

Ben's Place Services, Inc.

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Jacksonville, FL 32210
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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.*



inside this issue:

From the President	2	News & Community Partner	4
Executive Director, Annie	2	Board Members and Staff	4
Upcoming Events for 2024	3	
Wills, Trusts, and ABLE	3		

Getting to know Trent...

Trent is a new member of Ben's Place. He started attending in the summer of 2023. He is a lifelong resident of Florida. Trent attended schools in Jacksonville and graduated from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. He has been blind from birth and has intellectual disability.

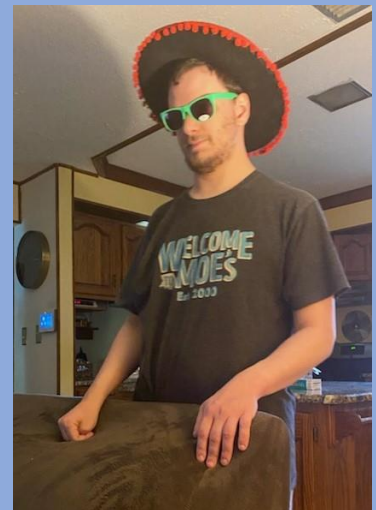
Among the activities Trent enjoys is going to the grocery store, music, math and, (his favorite) listening to audiobooks.

Ben's Place has made a difference in Trent's life. He is making friends,

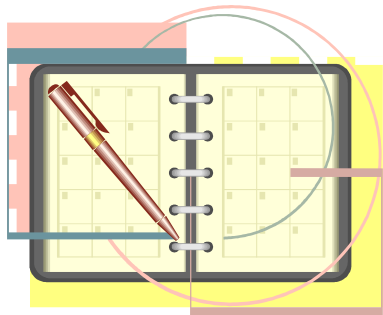
experiencing new activities and is becoming more independent. Being involved with activities outside our home is a great experience. Trent says he enjoys making cookies and exercising at Ben's Place. But his favorite activity there is Karaoke. Field trips are lots of fun and so far, his favorite one was to Floating Sea Aquatics, a rescue aquarium shop. He got to pet a snake and a turtle. Trent looks forward to his days there with his friends and Ms. Stephanie.

Thank you so much to everyone at Ben's Place for everything you do. We are grateful to be a member of your "Community of Friends."

Featured Member



Trent



Executive Director, Annie

Hi, I am so pleased with our progress, as we are always striving to do better and more for our guys.

Thank you to our students from both UF and FSCJ Occupational Therapy Programs. We love our time with them and both of our teams learn so much. Thank you.

We appreciate our Ashley Furniture partnership and all they have done for us. Our office is beautiful. Also, thanks to ABWA, ETA PHI BETA, The Jaguar Foundation, The City of Jacksonville and Gleaners Dispatch for being community partners. It is a pleasure working with all these wonderful people and organizations. Please contact us if you would like to become a community partner, we would love to have you be part of our family.

With the year in full swing (a golf term) we are planning our annual Golf Tournament. We also have

From the President

Our Center NOW has extended hours! I am super pleased with how our momentum continues to grow.

Now, Wednesday - Friday we are open until 7 p.m. Additionally, we offer our members, Saturday programs several times a month. There are always arts & crafts and exercises. Yoga is going to be introduced very soon. I was very happy to see that our members were offered their very own Spring Break! How cool is that! Thursday nights are always filled with activities. Whether it be gardening, karaoke, or nature walks, there is something for every member now. These

enhanced levels of programs are all due to our program director Stephanie Schuler and our Executive Director, Annie Yarbrough. Thank you both! Everyone, please get the word out!

Our volunteers are growing too. I am pleased that we have two 11th grade students who are fully engaged and helping us with our online auction. These volunteers first came to us through our golf tournament. Thank you, America & Shelby, for stepping up and helping us run our Sunshine BiddingOwl gift card auction. They are truly helping to make our organization great! I am listening, how can we get even better? ~ Emily Pate, President



Your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card, and the way you make others feel is your trademark. ~ Jay Danzie

cont. from Executive Director Annie

our Spring Gift Card Auction and a new event, a Christmas Village. Plus, we will always have mini events throughout the year.

I am putting together some committees to assist with our fundraising events and would love it if you would join in and help us grow!

We have been doing a lot of landscaping and our

grounds are beginning to look so comfortable and pleasing. We are really enjoying them.



~ Annie

Wish List: Garden supplies, a gardener, gas grill, closed cabinets for the art room, bingo prizes, and gift cards to buy enhanced supplies

Upcoming Events for 2024

www.bensplacecof.org/upcoming-events

Online Sunshine Auction

June 12th @ 12 noon
– June 15th @ 7 p.m.

Help make it a GREAT success by bidding on your favorite gift cards! Please share with your friends & family! Sign up today! Previews coming soon!



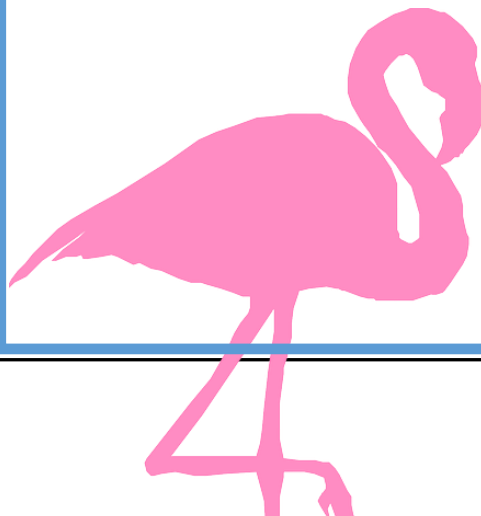
Annual Golf Tournament

October 26th @ Bent Creek Golf Club

Flock-a-Friend

What a great way to say hi or thank someone with a flocking of flamingos. Now, you can send a flock of birthday candles with a lawn size birthday cake with candles or a baby announcement. Make someone smile while supporting our programs.

www.bensplacecof.org/flockingafriend



Wills, Trusts and ABLE

Beneficiary Designation

When you create a will, you must designate beneficiaries. You also name beneficiaries with certain assets like life insurance policies, retirement plans, or annuities. Naming a beneficiary on a contract (life insurance, 401k, etc.) means that when you pass, that asset is transferred to the beneficiary you chose. Although your first inclination might be to name your child with special needs outright as your beneficiary, this could jeopardize his or her entitlement to government benefits. For instance; let's say you designate your daughter with cerebral palsy as the beneficiary on your \$100k life insurance policy. When you passed and she received that \$100,000, she could immediately lose Medicaid and any SSI that she may be receiving until that \$100,000 is spent down to the \$2,000 limit mandated by the state. Instead, consider establishing a special needs trust for your child and designating the trust as your beneficiary. This way you can ensure that your loved one is cared for without creating a situation in which they may lose vital resources. The same should be done for any assets that you would ordinarily leave to your loved one.

Lawrence Thompson, MBA
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Christmas Village
www.bensplacecof.org/splash-of-paint-more



December 6th – 8th
1751 Lindsey Rd.
***Special Thank YOU to our Sponsors & Volunteers**

We are excited!! NEW Hours/Employee

- Monday 8:30-2
- Tuesday 8:30-2
- Wednesday 8:30-7
- Thursday 8:30-7
- Friday 8:30-7

Remember to check the calendar for our special events and trips.

We are open two Saturday nights a month with fun activities such as dances, bingo, movies, & karaoke.

Fast paced meet up for higher functioning individuals meets one Friday a month with interesting events including Monthly Mocktails.
6:30-8:30

We are excited to announce that David Stevenson, Mr. David, is back. He is working many of our evening activities. He brings his great experience and love of sports to our program. Basketball and frisbee are some of the evening activities we are enjoying. We look forward to a wonderful addition.

NEW Initiative

Ben's Place members are making some beautiful handmade items that they are displayed in the entry area of our Center. We will be selling the items at craft shows, online, at our events and at our Center. The exciting part is that half of the sales price will be deducted from the members fee and the other half will be used to buy supplies to create more items to sell. This will help our members to attend the programs that are offered, since our members are self-paying.

Thank YOU

Ashley Furniture

We had a lovely gift from our community partner, Ashely Furniture. They spent a Friday with us by cleaning up, painting the outside of our building and gifting us with new office furniture (including a meeting table). It looks wonderful! Please come and take a peek.

**Ben's Place
Board of Directors
Please reach out to YOUR
Board with YOUR ideas!**

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

Visit us online at
www.bensplacecof.org

Contact us at 904-418-2299

or

info@bensplacecof.org



Anne Yarbrough – Executive Director
Stephanie Schuler - Program Director

Mug Cake

This has become a favorite of our members

- ✓ 3 tablespoons box cake mix (any flavor you like)
 - ✓ 2 tablespoons water
 - ✓ 1 mug (with a handle because it gets hot)
 - ✓ Cooking spray or butter
 - ✓ Add-Ins (optional) – nuts, sprinkles, mini chips, cookie pieces, mini marshmallows
1. Spray the inside of the mug
 2. Measure the cake mix & put it in the mug
 3. Add water & mix completely
 4. Add ins go in now (optional)

Put in the microwave for 1 minute 30 seconds. Be Careful taking it out because it is very hot. Let it cool & top with frosting, Cool Whip or just eat it plain. It's delicious!