

Ben's Place Services, Inc.

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www.bensplacecof.org

Ben's Place News

Our Mission is to provide social experiences and support the independence of individuals with disabilities.

We provide unique opportunities for individuals with developmental, physical, or acquired disabilities to interact and learn life and vocational skills with their peers in a social environment.

Our vision is based on the premise that individuals with disabilities will be respected and appreciated for their own individual capabilities as they strive toward their own personal dreams.

*Created different. Treated equal.
A community of friends.*



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Getting to know George...

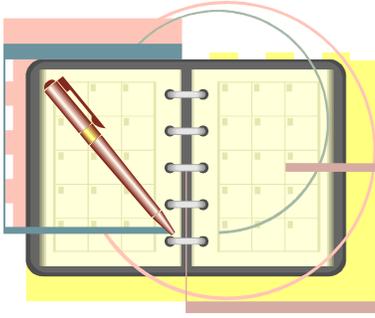
George has been a member of the Ben's Place family for the last five years. A retiree from the City of Lake Mary, Florida, George enjoys outdoor activities that keep "America Beautiful." His passion and daily activities center around refinishing furniture and helping his closest friends with their animals and home improvements. Every night George

watches Family Feud with glee, and the nightly news with concern. He is a lifelong fan of the Space Shuttle and presidential history. Fish is his favorite meal, and he'd be lost without coffee and tea. It should be noted that lucky individuals get to witness the occasional breakdance.

- Dr. Jason M. Gibson

"George"





Executive Director, Annie

Hi from Annie

Well, as the world tries to get back to normal, we are working on finding a new home. I know you must be as anxious as we are. I'm very sorry it's taking longer than anticipated to get up and running. I am looking for a temporary location until we find a place to put our roots down and grow. Until then we are on Zoom and at Tillie Fowler Park on Roosevelt Blvd.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Eat, Drink, and be Giving auction this summer, it was successful. The golf tournament is going well with its own auction, too.

We have our ongoing fundraising events as well. Flamingo flockings and birthday cake and candle flockings.

On the third Monday of each month, we have a Splash of Paint event at

From the President

Progress is being made on the restart of Ben's Place. A location on the Westside has been identified and we are working through lease terms and occupancy licensing. We held a very successful online auction last month and our annual golf tournament is fast approaching. We are excited about reopening but are taking a measured approach knowing safety is so critical. Expectations are to start off a bit smaller than before, but we should show steady growth over time. I do want to pass

along some very sad news. We recently lost one of our board members, David Montgomery, to COVID. It's so painful to lose one of our own to this dreadful virus. Please keep his loving wife Ashley and his family in your prayers. We'll continue to keep you informed on the happenings at Ben's Place and thank you for your support of those we serve.

- Jay Abraham, President
Ben's Place Board of Directors

"Alone we can do so little; *together* we can do so much.

— Helen Keller

cont. from Executive Director Annie

Riverside Liquors. You should come and participate. It's lot of fun.

Thank you all for your patience as we find a new home. Please try and get on the Zoom meetings or join at the park. We all need that social interaction.

I can't thank our donors and

sponsors for everything they are doing to help us. You guys rock. Thanks for continuing to believe in our mission.

Feel free to contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns. And we always love volunteers.



- Ms. Annie

Clay Glisson, tournament co-chair

Hello Ben's Place team and golf fans. My name is Clay and I am involved as a co-chair for the annual Ben's Place Golf Tournament. I wanted to briefly say thank you for your support of Ben's Place Charities and the events that we host to make our members feel more involved and happier and healthy. I'm honored to be involved in my second golf event and have asked to be tasked with more things that can help continue the success of these events. I wanted to share with you a quote that resonates with me as I am helping with this year's tournament.

"I've always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against

me. I never quit trying; I never felt that I didn't have a chance to win."

- Arnold Palmer

I share this quote as I believe this is how each and every member of Ben's Place feels. No matter what challenge they face each person continues to try and believes they will succeed. With the help of our board and our members and the collective group of supporters we can and will succeed. Thanks for all of your support. Please take a moment and share the golf tournament info with everyone you can so we can continue to make it be a successful event for our members.

Clay Glisson, co-chair 2021 Golf Tournament and believer in Ben's Place.



Wills, Trusts and ABLE



Preparing for the day when you won't be around to care for your family is a challenge that all parents face. But a parent of an adult child with special needs, estate planning needs are especially complex.

Unlike many families, a lot of these special needs adults will need to have some level of continued care for the rest of their lives, some will even require constant supervision. How do you effectively plan for when the parent or guardian dies? While there is certainly a great deal that goes into Special Needs planning, these are some of the most crucial areas to plan for, particularly for when the parents pass; ***guardianship, trusts, and Letter of Intent***

Lawrence Thompson, MBA
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When you get familiar with Ben's Place, either as a member or a volunteer or director, you will eventually get familiar with Angella.

Angella was born and raised in Sacramento California. After graduating high school in California, she moved to the Jacksonville, Florida area and has held employment positions with the Duval County Tax Collectors office for some time, along with several volunteer organizations.

Angella was also the first face you would see at Golden Corral in Mandarin for many years.



Fun Friday at Tillie Fowler Park!

Thanks to our **Friends of Ben's** with your continued donations. We appreciate your kindness and support.

Angella Fuentes

That is where I met her. :) I liked seeing Angella nearly daily at lunch...so much I ended up marrying her younger sister. :) true story. :)

No matter what she is facing she is always positive and smiling. Angella lives independently and is very mobile around the city for shopping, medical appointments, or visiting her family by using the JTA bus system.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her volunteer work with Ben's Place. Angella is always willing to assist in any way...like where she is a knowledgeable specialist in helping members learn the JTA bus system routes, methods and tricks of the trade. Many members of Ben's Place have learned from Angella's experience and this has allowed them more freedom, mobility, and entertainment options.

Angella is dedicated to Ben's Place. She not only benefits from her volunteer work, but also benefits as a member. Angella has been a member for many years and has stayed involved and determined to be impacted and also positively impact those around her.

I am delighted each time I see her. She always makes me smile and has an infectious energy and optimism at all times. Angella is the original reason that I am involved in Ben's Place.

As each of you likely feel, it only takes one person to touch your heart and draw you into the wonderful group that is Ben's Place. The board, volunteers, and the members make it a very special place. I am honored to be involved.

- Clay Glisson

Ben's Place Board of Directors and Staff

1. Jay Abraham – President
2. Jason Gibson – Treasurer
3. Ebony Davis – Director
4. Denise Hunt- Director
5. In Memory of David Montgomery – Director
6. Emily Pate- Director
7. Lawrence Thompson – Director
8. Debra Waye – Director
9. Anne Yarbrough – Executive Director
10. Stephanie Schuler - Program Director

Contact us at 904-418-2299

or

info@bensplacecof.org



Flocking's available.

Watch for birthday cakes!
NOW available.

<http://bensplacecof.org/flockingafriend/>

