



**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

*It's a great time to schedule a Lunch and Learn for your organization. Contact William McKeever at 941-921-9936.*

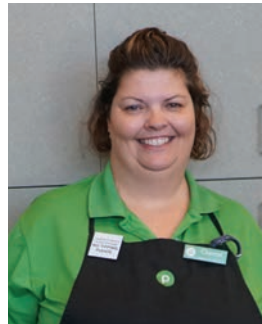


# EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## WHERE WORKING IS A PLEASURE

by Chantel Gingerich

This past Tuesday was my one-year anniversary of working at Publix as a front service clerk. I'm so happy that I made it a year. I've learned to follow the rules better and to listen more attentively. I am happier working now. I had to learn to be more outgoing by talking to people and asking them about their day and asking if I can provide carry-out service. At first this was hard and made me feel anxious, but now it's getting easier.



*Chantel Gingerich*

When I get to work, first I clock in, and then I check to see my scheduled time to go outside and get carts. Then I start bagging groceries. It's so fun stacking the items in bag. It's like a puzzle! Sometimes customers say, "hey wow you got it all in the bag!" It makes me so happy! I meet all kinds of interesting people, and I love talking to them. I smile at everyone I see. Publix is a great company to work for.

When I need to request time off, I ask one of my managers and they are very helpful in changing my schedule. My job coach used to ask for me but now I can do it on my own. I'm becoming more independent.

Thanks for all your help, Academy.



## SUNSET AT CADILLAC

by Naomi Treece

I have just completed the Transitional Employment position at Sunset Cadillac. It was a wonderful seven months for me. The workspace was awesome and the people there were so friendly. It was slightly difficult to learn the position to start with, but I got a lot of help from the placement managers Idanes Paredes and Joanne Campbell from the Academy. There were times that I "got stuck" during the workday but a simple text or call to one of them cleared up any problem. Kudos to Idanes and Joanne for their support.



*Naomi Treece*

I would encourage any member of the Academy to go out for Transitional Employment as it is a safe learning environment. I was sad when my time at Sunset Cadillac was up. I do hope to work part-time out in the community in the future and now I feel more confident.



# NEW REWARD PAYS OFF FOR ACADEMY MEMBER

by Aaron Collmer

I'm Aaron Collmer and I've been coming to the Academy since it opened. I had one of the first Transitional Employment (TE) position for about six months. When the TE was over, I got a job at the Sarasota/Bradenton Airport for a company called Reef Parking. I enjoy the job very much and have been employed there for 3 1/2 years. One of the perks that the supervisors wanted to give the employees in 2022 was an Employee of the Month award. The award was based on promptness for your shift, having a balanced bank at the end of your shift, and the cleanliness of your work area. When I was told I had won for the month of February I was quite surprised. I knew I was a good worker, but didn't expect to win in the second month. My supervisors, who

are awesome, gave me a certificate and a gift card to Publix. It does a lot for employee morale when a company gives their employees a chance to be their best and then rewards them.



# PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS

by Carla Giuffrida

For many of us, our goal in life is to live, find happiness, and work. As I hit adulthood and started working, I dealt with some jobs that did not bring me happiness. I am so glad I persevered! I now have, not just a job, but a career! I found the job two years ago with the help of Jodi Weiss as my job coach at the Academy. I work as a Peer Specialist for Centerstone of Florida, and it is extremely rewarding. I was hired right when Covid started. It was a hard transition, but I learned the job and just kept swimming.

Part of the expectation of me when I was hired was that I would get my certification. I had to do an online training course, and then sit for an exam. I have now completed the course and passed the exam. I am officially a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist. The job is very important to me, and I feel like I am making a difference in the clients I serve. I am incredibly grateful for the Academy for their continued support and encouragement on my journey in my career.



All events take place on-site at the Academy and many are offered through the Zoom app. Watch Slack for Meeting ID and Password.

**NOTE: Morning meeting begins at 9 a.m.**

## Monday, May 23

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 9:30 a.m.  
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.  
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.  
Typing with Rima Workshop - 4 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 24

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 9:30 a.m.  
Academy Meeting - 1:30 p.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 2 p.m.

## Wednesday, May 25

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 9:30 a.m.  
Newsroom Meeting - 11 a.m.  
Menu Planning Meeting - 11:45 a.m.  
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.  
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.  
Telethon Planning - 2 p.m.  
Wellness Wednesday Workshop - 3 p.m.

## Thursday, May 26

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 9:30 a.m.  
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.  
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.  
Mission Meeting - 4 p.m.

## Friday, May 27

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.  
Individual Team Meetings - 9:30 a.m.  
Writer's Workshop - 11:30 a.m.  
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.  
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.  
Spanish Workshop - 3:30 p.m.

Gardening available daily through Culinary Arts



# TO MAKE A DONATION

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and click on the  button

*Thank you for transforming lives!*

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