



BLOOMING NEWS



THE
**AMAZING
GIVE**

April 24, 2025

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
www.TheAmazingGive.org

 JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
GAINESVILLE

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SPRING MARKETS!

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Spring pop-up markets at GROW HUB!

**Spring
Pop-Up Markets**

Saturday, March 8
Saturday, April 12
Saturday, May 10

9 AM - 3 PM At
Grow Hub

**Food, plants, local vendors,
and more!**



Our spring pop-ups are a great time to buy some plants for spring, explore the beauty of Grow Hub and connect with community members!

*More event information on our Instagram and Facebook.

Pop-up workshop

March 8th, 1:30pm-2:00pm

Learn about replacing lawn areas with native plants using sheet mulch techniques with Travis from local landscaping company, Bee Good Landscape!

Nursery Address: 2900 NE 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609

**Redeem
between
March 8th
& May 11th**

**ONE FREE
1 gallon PLANT**

***with purchase**



We'll accept digital or physical copies of the coupon



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GROW HUB's Donkeys, Lewis and Clark

By Caitlin Koval

Most of the people who come to GROW HUB during the year may be asking themselves these questions when they come to the nursery. I am going to try to answer these questions to the best of my ability. **What do Lewis and Clark eat, and how much do they eat?** Lewis and Clark eat pellet and sweet feed during most of the year. In the winter, they eat alfalfa pellets. In addition to everything that I have already said, Lewis and Clark also eat four slabs of hay.

How often do Lewis and Clark get fed? They get fed once a day. **Do Lewis and Clark go to the veterinarian, or does the veterinarian come to them?** The veterinarian comes to the facility once a year. When the veterinarian comes to the facility, she checks on the condition of each donkey. The veterinarian updates the shots whenever it becomes necessary. The veterinarian is very nice, and she answers any of the questions that we have about their health. **When did GROW-HUB get Lewis and Clark?** GROW-HUB got Lewis and Clark in 2018. Where did Lewis and Clark come from? They came from a place in northern Florida.

Are Lewis and Clark nice, or do they bite? The donkeys have been happy at GROW HUB. They contribute to the public relations & have become local celebrities. They are getting used to being approached by people but can get frisky. We always watch how their day is going, but they are getting friendlier all the time.



GROW HUB Partners with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services have long been a beacon of hope for individuals with disabilities seeking employment opportunities and independence. Through a wide array of services, VR helps thousands of Floridians achieve their career goals and improve their quality of life. Among the innovative partners making a significant impact in this mission is GROW HUB, which has become a VR vendor, offering employment services and on-the-job training for VR customers.

GROW HUB: Cultivating Opportunities



GROW HUB, short for Growing Real Opportunities to Work - Harvest of Urban Business, serves as a nurturing environment where individuals with disabilities can gain practical work experience in a supportive setting. As a plant nursery, GROW HUB offers a variety of roles that cater to different skills and interests, from horticultural tasks to customer service, allowing VR customers to explore and develop their abilities.

By partnering with VR, GROW HUB provides tailored on-the-job training programs designed to build confidence and competence in the workplace. These programs not only enhance vocational skills but also foster a sense of community and belonging, pivotal elements in the journey toward self-sufficiency.

The Impact of On-the-Job Training

On-the-job training at GROW HUB is a cornerstone of our collaboration with VR. This hands-on approach enables participants to learn by doing, guided by experienced mentors who understand the unique needs and potential of each individual. Participants gain valuable insights into the horticultural industry, develop transferable skills, and receive personalized feedback that is crucial for personal and professional growth.

This partnership is a testament to the transformative power of community involvement and specialized support, illustrating how tailored employment services can lead to meaningful, lasting change in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

How to Get Involved

For those interested in exploring the opportunities offered by Florida's VR services and GROW HUB, visit your nearest VR office or speak directly with a VR counselor. They can provide detailed information about program availability, eligibility requirements, and the application process.



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EDUCATION
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What Is a Pollinator and Why are They Critical?

By Caitlin Koval



Pollinators can be butterflies, bees, bats, birds, or sometimes even the wind can pollinate plants. Pollinators are important for several reasons. Pollinators, like bees and butterflies, help plants reproduce by transferring pollen from one plant to another, which helps the plants reproduce. Many of the foods we eat, such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts, depend on pollinators to grow. Without pollinators, certain animals and humans could end up losing their habitats and would not have enough food to eat. In the United States and around the world, they are crucial because they support the environment by keeping ecosystems healthy. They help support clean water, the soil, and the air. Pollinators are facing threats, but we can help them. Pollinators are in danger from habitat loss, climate change, and pesticides. We can protect them by planting pollinator-friendly plants, using fewer chemicals, and supporting eco-friendly farming. Grow Hub now has its own pollinator garden. It was recently selected as the site for the first Bee City Gainesville native plant garden. It is outstanding that Grow Hub has a native pollinator garden!



How Donations Support Grow Hub

By Caitlin Koval



Grow Hub is a not-for-profit plant nursery that supports individuals who have developmental disabilities, with work opportunities. Grow Hub's mission statement is "Cultivating, empowering, and assisting disabled adults for sustainable living through education, training, and job opportunities." Because Grow Hub is a not-for-profit company, it relies on donations to be successful. Here are some reasons why people are encouraged to donate to our organization. People can donate to our organization by volunteering their time (we currently offer group volunteering only) or by donating supplies. Monetary donations are also extremely helpful to our operations and payroll. Donations help pay for facility upgrades and expenses. Revenue pays for expenses not covered by donations as well as worker payroll. The ultimate goal is that 100% of all upgrades and expenses are covered by donations. Then 100% of our revenue would be used for meaningful paid employment opportunities. We appreciate all donations, no matter the amount, and encourage you to support Grow Hub today!



Grow Hub employees at our holiday party

Thank you to the veterans that volunteer with us!



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