

Ben's Place Services, Inc.

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Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-418-2299



Ben's Place News



www.bensplacecof.org

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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Meet Michael, a member of Ben's Place

Michael has been a long-term attendee of Ben's Place Day Program. Ben's Place has provided him with a place where he can interact socially and gain some independence. Attending the day program has helped him find his voice. It's a place where he can feel like he belongs and reminds him that there are others with similar disabilities in his community. It really helps him to know that he has more than just his family in this world. Because of Ben's Place, he has friends and a place of his own where he can just be himself.

Michael has been special needs since very early in his childhood. He has a wide range of intellectual, developmental, and neurological disabilities. Many of those problems were diagnosed by the time he started kindergarten. Growing up we were told that he would never be able to do most "normal" daily activities of living independently and that he would require 24-hour-a-day care for the rest of his life.

But Michael proved that to be completely wrong. Attending Ben's Place and other similar programs helped him to build confidence in himself and his ability to try new things, form his own opinions, and advocate for himself. Today, Michael can do most of his own personal care, he can make himself premade food, and he even fills his own medication box.

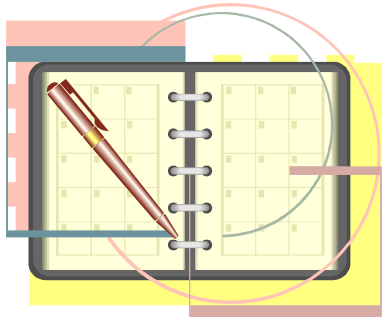
Michael absolutely loves anything and everything related to wrestling and video games. He enjoys playing board games, listening to music, and watching movies with others. He is VERY social and very vocal about his opinions. Going to Ben's Place is his favorite outing! At Ben's place, they do modified yoga, play games, exercise, do arts and crafts, gardening, and karaoke (Michael's #1 Favorite). They learn life skills, appropriate social skills, and appropriate behavior, among other things. Michael loves to talk to his friends from Ben's

Place and spend time with them at the program. Every week he becomes more and more independent. He recently learned to use JTA Connection transportation to get to and from Ben's Place without having a family member with him. Michael is also an uncle who loves spending time with his niece and nephew. He also enjoys attending his nephew's baseball games. He has a huge heart filled with SO MUCH LOVE.

Watching him grow and develop into a young man is such an amazing privilege.

We are so very grateful for the support from Ben's Place and their role in helping us along this journey! - *Written by Robin Bennett (Michael's older sister and caregiver)*





Executive Director, Annie

Here we are in our new building. The excitement is amazing. Our program is growing, and new learning areas are being added. We are having a great time with our gardens, such colors, and smells, we can hardly wait to be able to harvest the fruits of our labor. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

On Thursday April 27, 5-7pm and Saturday April 29, 11-2 we are having an open house at our new location, 1751 Lindsey Rd Jacksonville, 32221. Come on by and take a tour, speak to some of our staff and volunteers, and see this amazing new building we call HOME. We will be there to answer your questions about our program, volunteering, and ways you can help. Applications and information will be available. We will also have a food truck available for your pleasure. Take a minute to eat on our patio or bring something home, so you don't have to cook.

Spring auction is here and this year it will be gift cards & items

From the President

Our Center is up and running on Lindsey Road with great programs thanks to our Program Director, Stephanie Schuler, and our Executive Director, Annie Yarbrough. The excitement continues to build with evening events like our Halloween party, Christmas, Valentine's and St. Patrick's dances. All things our members and community partners look forward to, as COVID restrictions are lifted.

The Center looks great thanks to the painting refresh led by our board Treasurer, Jay Abraham. Additionally, a big shout out to the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation with a sizable

donation. The donation received has made it possible to purchase the things needed to get our Center up and running.

Now I need your help to share our story about our great program and services. We are looking to grow our membership. My hope, by spreading the word of upcoming events like the fun dances and Wheel Chair meetups (check the calendar for upcoming events), we will build a waitlist of adults who want to partake in our program events. Let me know how we can make our organization great! I am listening.

~ Emily Pate, President



Bloom where you are planted

cont. from Executive Director Annie

made by our members. It will begin on April 26 at noon and end on April 29 at 8 pm. We will again use Bidding owl as our auction site.

www.biddingowl.com/bensplace

Enjoy all the items our members make and support the programs they love so much.



~ Annie

Have FUN and Flock Someone!



Upcoming Events for 2023

www.bensplacecof.org/upcoming-events

Open House

April 27 & 29



Come see our NEW Home at 1751 Lindsey Rd., Jacksonville



Monthly Monday Splash of Paint

www.bensplacecof.org/splash-of-paint-more



3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
Riverside Liquors 1251 King St.



Annual Golf Tourney
October 21st
SAVE THE DATE

Flock-a-Friend

What a great way to say hi or congrats to someone with a flocking of flamingos. Now available (along with our "FLOCKINGS") you can send a yard sized birthday cake with the appropriate number of candles, a field of spinning flowers, or a baby announcement. Please go to;

www.bensplacecof.org/flockingafriend

Make someone smile while supporting our programs.



WE NEED YOU

A Call for Volunteers

Have you ever gotten halfway through the year and realized all the things you planned on doing when the year started and realized you hadn't done nearly any of them!

Well let me offer you some help. Let's complete one of your goals of giving back and consider volunteering with Ben's Place. We can have you help only once, occasionally, or on a schedule.

Are you good at crafting? Teaching? Selling? Growing? Scavenging? Social Media? Fundraising? WE NEED YOU! You can work directly with our members, on a team project, or solo. It's so easy to do. Choose as little or as much as you want to do, and we will make it work.

Volunteer training is available. Give me a call, email, or text and we will get started.

Info@bensplacecof.org, or call or text 904-418-2200. Hurry so we can speak soon.

~ Annie

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



2022 Annual Golf Tournament @ Eagle Landing

Ben's Place Board of Directors

We appreciate YOUR Board Service!

1. Emily Pate – President
2. Jason Gibson – Vice President
3. Jay Abraham – Treasurer
4. Debra Waye - Secretary
5. Ebony Davis – Director
6. Lawrence Thompson – Director

Contact us at 904-418-2299

or

info@bensplacecof.org



Anne Yarbrough – Executive Director
Stephanie Schuler - Program Director

Flocking's available.

Birthday cakes!
NOW available.

<http://bensplacecof.org/flockinga-friend/>



Visit us online at
www.bensplacecof.org