

Ben's Place Services, Inc.

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Unit 325
Jacksonville, FL 32210
904-418-2299



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.*



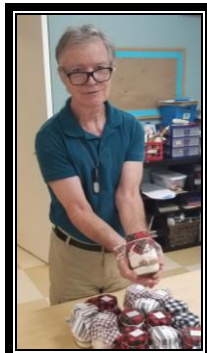
www.bensplacecof.org

inside this issue:

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

Getting to know Ben's Place...

Ten months into 2024 and there have been lots of exciting days at our Ben's Place Center. Everything from fun and relaxation with special guests and karaoke to crafting items for our upcoming Christmas Village and learning new skills that can be used for employment and bettering our social relationships. Ben's Place continues to make a difference in the lives of its members. Founded in 2001.



Making Cocoa Mixes

Group Fun!

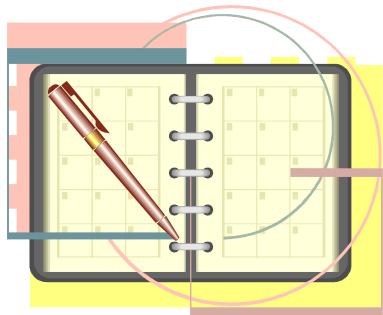


Making Magic!



Karaoke Thursdays





Executive Director, Annie

Hi again,

Cooler weather is here. Yay!

I would like to start with a big thank you to all our employees, sponsors, partners, volunteers, members and their families, and board members. Together we are creating a terrific program. We appreciate everything you do!

I am so excited about a new initiative we have developed. We are selling the items our members have made, and you will be able to purchase them at our center, online and at various craft shows. The unique part is that the proceeds are split 50/50 between the members and our craft budget. As you may know, our members pay their own way and now will have the proceeds of their own sales used to decrease their monthly fees. To encourage member participation, we will have a drawing each month for a gift card and a luncheon. So far, we are doing a luncheon. With the help and guidance from our Program Director, Stephanie, the items are amazing. Please take a look and see their products. Remember Christmas is...

From the President

Our Center has had an amazing 2024! Everything from field trips to the movies and shopping at the mall to beginning our Ben's Place Store that will feature our member's handcrafted items for sale. 50% of the proceeds go towards lowering the bill for the member to attend the programs at the Center.

Just a reminder that Wednesday – Friday, we are open until 7 p.m. Our Saturday programs, several times a month, are a great way for our members to have their night out! Arts & crafts and exercises are always offered. 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 continue to share what we have to offer! There are so many individuals on a Med-Waiver wait list. We fill the gap in a safe social setting! Socialization helps our individuals learn norms and expectations. Our individuals work on their impulse control, practice roles, and together cultivate a shared environment of meaningful friendships!

Ben's Place continues in large part thanks to our donors. We appreciate your ongoing support of our events! We cannot do it without YOU. ~ Emily Pate, President



Thanks to our growing number of volunteers from family & friends to HS students, Eta Phi Beta, ABWA, Ashley Furniture, and Target. Your efforts are helping make our dream work!

cont. from Executive Director Annie

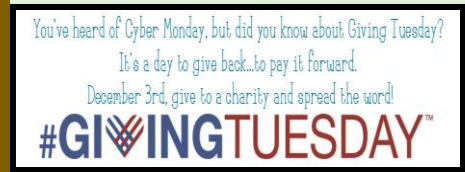
around the corner!

We are excited to have added a new event this year, The Christmas Village. There will be our member items for sale, outside vendors, food trucks, contests, starlight movies and so much more! I can't wait to see you there and brag about our members and programs.

As we get ready to close this year, please think about adding us to your end of year

donations and matching funds at your workplace.

~ Annie



#givingtuesday on Dec 3rd

Upcoming Events for 2024



Christmas Village

December 6th & 7th

1751 Lindsey Rd.

Friday 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Wills, Trusts and ABLE

Why Planning is Important

Special needs planning is crucial for families with adults with special needs. It ensures your loved one will have the necessary financial support and legal protections to maintain their quality of life, access government benefits, and continue receiving appropriate care even after the parents are no longer able to provide it. It also safeguards against potential disruptions to their lifestyle due to inheritance or other financial changes.

Key reasons why special needs planning is important:

- **Protecting government benefits:**
Ensuring that receiving an inheritance or large sum of money doesn't disqualify the individual from vital government benefits like Medicaid or SSI.
- **Managing future care needs:**
Identify and secure funding for future needs like housing, medical care, therapies, and other essential support services.
- **Legal safeguards:**
Establishing legal documents like a will, power of attorney, and guardianship arrangements can designate who will make decisions on behalf of the individual with special needs.
- **Financial security:**
Special needs trusts can be set up to hold assets that can be used for specific needs without jeopardizing government benefits.
- **Peace of mind for families:**
Planning ahead provides families with the confidence that their loved one will be cared for even when they are no longer able to provide support.

Meeting with an estate planning attorney and financial planner that specializes in working with special needs families can give you a good idea as to where to start and what may be best for your unique situation.

Lawrence Thompson, MBA
Lt6742@gmail.com

Ben's Place Hours

- 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.

Halloween Dance



If you would like to purchase something from our Amazon Wish List, please go to

Ben's Place Wishes and Wants

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FWEX4INFFTG?ref=cm_sw_sm_r_un_un_iZS2H3QWQX54Q

Thank You

Some of the members items



**Ben's Place
Board of Directors
Thank YOU for YOUR
board service in 2024!**

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

Member Recipes

Overnight Breakfast Parfait

- Oatmeal (uncooked)
- Yogurt
- Fruit (cut up in small pieces)
- Brown sugar or sugar substitute
- Spoon
- A small jar with a lid

Take the lid off the jar
Add 2 spoons of oatmeal
Add 2 spoons of yogurt
Add 2 spoons of fruit add a little sweetener

Repeat
Add 2 spoons of oatmeal
Add 2 spoons yogurt
Add 2 spoons of fruit
Add sweetener

Repeat until the jar is full
Put the lid on the jar
Put it in the Refrigerator over night