

Save your Swing for Spring!

Mark your calendars! Project Return's ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006

at Avila Golf & Country Club. Please contact Michelle Fries at 813-990-8981 x4 or mfries@projectreturn.org for more info.

### Write Notes & Support the ARTS

A picturesque ocean scenery, a woman lounging, sailboats, and a colorful floral arrangement. What better way to feature these unique pieces of art created by Project Return artists than by putting them on note cards.

They make great thank you cards, birthday cards, or for a note to a loved one. They can be purchased in packs of 4 for \$8 and 8 for \$12 and include white envelopes.

Contact Michelle Fries at 813-990-8981 x4 to place your order. Don't forget to check out original

artwork by Project Return artists at [www.projectreturn.org](http://www.projectreturn.org).



**Scenic Notecards.** An alternative way to buy Project Return member art.

All art is available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Project Return art program and the artist.

FMI: Contact Angela Dickerson at 813-933-9020.



PROJECT RETURN

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PROJECT RETURN

GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
DATE  
CHANGED

Save your  
Swing for Spring!

Mark your calendars! Project Return's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, March 27, 2006 at Avila Golf and Country Club.

Please show your support! Sponsorship Opportunities and Foursomes are available.

Join us for spring sunshine and a beautiful day of golf, food, and a live auction!

For more information, contact Michelle Fries at 813-990-8981 x4.

#### Mission Statement

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.

# Projections

HOPE, DIGNITY AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESSES

Fall 2005



The hypnotic colors, expertly crafted detail and joyous depiction of some of Tampa's most recognizable landmarks meld into an entrancing visual delight for this year's Art For Life title piece ... "Return To Life" by world-renowned glass artist and local legend Duncan McClellan.

McClellan, who has claimed top honors at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, Melbourne Arts Festival, Chicago Old Towne



**The Unveiling.** (left to right) Duncan McClellan, Jeanne Lavette, Art for Life Chair, and Natalie Mitchels, Project Return Executive Director at the unveiling reception at Duncan's gallery.

Festival, Coconut Grove Arts Festival and Winter Park Arts Festival, unveiled his work at a reception at his gallery to

## "Return to Life"



**Return to Life.** Capturing the spirit of the event, Duncan McClellan has generously graced this year's Art for Life with one of his trademark glass masterpieces.

officially kick-off the 11th annual Art For Life slated for Saturday, Oct. 1, at Higgins Hall (5225 N. Himes Ave.).

McClellan's piece will continue the Art For Life tradition of anchoring the event's marketing around a signature piece created by a local artist specifically for the hallmark event.

Art For Life posters quickly became collector's items as the event grew to boast

5,500 patrons, 550 donating artists and more than 1,000 volunteer shifts for the events in the late 1990s.

Building on a triumphant return last year after a three-year hiatus, artists such as McClellan are quickly rallying to the call again to benefit Project Return and St. Joseph's Comprehensive Research Institute. To remain true to the original vision of Art For Life and its founder, Victor M. Figueredo, a portion of the proceeds are donated to St. Joseph's Comprehensive Research Institute, a department of St. Joseph's Hospital dedicated to providing access to cutting edge therapies through laboratory and clinical research with a focus on infectious diseases such as HIV.

Please join us for a night of heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, musical entertainment and amazing artwork from local, national and internationally recognized artists!

Admissions are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of. Go to [www.artforlifetampa.org](http://www.artforlifetampa.org) now to make your reservation or for more information about the event. Or call 813.990.8981 x1 or e-mail [artforlife@projectreturn.org](mailto:artforlife@projectreturn.org).

# THANK YOU...

## Art For Life Sponsors

(as of 9/2/05)

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### PLATINUM SPONSORS:



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# Success Story

## PROJECT RETURN MEMBER FINDS STABLE HOME AND REWARDING JOB!

Haloperidol. Cogentin. Navane. These medications may sound foreign to most of us, but not to people struggling with the symptoms of mental illnesses. About seven years ago, dealing with the effects of bipolar, schizoaffective disorder, Jon had been heavily medicated, was having a difficult time keeping employment and in an unstable living situation.

Jon knew he had to get his life together. Through word of mouth, he was referred to the supportive housing program at Project Return.

Living in his own apt. for some time, he decided to go back to work. After working 40 hours a week and volunteering at a local bike shop, the symptoms of his illness began to reoccur and the stress caused Jon to be hospitalized. After he was released, he decided to limit himself to volunteering at the bike shop, and did so for a few years. He was offered a volunteer position as a receptionist, did both for a year, but once again the stress affected him and he was hospitalized.

After the hospital stay, he took time off to do some soul



**Meaningful Work.** Jon R. stands proud in front of the fresh produce he orders for his employer, Nutrition Smart.

searching. With the help and support from Project Return staff, he eventually found a way to become successful at managing his illness and stress level. Ready to get back to work, he became interested in the field of nutrition. Using Project Return staff as a reference, he took on a part-time position as a produce clerk at Nutrition Smart.

Jon says, "After working there successfully for 2 years, I was promoted to be in charge of the department. I now handle ordering produce and training of all new employees."

Jon continued, "Through the goals I have set for myself with the support of Project Return, I have been able to build structure in my life. Project Return has always been a safety net for me. I want to thank the staff for all their hope, support and guidance through the last 7 years of my life."

Jon chose to share his story at the Department of Children & Families (DCF) Role Recovery Meeting in Largo on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Florida mental health and substance abuse providers attended to share their practices on role recovery.

Project Return chose a different approach for the presentation. Three members spoke about their struggles with mental illness and how Project Return has put hope back into their life. A new video featuring the recovery of other members and the services available at Project Return was also debuted.

DCF's Jeff Watts, Suncoast Regional Director of Adult Mental Health, spoke about his hope that providers will learn from each other in order to provide better services to people experiencing mental illnesses as a whole.

## Honor Your Loved Ones

In Honor of...Rhoda & Jack Zusman

"Happy 50th Anniversary" from Sheila & Robert Hyams & Project Return staff and members

In Memory of...Charles H. Brown, father of Jenny Fernquist

from Project Return staff and members

Memorial Donations as of September 2, 2005. To honor or memorialize someone special call 813.990.8981 x4.

# Artists Collaborate

## Local artists share their skills with Project Return artists

What do masks have to do with mental illness? Come to Art for Life on Oct. 1 and see for yourself. This year, as part of our upcoming fundraising event, Project Return Art Program Coordinator, Angela Dickerson, has created a new collaborative project which is aptly titled, "Taking the Mask off of Mental Illness."

The project pairs Project Return artists with local artists from the community to create "Masks" that will be auctioned off at our upcoming Art for Life event. "For this unique project, I started out by interviewing artists who have similar styles, tastes, and interests. I think some amazing creations have come to fruition already, especially since talented and established



**An Intriguing Face.** The artistic masterpiece created by Folk Artist, Mr. B. & Project Return artist Luzaldo C.

Luzaldo C. Mr. B. has a permanent exhibit at the Jimmy B. Keel Library. Other local artists

local artists are getting involved," said Angela.

One local folk artist, Mr. B. was the first to collaborate on a piece with Project Return artist



**Invaluable Experience.** Folk artist, Mr. B (right) teaches art techniques to Luzaldo C., as they begin to capture the vision of the mask.

who are participating in the project are Eileen Goldenberg, Ray Paul, Greg Latch, Britzel Vasquez, Ace McVey, Cat Thompson, Donna Holm and others TBA.

**Project Return member Jo T. was paired up with local artist Ace McVey for the project. Jo explained, "Ace was never judgmental about my illness and has inspired me to do more art. Before I would draw, but abandon my pictures because I was afraid to paint. Now I have done two paintings."**

"By getting Project Return artists to work with local artists, it allows them to be part of the creative community. The goal is to encourage them to step out on their own and exhibit their art," explained Angela.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the project, please contact Angela Dickerson at 813-933-9020 or e-mail adickerson@projectreturn.org.

## Project Return Members Lend A Hand

Simple daily tasks such as reading may seem routine to most of us, while some of us need a little assistance at times.

This need created an amazing opportunity for Project Return members, offering paid temporary employment opportunities to help other members accomplish goals or assist with daily activities.

Project "Helping Hands" took place in May and June and was led by Vocational Mgr., Laurel Jorgensen.



**Expanding Knowledge.** Thomas shows his latest reading accomplishment, *Life Goals*.

William and Thomas were two participants in the project. During the 2 months, for an hour every night, William helped Thomas with reading.

Thomas said, "William has been a big help with this since we have been roommates. I am reading much better now."

Thomas was very encouraged by his friend and is even going further in getting additional reading assistance at adult education programs.

Over 20 members participated in the project and over 35 received services. "Helping Hands" provided them with confidence, showing them they can help others based on their own life experiences.



JEANNE LAVETTRE, ART FOR LIFE CHAIR

*You've been a part of Art for Life for 11 years now. What do you love about it so much?*

Volunteering for a great cause. My parents and sister were always volunteers for other charities but until I volunteered myself, I truly did not understand that whatever you give in time and energy is outweighed by what you get back.

Regardless of who you are, or what your circumstances, there are always those who are less fortunate. Imagine if every person volunteered just a couple hours of their time with one of the many worthy projects in our city. The impact would be tremendous!

**Why is Art for Life so important to our community?**

Victor Figueredo, Art For Life's founder, is an inspirational person. He wanted to make a difference in the world so he planned an event that would unite artists & business people, with a common cause to raise money to support people afflicted with HIV.

I am very proud to be a part of Art For Life. The devoted staff at Project Return are so valuable to our community, and I look forward to the event that will help spread those words - ART FOR LIFE!