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PROJECT RETURN

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www.projectreturn.org

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304 W. Waters Ave.  
Tampa, Florida 33604



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PROJECT RETURN

# Projections

HOPE, DIGNITY AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL ILLNESSES

Winter 2007

2005/2006 ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Read about this years accomplishments and member success stories and view financial reports in the Project Return Fiscal Year 05/06 Annual Report. Go to [www.projectreturn.org](http://www.projectreturn.org) and click on the link to view the report. For pre-printed hard copies, please call 813-990-8981.

### 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.

## REEVES GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR MONDAY, APRIL 9th

Get out your clubs and get ready to swing! The Allen N. Reeves Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on **MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007** at the beautiful and exclusive Avila Golf & Country Club.

There will be a shot gun start followed by 18 holes of golf, dinner and an awards reception. Long time Project Return supporter and Board Member Frankie Marchesini will chair this year's tournament.

"For fifteen years, the tournament has been our largest fundraiser and private source of income

for our programs and services," said Natalie Mitchels, Executive Director.

Promote your company by becoming a sponsor! See enclosed form for details.

Please join us on April 9th for an exciting day to network with your peers, bid on auction items, enjoy delicious food...and of course, play 18 holes of golf! If you can't participate in the tournament you can still



Fore! Professionals show their techniques at the 2004 tournament.

make a monetary or in-kind donation.

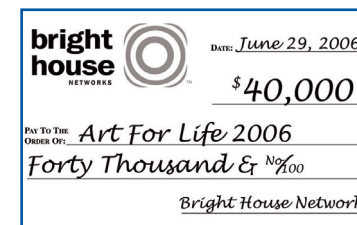
For more info. please contact Fred Mitchels at 813-991-6240 or [fmitchels@projectreturn.org](mailto:fmitchels@projectreturn.org).

## Art For Life Doubles Attendance and Receives Art In Record Numbers in 2006



of colors, lights, sounds and tastes!

Presented by Bright House Networks, this year's event attracted 2,000 patrons to Higgins Hall, nearly twice the attendance of last year!



Art For Life 2006 rewrote the record books in a dazzling display

The supporters viewed nearly 700 items up for bid, anchored by Mr. B's title piece "Dawning Of A New Day," which sold to Johnnie Raulerson for \$1,000. The highest-selling piece was Duncan McClellan's "Hibiscus," which also sold to Raulerson for \$6,800.

Mr. B and Duncan were just two of the 390 local, national, international and student artists who submitted the new record of 700 pieces.

Of those 390 participants, 239 were new to the event, a testament that Art For Life is back!

A special thanks to Art for Life's original founder, Victor Figuredo, and this year's chair, Jeanne Lavette, and her executive committee that included Michael Murphy and Wendy Menouni for leading the growing Art for Life team.

Project Return - and St. Joseph's Comprehensive Research Institute - would also like to thank this year's sponsors, listed on the back cover.

## A HUGE THANK YOU

TURKEY, STUFFING & ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

That's what Project Return was able to provide for 130 + members, guests and staff on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. Since many of our members do not have family to spend time with around the holidays, it is very important that we give them something to be a part of.

Rhoda Zusman, Project Return's founder, gave a speech about the importance of being thankful before serving the full course meal.

We'd like to thank the following people for making monetary donations to help make this Thanksgiving Holiday a memorable one.... Belen Correa, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dwyer, Steven & Kathleen Jakubowski and the Friedland's.

We'd also like to thank all the volunteers, friends, and others who support Project Return all year long.

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Recognition.** Left to Right, Rhoda Zusman, Michael Ross and Maria Lazus at the Thanksgiving Party.

Do you know what "Como Estas?" means in Spanish? Many of our Project Return members do because of Maria Lazus. This Puerto Rican native has been volunteering her time three days a week for three years to teach Spanish and Encouragement classes at the Project Return Center. She's also the liaison for the Spanish speaking members.

Maria explains, "The members are a blessing and a miracle. Each of them is different in their own way. When I come in and see that they are happy to see me it makes me feel really special."

Barbara, one of Maria's students says, "Maria teaches me Spanish to help me communicate with the Spanish speaking community. She encourages me when I'm struggling and gives me confidence in myself to want to learn more."

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, Maria and her family have provided the entire holiday lunch for members, family, friends and staff, and we thank the Lazus family for their generosity during the holiday season and Maria for her dedication and support!

## In Memoriam....

For more than 15 years, Edna B. worked as a receptionist at the Project Return Center, had a strong personality and a kind heart. She passed away on Nov. 21, 2006. Mike Ross, Program Manager says, "Edna was one of our most dedicated members and we are really going to miss her."

William R., aka "J.J", lived at our Supportive Housing complex for a little over 2 years, and also worked as an employee of Project Return in the maintenance department. He passed away in Aug of this year.

Project Return held memorial services and trees were planted in their memory.

To honor or memorialize someone special, call 813-990-8981.

In Memory Of....

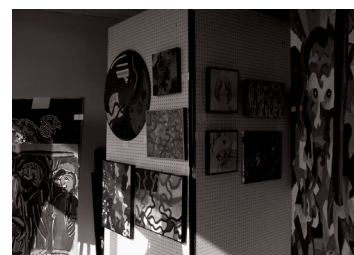
Daniel L. Beckwith  
From Lillian & Ronald Klein

## Project Return Members Express Themselves Through Artistic Creation

Colorful, creative, and most of all UNIQUE! Art has become one of Project Return's most beneficial programs. Members can express themselves through artistic creation, while earning some income and getting a boost of confidence through the sale of their artwork.

Recently Project Return's Art Coordinator, Angela Dickerson, put together two of it's most successful exhibits to date.

The first was an exhibit



**Unique Art.** The Lobby Gallery II at 303 W. Waters Ave. in Tampa.

held at the Department of Children and Families office in mid October. Kelly Wicklund, Senior Human Services Program Specialist for DCF explains, "Angela is absolutely WONDERFUL!!! Thank you for all the hard

work that you and the artists put into the show."

The second exhibit was the annual holiday art sale held on the weekend of Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lobby Gallery II. The events combined helped raise more than \$1000!

All proceeds from the sale of artwork benefit the Project Return art program and artists. For more information on art available for purchase or more art exhibitions, please contact Angela Dickerson at 813-933-9020 or [adickerson@projectreturn.org](mailto:adickerson@projectreturn.org).

## Success Story

### Member Finds Stability and Structure

Fred S. came to Project Return in 1987 and is one of our longest continuing members. He has put his original 25 cent membership fee to excellent use in his efforts to return to a normal life while living with mental illness.

Project Return's founder, Rhoda Zusman, was instrumental in assisting Fred in accessing psychological services and housing placement necessary for his recovery. Fred started attending the Project Return Center on a daily basis and became

**"Project Return provides a reason for me to get up in the morning and that structure helps keep me stable."**

involved with art and computer classes. He also had an interest in landscaping and soon

became Project Return's groundskeeper. Later, Fred turned down payment for this job and has worked on a voluntary basis to give back to an organization that means so much to him.

Fred says, "Project Return provides a reason for me to get up in the morning and that structure helps keep me stable." For his daily efforts, utilizing Project Return's resources to help in his recovery, and for giving back as a volunteer, Fred was honored at the 2006 Art for Life event.



**Pride.** Fred takes pride in his volunteer job as Project Return's Groundskeeper.

## Mitzvah Day

Project Return's Backyard Gets A Facelift



**Teamwork.** Michael Ross, Program Manager and the volunteers work together on the clean up.

In Jewish, Mitzvah means Good Deed. So on Mitzvah Day, three families from a congregation called Shaari Zedek spent their free time cleaning, trimming and landscaping the back yard at the Project Return Center. They brought plants, mulch and other outdoor items to give the surroundings a fresh, clean new look.

The new backyard is now a great place to have lunch, talk with friends or just relax and enjoy the new scenery. Janie Friedland, one of the volunteers said, "We loved fixing up the backyard. Thanks to Project Return for opening up their garden so that we could all get that good feeling from giving to others!"

We'd like to thank the Friedland family and the other volunteers who made this possible!

## New Supportive Housing Manager, Ian Ross, Gets Praised!

"Ian Ross has been one of my "stars" within the UNITY world. He's been very supportive and cooperative and has made extreme efforts to make sure Project Return is doing what is needed. I'd like to thank Project Return staff for making my job enjoyable."

- Rich Boozell, UNITY System Administrator, Homeless Coalition of Hills.County

## TEST YOUR BRAIN...

Which illness causes the most days lost from work?

- A. Heart Disease
- B. Lower Back Pain
- C. Diabetes
- D. Depression

Answer: D. Depression.

According to a national study by MIT, the average number of days lost from work because of depression is 40, heart disease 37, lower back pain 33, diabetes 26.

What is the % of people in U.S. jails with severe mental illness?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 25%
- D. 33%

Answer: D. 33%. These people have no charges against them but are merely waiting for availability of a psychiatric hospital.

For more information, visit [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).