

## **COMMITMENT TO SERVICE**

by Stephen Anderson

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we made our way up to the State College of Florida (SCF) Bradenton campus for their "Environment and Me" Family Festival. This was a fine day for service. After the van ride over, we stepped out into the cold, crisp air and entered the SCF Collegiate School courtyard. Rima, Matthew, Candy, Phil and I were welcomed gratefully by the volunteers who came out to host the day. We were offered coffee and doughnuts for refreshment.

The trees around us looked only as old as some of the older children and teenagers. Some of the children in attendance were as young as 2, accompanied by their parents. I got to know some of those helping us at our table. There was Grace, who helped us to water the herbs and keep a clean workspace. This day was for using the imagination. There was a playfulness in the air. Little girls and boys learned different tricks like ringing bottles, and a fishing for recyclables activity. Kids could expend their energy learning about recycling which was for the education of the school, before joining our table to make painted crockware.

We were given the tools to help educate them about the environment and serve in a way that would make Martin Luther King Jr. proud, by teaching the younger generation. With our representation at the event, everyone from the Academy was part of a larger action in service. This day's action brought us closer to our shared sense of purpose.



### I MADE IT

by Isabelle DeMartine

My five-and-one-half months Transitional Employment position at Sarasota Memorial Health Care as a Food Service Worker was the longest time I have ever held a job. I was always let go on 'day one' from the jobs because of my limitations. I got the Transitional Employment position after attending the Academy for many months and learning skills with the Culinary Arts team. I was frightened to start that first day. I feared I would lose my job on the first day. I was also scared of how the other people would

view me. My job coaches taught me how to work at the right speed to keep up with the work load. They also provided visual cues to help keep me on track and feel organized. I met a lot of friendly people on the job that I will never forget. They never made me feel uncomfortable or different. I feel like a new person around my family and friends. My family says I'm blossoming into a wonderful person. I can't wait to see what's next!



Isabelle DeMartine

## **OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE**

by Kristen Disler

When I was first approached to do the video for the ambassador luncheon I didn't want to do it. But the more I thought about it I decided it would be good for me to film

it. It would get me out of my comfort zone. I was told the questions I would be asked when I was first approached. I had time to think about what I wanted to say. I didn't feel nervous until I was sitting in the chair. As we were filming I felt less anxious. Looking back I am glad I did it.



Kristen Disler

## ANMOL GETS IT AND SHARES IT

Our medical student volunteer, Anmol Patel, finished her community health clerkship (part of the FSU College of Medicine program) last week. At the end of each student's two-week clerkship, they make a presentation to their fellow students and professors. The Academy was invited to be in the audience during Anmol's presentation held in a lecture hall at Ringling Museum. Several members and staff were able to attend and it was clear that, during her short time with us, Anmol gained a true understanding of our mission, the Clubhouse International model and working with members seeking mental health recovery. The Academy thanks Florida State University College of Medicine for allowing us to participate in the clerkship program and wishes Anmol success in her future.



## **FINDING OUR VALUES**

by Candy El-Azzaoui

When I came to the Academy to learn more about becoming a member. I was led to the conference room to meet with the enrollment staff. The first thing I immediately noticed was the brilliantly colored board with these six values: gratitude, compassion, wellness, perseverance, courage and kindness.

And indeed throughout this year, since I have attended the Academy, the culture of those values has been a commitment that motivates us into action, practiced each day without judgment by staff and member alike. Whether we are

developing a luncheon menu or editing a video, these values are exhibited throughout the day.

These six values help us stay the course, broaden our horizons, and improve relationships with our community. Simple values may be easy to formulate but much harder to put into action.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, January 27** Telephone Training - 8 a.m.

#### Tuesday, January 28

Tour Guide Training - 8 a.m. Nature Walk Photo Shoot - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### Wednesday, January 29

Menu Planning - 11:45 a.m. Wellness Wednesday - 3 p.m.

#### **Thursday, January 30**

Customer Service Training - 8 a.m. Employment Workshop - 8:15 a.m. Newsroom Meeting - 11:30 a.m. Dinner/Movie Night - 4 - 8 p.m.

#### Friday, January 24

Welcome Desk Training - 8 a.m.

#### **ONGOING**

Breakfast is served: Monday-Thursday, from 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Friday Buffet, 8:45 a.m.

## **ARTS TEAM OUTING**

Last month during our team planning meetings, the Arts and Communication team suggested having periodic outings to museums, commercial printing companies and other related businesses. The team is pleased to announce the first trip was this week to the Embracing Our Differences exhibit at Bayfront Park. The exhibit uses the power of art and prose to promote diversity and consists of 50 billboard-sized

works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. Submissions come from children in elementary through high school and are so impactful and profound for such young people. Our group (comprised of all Academy teams) was impressed by the imagery and discussed the various mediums used such as crayon, acrylic paint, charcoal, photography and computer generated. Color also was discussed and how it conveys different feelings and emotions. Everyone had their own personal favorite, but all thought the one in the photo shown was one of the best. The team is looking forward to the next outing.



(left to right) Matt Thomas, Candy El-Azzaoui, Eric Broderick, Andrew Cavazzi, Jason Fried, Chantel Gingerich, Kristen Disler and Rima Ghalieh.



