinsmade  
Lorilie Brody  
Michael & Sara Byars  
Jose & Angela Caldevilla  
Joseph Capitano  
Shawna Casey  
Justin Claffin  
Cornelia G. Corbett  
Belen Correa  
Stephen M. Crawford  
Robert Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Delotto  
Gary Dicus  
Lula Dovi  
Alvin Dozier  
Donald Dwyer  
Naomi Eaton  
Ruth Eddy  
Susan Edwards  
Cecilia Evans  
Mary Fearn  
Bill & Marilyn Fennell  
Keith Floyd  
Angelo Fonte  
Lynn Fruit  
Julian Garcia  
Tony Garner  
Mary Geraci  
Suzan Giunta  
Sandy Goodchild  
Ruth Gordon  
Theresa Graham  
John Greer  
Janeile Gunter  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Halub  
Christine Hedinger  
Cynthia Hedinger  
Daniel Hernandez  
Monsignor Laurence Higgins  
Tanya Holloman

# 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 316 people experiencing mental illnesses to learn, work and return to rewarding lives.
- The Center for Lifelong Education, Training and Development was visited just over 23,000 times, which increased more than 4.5% from last year.



**Rudolph S.** "I enjoy going to different groups, and sometimes I have a conversation with a friend. I love art, and the computers as well."

## **Activities & Advocacy**

- Connected members with community agencies: Gulf Coast Legal Services, Bay Area Legal Services, voter registration, HARTline & Sunshine Line transportation, Social Security, and assisted with income tax filing.
- Shared Center activities, groups, and celebrations with community artists & musicians, Hadassah, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Tampa Family Health Centers Mobile Medical Van, family and friends, Tampa Fire Dept., Dr. Stedman/Stedman Clinical Trials, DBSA & NAMI.
- Helped members find housing, case managers and psychiatric services through community mental health agencies and private physicians.
- Provided eye exams for members in conjunction with Dr. George Linsey and hosted a flu shot initiative in conjunction with Hillsborough County Health Department.

## **New Initiatives**

- Explored new places in our community through outings to Tampa Airport, Ybor City bowling, beach trips, thrift stores, Victorian Christmas stroll, and weekly library field trips.
- Provided new yoga class, DBSA support group, USF Nurses' weight loss class, USF Nurses Community Health Fair at Project Return.
- Incorporated additional aspects of the clubhouse model by encouraging more members to volunteer to take on tasks to facilitate the operation of the Center.

# We-CAN Work Preparation, Retention and Employment Services

The Project Return Vocational Program offers personalized employment services such as: work preparation, job search assistance, job retention, on-site job support and one-on-one employment counseling. Project Return offers individuals desiring meaningful work experiences, whether volunteer or paid, the opportunity to meet those goals.



**Narvelle 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 and bathrooms. Life is what you make of it and Project Return makes me very happy in my life."

## ***New Initiatives***

- Served on National Disability Mentoring Day Committee to provide members with additional mentoring experiences and resources within Hillsborough County.
- Collaborated with Busch Gardens to help members understand the meaning of work through tours and discussions with employees and Human Resources representatives.

## ***Accomplishments***

- 36 people enrolled in the Vocational Program
- More than 30 members were employed at Project Return, and/or in the community
- 10 members have participated in Employability Skills classes
- 26 members have participated in other parts of Vocational programming, i.e. job search assistance, vocational counseling, job retention, etc.

## ***Advocacy***

- Made new contacts with potential employers in the community and other community resources
- Attended job fairs around the city with several members including Professional Veterans Career Expo, Employment Guide Job Fair, Jobing.com, Hillsborough County Community Job Fair, University Area Center & Mayor's Alliance on Disabilities Job Fair

# Your Impact

Marie Hornbrook  
Mark Huey  
Paul Huey  
Robert & Sheila Hyams  
Gloria James  
Darby Jonaitis  
Arthur L. Keeble  
Phyllis & Cliff Key  
Nigel Kirwin  
Lillian Klein  
John & Marnie LaGuardia  
Donna Landsberg  
Betsy Lanier  
Jim & Pat Laposa  
Mark Larson  
Donald Lau  
Phil Lau  
Maria Lazus  
Elizabeth & Mark Leib  
Ed Lester  
Paula Long  
Brian Mahoney  
Francesco Marchesini  
Barbara Marmorstein  
Norman Marshall  
Leonard Marsocci  
Ralph Martini  
Lois Mathews  
Chuck Maynard  
Dr. Albert S. McGann  
Fred Meyer  
Nancy Modell-Turon  
Marianne Monoc  
Sandra Mooney  
Jim Morgan  
Diane Murphy  
Frances Murray  
Charles Neeham  
Mary Neumeier  
Fred Papp  
Anna Perdue  
Kim Petrone  
Carmelita Pike  
Jan Platt  
Vivian Reeves  
Patricia Riggs  
Kelly & Kim Rogers  
Marjorie Russ  
Carol Salmon  
Fred Setzer  
Mr. & Mrs. John Setzer  
Chris Sever  
Dolores Seymour  
Renee Sharp  
Janice G. Sherman  
Susan Shoffstall  
Noel Marie Smith

# Your Impact

Barbara Steck  
Boris & Margery Stern  
Karol Taylor  
Pam Townsend  
Kathleen Troy  
Anthony Vassura  
Eric Vect  
William Walters, III  
Paul Watts  
Dianna Williams  
Ellen Wolf  
Scott & Deborah Wolfson  
Ellen Zusman  
Rhoda Zusman

## Business Donors

A1 Staffing Group  
AAA Auto Club South  
Advanced Nursing Practice  
Apollo Stair & Rail  
AvantGold Jewelers  
Avila Golf & Country Club  
Bern's Steakhouse  
Bob Baggett Photography  
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay  
Carrabba's Italian Grill  
Charles Schwab  
The Harless Agency  
Heidt & Associates  
Higgins Hall  
Museum of Science & Industry  
Papia Roofing Company  
Pepin Distributing Company  
Reeves Import Motorcars  
Saddlebrook Resort Tampa  
Southern Laser Inc.  
St. Lawrence Catholic Parish  
Stonewood Grill & Tavern  
Sweetbay Supermarket  
Vitality Foodservice Inc.  
Walt Disney World Co.  
Westchase Golf Course  
Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort  
Wyndham Westshore Hotel

## Foundations

Community Foundation of  
Tampa Bay  
DeBartolo Family Foundation  
New York Yankees Tampa  
Foundation  
Raphael Foundation  
T. Rowe Price Assoc.  
Foundation  
The USAA Foundation  
Sierra Foundation

# Community Outreach, Events & Prevention

Project Return's focus during this year was to expand awareness and understanding of our services and mental illness throughout our community, and to 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.



**Kim P.** Kim enjoys being a receptionist at Project Return. As one of the Ed Center's most talented artists, Kim also enjoys painting in the art studio. "Coming to Project Return gives me something to do each day. I am glad I have the chance to paint and have my work exhibited. It's even better when someone buys one!"

## **Art Program**

- Project Return celebrated mental health awareness month with "Mindfull", an exhibition held at the Art For Life Gallery. The event demonstrated that art can be used to help eliminate stigma attached to mental illness in our society.
- More than 10 art exhibitions, featuring Project Return artists, were held at Barrow's Deli, Nature's Harvest Market, MOSI, FMHI, USF Tampa Campus, Higgins Hall, and other locations

## **Community Awareness Events & Prevention**

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 the University of Tampa, USF, Northside Mental Health, Mental Health Care, Safe Place, and Memorial Hospital.
- Provided information about Project Return and opportunities for involvement to local businesses and individuals.
- Hosted and participated in Recovery and Resiliency meetings for local providers.
- Worked with the Hillsborough County Homeless Coalition to reach out and provide services to homeless individuals with mental illnesses.
- Hosted informational tours for visitors from USF & HCC Nursing Programs, mental health advocates, ALF operators, case managers, businesses, donors, doctors, pharmaceutical representatives, and other community resource providers.
- Provided crisis intervention training for local law enforcement.

# Community Outreach, Events & Prevention

Continued

## ***Community Awareness Events & Prevention***

- Provided one to one and group prevention support services to mental health consumers in our community to help them better manage their illnesses and work towards recovery.
- Toshiba Business Solutions hosted the 17th Annual Allen N. Reeves Golf Tournament raising over \$60,000 to benefit Project Return.
- Project Return and the community celebrated 25 years of service to people with mental illnesses in our community at the Annual Luncheon.

## ***New Initiatives***

- Implemented and facilitated an Ambassador Program to represent the voices of people living with mental illnesses in our community to ensure that their perspectives and priorities are communicated to the mental health service system (providers, DCF, government officials, etc.).
- Invited members of the community to join the advisory committee to bring expertise to Project Return.



## ***What Can You Do To Help?***

By visiting our website at [www.projectreturn.org](http://www.projectreturn.org), you will find a variety of ways in which you can contribute to our vital organization. Spreading the word about Project Return programs, volunteering your time, or making a cash donation are just some of the ways in which you may be able to help. And don't forget to check our calendar to see what exciting events may be coming up! Thank you.

## Your Impact

### Volunteers

Kim Allen  
Lissonelly Alvarez  
Rosa Anderson  
Billie Jo Avelo  
Lauren Bailey  
Funmilayo Bamiro  
Pamela Bellamy  
Daniel Bethea  
April Biasi  
Joyce Biggs  
John Bisbee  
Mary Blankenship  
Julie Booker  
Bobby Bowden  
Megan Bradshaw  
Caitlin Breck  
Richard Brewley  
Laurie Brill  
Debbie Brown  
Theresa Browne  
Tina Burgess  
Elsie Cajoux  
Satsha Cardenas  
Shawna Casey  
Tara Cashimir  
Cassidy Catechis  
Ron Chaney  
Luzaldo Charon  
Leticia Christie  
Justin Claffin  
Cricket Clark  
Medgine Colin  
Anthony Cortez  
Dr. Cory Crocker  
Tania Cruickshank  
Robert Davis  
Herb DeCardenas  
Karen DePalma  
Christine E. Doherty  
Thomas Donovan  
Alvin Dozier  
Laura Dustin

# Your Impact

## Volunteers

Allison Edmonds  
Fred Fiedler  
Christina Filippi  
Matthew Falasca  
Thomas Farmer  
Fred Fiedler  
Janie Friedland  
Myles Friedland  
Melissa Gaa  
Maritza Garay  
Tony Garner]  
Alexa Gaytan  
Jose Gonzalez  
Sandy Goodchild  
Adrian Graff  
Felicia Greenberg  
Jeff Greenberg  
Philicia Greenberg  
Shea Greenberg  
Kellerie Greene  
Janiele Gunther  
Larry Harrell  
John Hassa  
Jenny Hamel  
Marjorie Heller  
Kathy Hendrix  
Alexander Henry  
Kathy Hendrix  
Alex Hernandez  
Latoya Huges  
Brenda Hunter  
Stephanie Isaza  
Kelli Jenkins  
Darby Jonaitis  
Sandy Jonaitis  
Lillian Klein  
Katie Krieger  
Dana LaGuardia  
Donna Landsberg  
Betsy Lanier  
Shadae Llewelyn  
Gail Luzier

Shandil Marchese  
Lindsay Marcum  
Norman Marshall  
Latoya Martin  
Ralph Martini  
Lois Mathews  
George McLendon  
Jill Meyerson  
Jacquan Milhouse  
Diane Murphy  
Frances Murray  
Kristin Nagel  
Charles Needham  
Olevia Ojo  
Laura Olivas  
Renee Olsen  
Jorge Ortiz  
Monique Paulk  
Amy Pena  
Lydia Pendino  
Kim Petrone  
Jacqueline Phaneuf  
Carmelita Pike  
Alysha Quinn  
Sabrina Roddenberry  
Marjorie Russ  
Amanda Ruttle  
Elise Schmeling  
Christ Severs  
Renee Sharp  
Melissa Skrzypek  
Rebecca Snow  
Doris Stanbury  
Sherry Stover  
Stephanie Swanson  
Karol Lou Taylor  
Shirley Thompson  
Max Tishler  
Nuniz Tishler  
Mark Vanetta  
Anthony Vassura  
Katrina Vidal  
Melanie Villanova

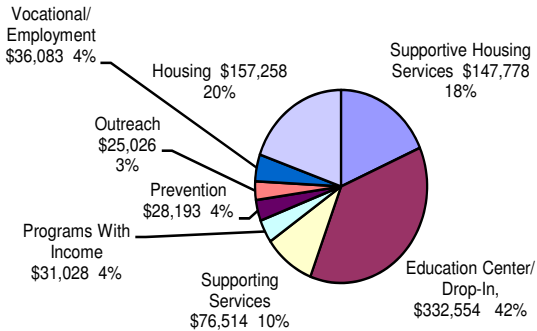
## Public Sector Supporters

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

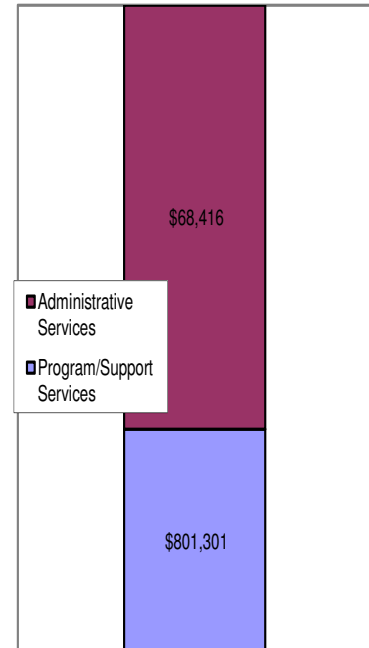
*Please accept our apologies if we've missed you. We research carefully, but errors do occur. If you were missed or your name was spelled incorrectly, please contact our administrative offices at 813.990.8981 so that we may correct our records.*

# Financial Highlights

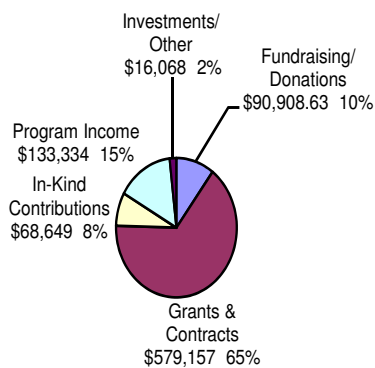
2007/08 Agency Service Dollars: \$801,301



2007/08 Actual Expenses Total: \$869,717



2007/08 Actual Revenues: \$888,116



## Financial Highlights 2007/08

Assets	\$	928,742
Liabilities	\$	61,843
Net Assets	\$	848,445
Revenues	\$	888,116
Expenses	\$	869,717
Net Asset II	\$	18,399

For more detailed information about our outcomes, please contact us at [information@projectreturn.org](mailto:information@projectreturn.org).

www.projectreturn.org

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**Editor's Note:**

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Tampa, Florida 33604



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