



Projections

HOPE, DIGNITY AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESSES

Fall 2004

Art Calendar

Project Return member artwork is now easier than ever to see!

Browse through our new online art gallery at www.projectreturn.org.

All artwork has been created by members and is available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale benefit the artist as well as the art program.



Barrow's Gourmet Deli at 3660 Henderson Blvd. will continue to exhibit member artwork through December with new featured artwork every month. FMI: (813) 933-9020.

Art Calendar is a regular listing of events supporting Project Return.

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.

THE VISION CONTINUES...

ART FOR LIFE GALA RETURNS OCT. 23!

Art For Life, Florida's premier art auction, is returning to Tampa Bay's social calendar!

After a three-year hiatus, the marquis event that raised nearly \$1 million dollars in a nine-year legacy will re-emerge Sat., Oct. 23, to benefit Project Return.

A prime example of how one person can make a difference, Art For Life had modest beginnings in 1991 when Victor Figueredo, a south Tampa salon owner, united the arts community to make a difference in the lives of those affected by HIV disease. One hundred artists, 300 patrons and a handful of volunteers responded to raise \$22,000.

Nine years later: 5,500 patrons, 550 artists, 1,000 volunteers raised \$250,000!

Project Return partnered with past Art For Life committee members for guidance. To remain true to the original vision, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to HIV research.

The event features both a silent and voice auction with all art medias donated by local, national and inter-

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Return, this year's signature piece by Theo Wujcik.

national artists.

In addition, Gifts For Life offers non-art items, such as celebrity autographs, gift certificates and more!

Corporate partners include *St. Petersburg Times*, GPS, MAGIC 94.9FM, *Mise En Place*, *Vitality Foodservice, Inc.*, Art Mart, Raymond James, Fox 13, Pepin Distributing and Vista Galleries.

This year's title piece is by Theo Wujcik, one of the

area's most noted talents.

Admission is \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and parking are included.

Volunteers, art and Gifts For Life auction items are still welcome.

For information or to make a reservation, visit artforlifetampa.org; call (813) 990-8981, ext. 1; or e-mail artforlife@projectreturn.org.



LISA KALAF

Why is Art for Life Important?

Art for Life is an extremely successful fundraising event with a great history of supportive contribution to the Bay Area's non-profit sector for HIV/AIDS.

The return of this wonderful art auction to benefit Project Return will not only assist the members of this agency, but will once again offer our community a great opportunity to immerse themselves in a wealth of stellar art while supporting a most worthy cause.

In addition, with Project Return's emphasis on art as an integral part of its program, the pairing of Art for Life with this organization is a perfect match.

Along with the funds raised, this event will also help to put a spotlight on the need for appropriate, affordable and positive resources and assistance for those in our community experiencing mental illnesses.

Lisa is the Pres/CEO of Kalaf & Associates providing comprehensive assistance, support, guidance and implementation strategies to independent business owners.

SUCCESS STORIES

MOVING ON

PROJECT RETURN MEMBER CONTINUES FORWARD PROGRESS

When Nina was last featured in our newsletter a little over a year ago, she was on a positive track in her life.

She had moved into her own apartment in the community, and was preparing to take classes at Hillsborough Community College (HCC).

However, life didn't always look this optimistic for Nina. A few years ago, she was unable to live on her own and work consistently due to re-occurring symptoms of her mental illness.

Nina was suffering from symptoms of bipolar disorder, a common condition that involves depression along with periods of elevated moods known as mania.

In January 2000, she was introduced to Project Return and became a resident at the supportive housing complex.

After her last episode in September 2001, things started to look up for Nina. During the next few years, the continued sup-



Back To School. Nina getting ready for her first day of fall classes at Hillsborough Community College.

port of Project Return staff helped her become more confident in her independence and in herself, and she eventually was able to return to work part-time.

Program Specialist Indra Dabek explains, "Nina has overcome many obstacles in her life to become the success that she is today."

Nina continues to live independently in the community and still keeps in touch with Indra.

Having that connection gives her a sense of security, knowing there is someone available to talk to, if the need arises.

Nina has also gotten closer to her family, has become more heavily involved in her church, and even began taking Catechism classes so that she can become a god-mother.

In addition, her devotion to school, along with her will to succeed has earned her a well-deserved 4.0 Grade Point Average!

This time next year, Nina plans to transfer to the University of South Florida to work towards a psychology degree.

Given that she would like to work in a position where she can help others, and because of her personal experience, her career goal is to become a licensed mental health counselor.

Nina lives her life today, relying on the structure and skills she learned while at Project Return. She genuinely appreciates the help and support the staff gave her.

We wish Nina the best of luck and congratulate her on her continued success!

Program Makes A Gift Of Giving

Is there someone special that you would like to honor or memorialize? Project Return has a unique way to accomplish that.

We will send a special tribute card to a family member or friend for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials or other occasions to honor or remember those close to you.

Your tax-deductible donation of \$15 will be recognized with a special tribute card sent to your honoree or to a family member/friend of your loved one.

Your tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more will be recognized with a plant or flower placed in the Memorial Garden at

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

IN MEMORY OF...

♥ **SHELIA GEAREN** ♥

From Frances Craig, Jean Rose, Lola S., Joan Bieker & Peggy Miller

♥ **MARGARET CAMPBELL** ♥

From Bill Watkins

Memorial donations as of June 26, 2004.

Friendship Palms Apartments. All donations will be recognized in our newsletter and annual report. FMI: (813) 990-8981, ext. 4, or mfries@projectreturn.org.

Tee-Off!

Allen N. Reeves Golf Tournament Heading For Fairways At Avila

It's that time of year again!

The 14th Annual Allen N. Reeves Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, November 22. Avila Golf & Country Club will again host the tournament.

A complimentary Celebrity Golf Clinic, hosted by Jim Dent, pro golfer ranked 31st in the Top Money List, and Rick Bradshaw, 2004 Teacher of the Year – North Florida Section, will begin at 10 a.m. Tee-off is at 11 a.m. followed by an awards reception and live auction.

For the past seven years, the tournament has sold-out thanks to our dedicated

Chairmen. Serving on our committee this year are Board members Deb Adams and Mike & Sara Byars. Returning chairmen include Francesco Marchesini, Don Lau, Fred Meyer, Ron Sherman, Stuart Sierra and Ken Sponagle.

Executive Director Natalie Mitchels, notes that the annual tournament has continued to be the largest fundraiser and private source of income for the services provided by Project Return.

Each year, Natalie admits, she is amazed at how Francesco is able to pull-off another



Golf Clinic. Leading the Celebrity Pro Golf Clinic will be (from left) Rick Bradshaw and Jim Dent.

successful event. She is thankful for his steadfast commitment to helping people experiencing mental illnesses and his enormous generosity throughout the years.

All Project Return members are grateful to the many sponsors and loyal golfers who give support each year.

There are still opportunities to get involved. Gain exposure for your company by becoming a tournament or hole

sponsor or by making a non-monetary donation. Or challenge your co-workers or golf buddies to a game of golf, food and fun. Don't forget ... your participation is tax deductible. FMI, visit www.projectreturn.org or call (813) 842-1940.

OUR SPONSORS

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Services Now More Convenient Than Ever

Supportive Housing staff recently moved their offices from Project Return's supportive housing complex, Friendship Palms, to the Center for Lifelong Education, Training and Development.

With all services at one location, including educational classes, vocational/employment opportunities, and now supportive housing and outreach, program staff will be able to provide information about services more efficiently.

Since the change in May,



The Center For Lifelong Education, Training and Development.

members are feeling more confident about getting involved in other areas.

Pam Healy, Director of Programs, explains, "within the last two months, five

members who were only involved in education and vocational/employment have moved on to more independent living, taking advantage of supportive housing services as well."

Furthermore, supportive housing staff are physically going to members homes for services instead of the residents coming to them, allowing residents at Friendship Palms to live more independently.

This makes it more convenient for them, which ultimately brings us closer to our mission.



PAM HEALY, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Q & A
What are the benefits to Project Return members of having all services available at a single location?

Now that all program staff are physically located at the same location, it provides a more efficient way for us to provide information to potential and current members. There is no longer a need for people to be re-directed to other places for services.

How are program staff being prepared for this change?

We are working to establish a more team integrated approach. Program staff are knowledgeable about all aspects of services, therefore they can easily answer questions and provide general information. If a person does have specific questions, staff will connect them to the person who specializes in that aspect of service. This makes it more convenient for the member by allowing them to quickly get the assistance they are looking for.

Pam oversees all services including education, vocational/employment, supportive housing and outreach.

Project Return Artist On Exhibit

Please support John Bisbee, a very talented Project Return artist, by enjoying his creative artwork at one of the following exhibits:

Ω The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Exhibit will be held in Tallahassee. The opening Reception is Thurs., Sept. 30, and the exhibit will run from Sept 30, 2004 - Sept 30, 2005.

Ω Cultural Access Art Auction will be held at Ports of Call, Sea World, Orlando, Nov. 4, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. All monies derived from the auction will be split between the artist and VSA Arts of Florida.

Both exhibits will include artists with disabilities registered with VSA Arts of Florida. FMI: Call (813) 975-6962 or visit www.vsaf.org.



On Display. Works such as Seated Nude by member artist John Bisbee will be on display.



PROJECT RETURN

Administration

610 W. Waters Ave., Suite J
Tampa, Florida 33604
(813) 990-8981 • Fax: (813) 933-6415

Center For Lifelong Education, Training & Development

304 W. Waters Ave.
Tampa, Florida 33604
(813) 933-9020 • Fax: (813) 932-0614

Friendship Palms-Supportive Housing

1308-A W. Waters Ave.
Tampa, Florida 33604
(813) 930-0576

On The Internet

www.projectreturn.org

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