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The Spring Plant sale was a major success with numerous plants, arts and crafts, live music and a food truck!

Caitlin Koval, Editor

**GROW-HUB** is a not-for-profit organization that helps students with developmental disabilities and veterans gain meaningful skills to become great employees at different job sites. **GROW-HUB** stands for Growing Real Opportunities to Work - Harvest of Urban Business.

**Visit us on Facebook**

**@GROWHUBGNV**

**More on our website: [grow-hub.org](http://grow-hub.org)**

# Volunteer Spotlight

“I am a student at Santa Fe College, and I am in the adult education program. In the adult education program, we are learning about horticulture.”



## SPOTLIGHT ON JEREMY RICHARDSON

### What is your name?

My name is Jeremy Richardson.

### How long have you been working or volunteering at GROW-HUB?

I have been volunteering here since January of 2019.

### How many hours are you at GROW-HUB per week?

I am here on Tuesday and Thursday from nine o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock in the afternoon.

### What made you interested in working or volunteering here?

I am a student at Santa Fe College, and I am in the adult education program. In the adult education program, we are learning about horticulture. I would like to eventually finish my Associates of Arts degree. I love growing plants, and I love being outside.

### What are some of your responsibilities while you are working at the facility?

Some of my responsibilities while I am at the facility include watering plants, pulling weeds, and transplanting the plants from smaller pots into bigger pots. Additionally, I am responsible for making sure that the soil levels are correct in the pots to ensure that the plants get the proper amount of nutrients.

### What are some of the different skills that you have learned while you have been volunteering here? How can you use these skills out in the general community?

I have learned how to hold the tools properly, and I have also learned how to use the tools properly so that I do not hurt myself or damage the plant in any way.

### What are some of your favorite things to do while you are working here?

One of my favorite things to do is making the plants look nice, and I enjoy selling them.

### What are some of the long-term goals that you have?

I would like to finish my Associates of Arts degree. I would eventually like to have a job, and I would like to teach other people how to plant things in a garden.

### What are some of your hobbies outside of work?

I like to read, and I like to study. Additionally, I like to go shopping, and I like to associate with friends. I like to take care of my family.

### How do you think that this facility could improve?

I think that there needs to be more space in general for the plants. Moreover, I think that there needs to be better parking. Furthermore, I believe that there needs to be more wheelchair accessibility, and I believe that there needs to be more accessibility for individuals like myself who are deaf. If someone is hard of hearing or deaf, they need to have access to interpreters. If someone is blind or significantly visually impaired, they need large print materials or braille.

### What is your favorite plant to grow? What is the hardest plant for you to grow? What is the easiest plant for you to grow?

My favorite plant to grow is the aloe plant. I also like to grow the coleus plant. I don't know what the hardest plant for me to grow is, and I don't know what the easiest plant for me to grow is.

# What's Going On: Recent Events



## OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SANTA FE COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

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Students in the adult education program at Santa Fe College held a plant sale on February 13, 2019. The students in the program without disabilities help the students who have developmental delays. The students prepare the soil and help with planting, harvesting, and sales. This program was started a year ago by Linda Musillo. Linda wants everybody who goes through the program to be successful. She also wants the students to be as independent as possible. After one year, the students are ready to volunteer or find paid employment at plant shops or nurseries. Students are in the classroom on Mondays and Wednesdays, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays they go to GROW-HUB.

Linda Musillo said that Mr. Banes, the director of GROW-HUB, very generously donates pots and soil for the class. He also allows the students to grow their plants on GROW-HUB property. When the students are in the classroom on campus, they learn about safe food handling as it relates to fruits, vegetables, and other foods. The students also learn about the importance of horticulture, as well as the vocabulary that is used when discussing plants. When they are at GROW-HUB, the students learn the correct way to use the tools for planting, practice planting seeds, and learn about proper watering and trimming of the plants. The students are quick learners. They do some gardening at Santa Fe as well. They grow plants such as roses, herbs, and flapjack plants. They also grow strawberry plants and succulent plants, such as aloe. At the sales, the students get to keep the funds that they make.

The horticulture program at Santa Fe is a great program because it allows the students to collaborate with other businesses or programs in the community.



## THE BEES HAVE ARRIVED!

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The bees came to our organization on March 28, 2019. We have two hive boxes, and we may be getting a third hive box soon. The University of Florida Bee Lab donated the hives, and Ray Goldwire from Oak Hammock is our volunteer beekeeper. Once the hives become established, GROW-HUB plans to sell the honey.







Not only does GROW-HUB provide a place for people to interact with nature, but it also allows people to interact with each other. The organization allows people to build self-confidence and self-esteem and to increase their independence. When people are involved with nature, they are not focused on the fact that they have disabilities. They are more focused on having a fantastic time outside.



## Open House and Annual Plant Sale a Big Success!

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, GROW-HUB had its annual plant sale. The sale lasted from 11:00 in the morning and did not end until 3:00 in the afternoon. Several other non-profits and other agencies and businesses collaborated to make the Open House and Plant Sale a big success, including Working Food, UF Arts in Medicine, Santa Fe College, and students from the Professional Academy Magnet at Lofton High School. We had a food truck called the Kickin' Chicken bus. We had a children's area set up with games and face painting. There was live music, and the band was called Honey Moonshine. Editor's responsibilities included handing out gift cards, newsletters, and flyers. We sold crafts, vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and flowers. We also sold plants that attract butterflies. In addition to selling all these wonderful things, we sold beverages and glasses that had the GROW-HUB logo on them. We sold 1,100 plants, and we made over \$7000.

A SUPER SHOUT-OUT AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE AMAZING GIVE!!

THE  
**AMAZING  
GIVE**

March 20 - 21, 2019

[www.TheAmazingGive.org](http://www.TheAmazingGive.org)

GROW-HUB participated in an online fundraiser. The online fundraiser lasted 24 hours. The online fundraiser was called the Amazing Give. In a 24 hour time frame, GROW-HUB raised \$4500! That is an amazing accomplishment.



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