



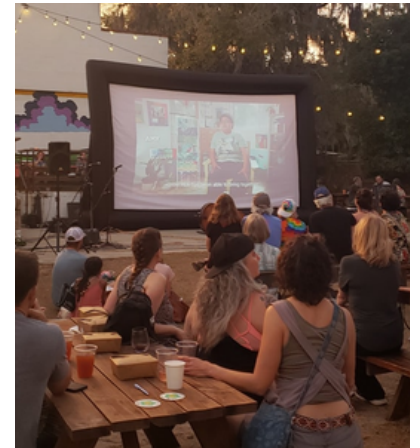
BLOOMING NEWS



GROW HUB's Film Premiere

On February 25th we hosted a community event at Cypress and Grove Brewing Company to premiere our new short documentary film titled "Growing Real Opportunities to Work". The film, created by Nomad Creative Productions, tells the story of GROW HUB and shares the impact we've had on so many lives in the community. It's a beautiful film filled with all the smiles, flowers, and joy that is GROW HUB. Check it out at the QR code below.

The event featured live music by Michael Claytor and The Front Porch Backsteppers, food trucks, local vendors, an art show, and raffle prizes. It was a magical evening and we raised over \$10K! Thank you to all who came out and show their support for our cause. We are especially thankful to the following sponsors, who helped make the event a huge success!



A Night to Remember



WATCH THE FILM!

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Howard Bishop Middle School PTSA

The Griffin Family

Ryan McGriff

Fun State Pool Service

Padgett Pool Plastering, Inc.

GROWING REAL OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK - HARVEST OF URBAN BUSINESS, INC.
NURSERY LOCATION: 2900 NE 8TH AVENUE
MAILING ADDRESS: 9200 NW 39TH AVENUE, SUITE # 130-62
GAINESVILLE FL 32606
GROW-HUB.ORG

Employee Spotlight

Newsletter editor Caitlin Koval interviewed Amy Puccio, our horticulturalist and animal caretaker.

How long have you been working at Grow Hub? I have been working at Grow Hub for approximately five years.

What made you interested in working at the facility? I was looking for a job that involved plants.

What are your main job responsibilities when you are at the jobsite? I care for Lewis & Clark, the mini donkeys, I have pulled orders; organized the Pot Barn & Potting areas; and generally, trouble shoot where ever I am needed.

What are the different job skills that you have learned about since you have worked here? I have learned how to deal with the public; learned to identify & work with a lot of different plants; learned to work checking out customers; and do some minor repairs, when needed.

What are your short-term goals? My short-term goal is to maintain my house & remain as independent as possible.

What are your long-term goals for the future? My long-term goal is to stay healthy & continue working at the GROW HUB.

How do you think that you could take the skills that you have learned at the jobsite and use them in the community? I could help people start small community gardens.

How do you think that the jobsite could improve with the brand-new camellia garden? It adds another group of plants with some beautiful flowers in its own little area as they are air layered & multiplied.

Do you think that the camellia garden will attract more visitors who would want to come look at it? I think it will be interesting to people that know camellias & introduce the plants to people that don't.

What got you interested in camellias? I wanted to learn how to air layer & ground layer camellias.

What are the similarities between roses and camellias? Both produce great flowers.

What are the differences between roses and camellias? Roses can grow in a vine or bush. Camellias grow primarily in a bush.

What have you learned from this experience if anything? I've learned the conditions they need & the varieties they come in.

What are your hobbies outside of work? I like to crochet, love listening to music, read, & watch mysteries on TV.

What is your favorite plant? Lavender



Amy is always working on projects to improve facilities and operations at GROW HUB.

GROW HUB Donates to Ronald McDonald House

Caitlin Koval

The people from GROW HUB (Growing Real Opportunities to Work Harvest of Urban Business Inc.) were very kind over the holiday season. They bought brand-new toys, games, and books for the children and families at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Central Florida. I used to be a volunteer at the RMHNCF, so I understand all the amazing work that they do. I can appreciate everything that they do since my family stayed at a Ronald McDonald House when I was in the hospital many years ago. Since then, I have tried to help them by volunteering or making donations when I can. I also collect pop tops for them that they can turn in for cash. They are my favorite charity to support.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Central Florida serves as a home away from home for children who are recovering from surgeries or other life-threatening illnesses. It serves children and their families from the United States of America as well as from all over the world. RMHNCF is located across the street from UF Health Shands Children's Hospital and relies heavily on the generosity of the community to help the families have a place to stay during their child's illness.

I am so thankful that GROW HUB decided that they were going to help the RMHNCF out during the holiday season this year. That was a very special thing for them to do. I think everyone should help each other out when they can.

For more information on RMHNCF, please visit <https://www.rmhcncf.org/>.

OTHER HAPPENINGS



Thanks to generous community support, we raised over \$11K from The Amazing Give!



In March we were awarded the Star Green Business Award by the City of Gainesville for our native plants selection.



WCJB TV20 did a story on GROW HUB! Check it out here:



HCA Florida Volunteer Day

HCA Florida North Florida Hospital is an important supporter of GROW HUB, dedicating their time, expertise, and resources to our mission. On March 1, HCA employees came out to our nursery and worked alongside our team transplanting, watering, moving plants, and preparing our greenhouses for the spring. The team said their time at GROW HUB left a positive impact on them all!

HCA Florida North Florida Hospital has hired several individuals from our partner program, Growing Education Training Program (G.E.T. Program). G.E.T is a program designed to help adults with disabilities transition into society by providing real life work experience to Alachua County Public School’s ESE students. We appreciate their commitment to improving lives and making a positive impact in our community!



FIRE CIDER SALAD DRESSING RECIPE

SERVINGS: 8-10 PREP TIME: 5 MIN

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Tbs Fire Cider or Apple Cider Vinegar
- 2 Tbs Tahini
- 4 Tbs Olive Oil
- 1-2 Tbs Neutral Oil (canola, Vegetable)
- Dried or fresh herbs
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Add all ingredients to a jar with a lid and shake vigorously.
2. Goes great with lettuce, kale, arugula, and atop hot salads mixed with grains like quinoa.

Created by Alexa Heilman

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