

THE KEY UPDATE

Debra Webb joins The Key Clubhouse as Executive Director

Debra Webb, APR,MPA, has joined The Key Clubhouse of South Florida as the new Executive Director on June 1, 2015. Debra is replacing Stephanie Solviei who retired on May 30, 2015. Prior to coming on board to The Key Clubhouse Debra served as the Founding CEO for HOPE Clubhouse of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers, Florida. During her five 1/2 year tenure at HOPE Clubhouse, Webb identified and recruited more than 280 members to HOPE Clubhouse to help them find meaningful work, education and housing. About 89 percent of the members are kept out of crisis stabilization after joining and becoming an active member of the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse was accredited by Clubhouse International in 2013. In March of 2014, HOPE Clubhouse became a Medicaid provider. Under her direction, 120 people with mental illnesses have been placed in jobs to support themselves. While serving as the CEO, HOPE Clubhouse was the recipient of a 1.1 million endowment fund at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation from John and Kappy King to ensure the future operation of HOPE Clubhouse.

We are delighted that Debra is taking over the helm of The Key Clubhouse. Debra has a vibrant personality and a deep understanding of the Clubhouse program model, which supports the recovery of people with mental ill-



ness in a stigma-free, dignified, work centered setting. "Debra's success at Hope Clubhouse can only strengthen our own program in Miami." said Amy McClellan, Board Chair of The Key Clubhouse in South Florida.

HOPE Clubhouse isn't the first non-profit organization that Debra has led from start-up. She was the founding Executive Director of the PACE Center for Girls of Lee County from 2006 to 2009. Prior to that, she served as the Chief Development Officer of the Children's Network of Southwest Florida, the managing entity for child welfare and the Public Information Director of the Florida Department of Children and Families.

"When the Key Clubhouse Executive Director position became available in Miami, it gave me the opportunity to contribute to people living with mental illness in South Florida and return home to be near family," Webb said. Webb is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology. She earned a second Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Florida International University and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration, focusing on Non Profit management. She also earned her accreditation in Public Relations by the Universal Accreditation Board.

ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS of South Florida Partners with Key Clubhouse to Help Members Find Employment

Key Clubhouse of South Florida is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Enterprise Holdings of South Florida to assist the members of Key Clubhouse of South Florida find and retain employment. Teri-Anne Brennan, Group Talent Acquisition Manager of Enterprise Holdings in South Florida, visited the Clubhouse to learn more about our organization and to meet our members. The tour was a success!

"It was great to learn more about an organization that puts so much focus on helping the community," stated Teri-Anne Brennan. "The members of Key Clubhouse have a great facility where they can learn the skills they need in order to be successful in the workplace."

Enterprise Holdings, which owns and operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands, is committed to partnering with local



organizations like Key Clubhouse. As a part of the Enterprise talent acquisition team's commitment in South Florida, they started sending weekly emails with available job openings to Key Clubhouse to share with their members.

The first member to land a job with Enterprise Holdings was David Valdes. David started working for the Enterprise Rent-A-Car office in Doral as a Service Agent on May 30. This opportunity is not only helping to expand and strengthen our employment program, but is equally vital for David and his recovery. David's manager has informed the Clubhouse that David has demonstrated professionalism, respect for others, and is a very reliable hard-working employee. "He is a great team member with incredible work ethic – he is a terrific addition to our team," stated Christy Cancio,

Continued on next Page

Penelope Martinez our new Program Manager

Penelope Martinez, or Penny as we know her around The Key Clubhouse, brings a wealth of energy and commitment to her work every day. Penny has been with Key Clubhouse as a program coordinator for five years, and most recently, she was promoted to Program Manager. Penny is a graduate of Carlos Albizu University with Masters in Mental Health and School Counseling.



pact on my life, and helped me to become an advocate for people living with severe mental illnesses." She absolutely believes that it is possible to bust the popular stigmas about people living with mental illnesses, and that every member has the potential to become whoever they want to be. Debra Webb, Executive Director of Key Clubhouse expressed, "Penny genuinely believes in the Clubhouse model and has personally helped each member to succeed in life despite their mental illness." Congratulations to Penny on her well earned promotion. We hope you love your new job!

She was working at The Key Clubhouse since its inception and has been very involved in the growth and expansion of The Key Clubhouse over the years. She states that, "Key Clubhouse has had a tremendous im-

Meet Jesse

Hello, my name is Jesse. I have been a member of The Key Clubhouse of South Florida for two and a half years now. I found out about The Key Clubhouse by a mutual friend. She gave me the phone number and address and that's when my journey began.



I enjoy coming five days a week where I can participate in the Business Unit. In the Business Unit I participate in doing different meaningful tasks like phone reception, finances, reaching out to members who are not attending, data input, setting up tours for new members, newscasting and more.

The Clubhouse has helped me in my recovery from mental illness by giving me meaningful work, obtaining and developing leadership skills, and most importantly giving me a sense of belonging. It feels like family here. I have suffered from mental illness since the age of sixteen after my parents' divorce and the death of my grandfather. I'm glad I have a place to go during my recovery because recovery is lifelong. I eventually plan to go back to college while participating in the Key Clubhouse's Transitional Employment Program.

Members Celebrate the Clubhouse's Fifth Anniversary

The Fourth of July weekend had something else to celebrate besides the holiday. It was the fifth anniversary of The Key Clubhouse. We celebrated it on July 6, 2015 with a party. We have been assisting people for five years now and we plan to keep growing and helping even more people in the years to come.



When we started, the Clubhouse only had about eight members a day, now we have grown to around 30 members a day. We have moved from our original location on

17th NE Terrace to our current location with about 50% more space and because we are still growing, we are now starting to run out of room.

This was a great anniversary as the last five years have been very successful with over 300 members served. As we look forward to the upcoming years, we plan to continue the success and expand employment, education, and accreditation of The Key Clubhouse.

ENTERPRISE Story, continued

Enterprise Branch Manager. All Clubhouse staff and members are very proud of David and his new job.

"I am very grateful for Key Clubhouse and their confidence in me. When I visited Gateway House for Clubhouse training, I realized I was ready to go back to work. The staff at Key Clubhouse has been supportive and empowering throughout my recovery. Enterprise is a perfect fit for me, as the company is very respectful and caring toward its employees and customers," expressed

David.

Key Clubhouse is based around the philosophy of recovery through work. On behalf of the staff, the members and the Board of Directors, we thank Enterprise Holdings of South Florida for its support of our mission to end the stigma amongst people with mental illness and promote an understanding that people with mental illness can be productive and excellent employees.

WE SALUTE ENTERPRISE!

KEY Clubhouse Prepares for Accreditation



Clubhouse Accreditation is the Clubhouse International's quality assurance program, designed to determine whether an organization is providing a full range of Clubhouse opportunities to its members. There are 333 Clubhouses throughout the world, most are accredited and The Key Clubhouse plans on joining their ranks.

Clubhouse accreditation involves the entire Clubhouse community in an interactive process of self-evaluation and strategic planning. After developing its own in-depth accreditation self-study, the Clubhouse is visited by a Clubhouse International Faculty team that reviews the clubhouse's self-study and its fidelity to the consensually established International Standards for Clubhouse Programs. The two person faculty teams are trained members and staff from strong certified Clubhouses around the world. Each team consists of one Clubhouse staff and one Clubhouse member.

According to our new Executive Director, Debra Webb, "we are going to start to expand our Employment program which includes transitional employment that is a critical component of an accredited Clubhouse. We are also looking at developing a much wider range of jobs for our members to be placed in during the upcoming year." The Key Clubhouse has a strong foundation and is already providing the four guaranteed rights of membership which are at the core of the Clubhouse model. They are: 1. a right to a place to come; 2. A right to meaningful relationships; 3. A right to meaningful work; and 4. a right to a place to return.

Long-Time Clubhouse Member Bob Mandell wins an award



At the Mental Health Transformation in Action Conference held in May at Jungle Island Bob Mandell received The Consumer Advocate Award. This award was presented to him by Judge Steven Leifman for outstanding efforts to improve the lives of people with mental illness.

Bob said, "I have to thank our board chairman Amy McClellan for nominating me for this award. I really didn't expect to win it, but I was pleasantly surprised."

"I would like to thank our advocacy group, ACT! For Mental Health. Additionally, I would like to thank the other groups I work for, Stop Prison Abuse Now (SPAN) and 350 South Florida which fights climate change."

"I am deeply appreciative of the conference for giving me this award and I will continue my efforts to improve the lives of people with mental illness."

Bob has helped with many projects including the Town Hall Meeting, lobbying in Tallahassee, and fundraising for the Clubhouse. He is a longtime member of The Key Clubhouse, a member of the Board of Directors and advocate.

Bob Mandell and Judge Steven Leifman

The Founding Executive Director Retires



From Left to Right; Precious Denson, Pam Manresa, Former Employment Specialist Osmany Vega, Steff Solovei, and Penny Martinez

On May 30 our Founding Executive Director Stephanie Solovei retired. Steff had been with the Clubhouse since the beginning back in July 5, 2010, when the Clubhouse started at our original location.

Amy McClellan, Chairman of the Board of Directors stated, "Steff was responsible for building our Clubhouse program in the first days with our first ten members to more than 300 members in our fifth year. We are grateful for her compassionate dedicated leadership and wish her the best in her retirement."

At her retirement party the staff and many members gave testimonials and thanked her for her support over the years. Steff smiled after all the accolades and thanked everyone. In her honor the Stephanie Solovei friendship Fund was established as a permanent reminder of her great work for The Key Clubhouse.



1400 NW 54th St., Suite 102
Miami, FL 33142

Avenues Charitable
Gift Fund

THE LITOWITZ FAMILY
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PLEASE DONATE TO THE KEY CLUBHOUSE

Consider making a donation to The Key Clubhouse. We rely on the generosity of individuals to support our unique program for people living with mental illness.

We are in great need of contributions to support the following services provided at the Clubhouse:

Registration fees for members who will be taking GED classes at the Clubhouse from instructors from Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center – 8 members X \$35 per member plus books - \$400.

Materials and staff time to develop new employment partnerships for our members with companies in the community - \$250 per employment partnership

Sponsorships of Clubhouse social outings through the Steff Solovei Friendship Fund - \$100 to \$250 per outing

Sponsorships of Employment Dinners every month at the Clubhouse to support our members who are in the workforce - \$500 for the remainder of the year

Please use the enclosed gift envelope to make a donation or make a donation online at www.keyclubhouse.org.

Thank you for any and all donations!

**The Key Clubhouse is looking for
employment opportunities for our
members!**

**Do you or someone you know have
JOBS for our members?**

Please call us at (305) 374-5115

Ask for Ms. Denson, Employment Specialist

Monday through

Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Who WE Are

The Key Clubhouse is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2008 by parents of young adults living with mental illness. The mission of the Key Clubhouse of South Florida is to afford people whose lives have been disrupted by mental illness the opportunity to recover meaningful and productive lives through reintegration in the workplace and the community.

The Key Clubhouse provides an accepting place to spend the day, participate in valuable work that supports the Clubhouse operations, socialize with friends and co-workers and gain access to transitional and supportive employment within the community.