

About Us

The Key Clubhouse of South Florida offers a free “Recovery through Work” program for adults living with serious and persistent mental illness. Our program is voluntary and focuses on strength-based recovery.

The Clubhouse is operating virtually five days a week until it is safe to open to members and staff. Daily clubhouse meetings are held by Zoom. We are still accepting new members. Please call us at 305-693-3508 for information on becoming a member.

The Key Clubhouse of South Florida
1400 NW 54th Street, Ste. 102
Miami, FL 33142
305-693-3508
www.keyclubhouse.org
dwebb@keyclubhouse.org



1400 NW 54 Street, Suite 102
Miami, FL 33142
305-683-3508
www.keyclubhouse.org



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY AND HOPE



The first day at The Key Clubhouse on July 5, 2010

Ten years ago, we opened the doors to our first 10 members in a small office space in downtown Miami. As our program has grown, we are privileged to have welcomed 625 members into our clubhouse “Recovery through Work” program over the last ten years, including 177 that we have placed in jobs in the community.

A big THANK YOU to all the members, staff, donors and volunteers who have made the Key Clubhouse community possible.

Sponsored by The Key Clubhouse of South Florida, Inc., Thriving Mind South Florida, and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.



Other Major Supporters



The Key Update

The Key Clubhouse of South Florida Newsletter
August 2020

In this issue

- [Reinventing the Clubhouse During the Pandemic P.1](#)
- [Member Stories – Meet Cedric P.1](#)
- [New Clubhouse Facility Almost a Reality P.2](#)
- [Member Stories – Meet Toni P.3](#)
- [Key Clubhouse Mental Health, Hope and Recovery Luncheon, A Huge Success P.3](#)
- [Celebrating 10 Years P.4](#)

MEET CEDRIC



My room is very dark, even during the day I need to turn on the lights to be able to see. I am chronically homeless. Right now, I have temporary housing provided by a program and I'm very grateful for it, but I'd really love to have my own apartment.

I've been a Key Clubhouse member for 4 years and I have nothing but gratitude for all the help I've got. I was able to graduate from Culinary Arts School thanks to a grant I've got from Key Clubhouse.

Now, I'm getting ready to enter the job market and I know that when I am, I'll have the Key Clubhouse full support. I know I don't have to worry about disclosing my diagnosis to potential employers which makes me really anxious. I know that the Key Clubhouse will help me finding the right job for me and that makes me feel at ease.

My life dreams are having my own restaurant and my own apartment. I know the restaurant dream is going to be hard to get, but the dream of having my own apartment is starting to feel possible thanks to the Key Clubhouse. I can't wait. Having my own place will bring some much needed stability to my life.



REINVENTING THE CLUBHOUSE DURING THE PANDEMIC

At the very heart of The Key Clubhouse is the goal of reducing isolation for our members and assisting them to go back to work or go back to school. When the pandemic forced us to close our doors back in March, there was no clear path to move forward.

Then, we got help from the Clubhouse International community. Within 24 hours, we were able to connect online with our colleagues from other clubhouses around the world who shared their ideas about operating during the pandemic. Soon we had a plan for operating a virtual clubhouse that would give our members the support they needed to stay safe, healthy and connected.

The virtual Key Clubhouse has been operating since. We sponsor daily Zoom video meetings with members and staff, group messaging, and intensive phone outreach to more than 145 members. We have provided smart phones to those members who had no way to participate in our Zoom meetings. Our Zoom meetings include general house meetings, employment meetings, cooking classes, Spanish 101, and social get-togethers.

The physical clubhouse has now become a food bank, where we collect donated groceries to distribute twice a week to homebound members. Dozens of people have generously donated food – sometimes every week. We have strict safety procedures for our staff, including limiting the number of staff allowed at any one time in our facility.

Our masked staff has been busy working with members to keep them safe and healthy. Since March, our home-bound members have received more than 320 grocery deliveries, smart phones to stay connected, microwaves to cook food at home, masks and gloves, and medication. Our staff has also assisted members with registering for virtual vocational school, applications for SSI, unemployment and housing. The clubhouse has also placed 9 members in jobs since March 2020!

We are happy to that, measured by the members who are participating, we are still thriving. With so many uncertainties still in the balance, we know that being part of the clubhouse is helping our members get through these difficult times. We continue to fulfill our mission and stand strong for people living with mental illness in Miami-Dade.

Best regards and stay well,
Debra Webb, Executive Director



JOIN OUR DREAM BUILDERS CIRCLE

Amount Raised for New Clubhouse



We need to raise an additional \$66,000 by 2021 to have the new clubhouse ready for move-in. We welcome donations of any size for the new facility.

If you would like to join our Dream Builders Circle, visit our website, www.keyclubhouse.org and click on "Give to the New Key Clubhouse Fund."

NEW CLUBHOUSE FACILITY ALMOST A REALITY

Dear Friends of The Key Clubhouse,

In the midst of the pandemic, there is a bright spot in the Key Clubhouse community. Everyone is talking about the new clubhouse facility, now under construction and scheduled to open in 2021.

The new Clubhouse facility will be located on the ground floor of Northside Commons, a new, 80-unit supportive housing complex. The project is the result of a partnership between Carrfour Supportive Housing, a local nonprofit supportive housing developer, and The Key Clubhouse of South Florida.



Northside Commons under construction

Above the new 5,000 sq. ft. clubhouse, 40 of our members will be able to live in their own apartments. Members who now live in crowded apartments with family members, or in temporary housing or shelters, are excited about living independently in permanent, affordable housing.

The new clubhouse facility will also offer a variety of "real world" work environments where members can learn valuable skills, including:

- A restaurant-style training kitchen
- Video production room
- Thrift shop
- Guest reception area
- Snack Bar/Cafe
- Employment office
- Bank
- Computer stations

Thanks to the Dream Builders Circle, We have already raised 66% of the funds needed to purchase furniture and equipment for the new clubhouse. Members of the Dream Builders include TeamFootWorks, which is sponsoring our Communications Unit, and Lalita and Dar Airan, who are sponsoring the new training kitchen. We are also grateful to CareerSource South Florida for its pledge to sponsor our Business Unit, Captain Manohar Mahajan for his pledge to sponsor the Thrift Shop and Bank, and Vijay Varki for his pledge to sponsor the Snack Bar/Café.

We just need to raise an additional \$66,000 by 2021 to have the new clubhouse facility ready move-in. If you would like to join our Dream Builders Circle, please use the enclosed reply envelope to send your check, OR go to: www.keyclubhouse.org and click on "Become a Dream Builder."

If you would like to sponsor one of the clubhouse areas, please contact Debra Webb at: dwebb@keyclubhouse.org or at 305-812-3215.

With warm wishes for your good health and safety,

Amy McClellan
President

KEY CLUBHOUSE MENTAL HEALTH HOPE AND RECOVERY LUNCHEON A GREAT SUCCESS



Judge Steve Leifman, Pete Earley and Master of Ceremonies Senator Rene Garcia.

Keynote speaker **Pete Earley**, introduced by **Judge Steven Leifman**, gave a heartrending account of his experiences trying to get help for his son, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Earley's experience led him to write *CRAZY: A Father's Search* through America's Mental Health Madness, a finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. His son's arrest prompted Earley to spend ten months inside the Miami Dade County jail as a reporter where he followed prisoners with mental disorders through the criminal justice system to see what actually happened to them.

On March 8, 2020, barely a week before the pandemic shut our doors, we held our Mental Health Hope and Recovery Luncheon for 235 guests to celebrate our 10-year anniversary. It was truly a great blessing for the future of the clubhouse -- we raised more than \$112,000, including \$38,800 in gifts and \$85,000 in pledges to equip and furnish the Key Clubhouse's new facility.



Rick Beasley, CEO, CareerSource South Florida

We are grateful to **The Dosal Family Foundation**, the major sponsor of the luncheon for the last five years. Other sponsors included the **4Girls Foundation, Alkermes, Andrea Keiser**, and **Kenny Nachwalter**.



Laura Fabar Equels, George Dosal, Miriam Dosal Stone and Howard Stone, of the Dosal Family Foundation

Peacock Foundation, Inc. received the 2020 Key Clubhouse Mental Health Champion Award for its generous and continuous support of the Clubhouse for the last 10 years.



Event Co-Chairs Eggli Cepero, Elette Cepero and Belinda Caballero, and Board Member Peggy Gonzalez

Many thanks to our fabulous event co-chairs, **Eggli Cepero, Elette Cepero and Belinda Caballero**, for their enthusiastic leadership.



Laura Huseby of FootWorks and Board Member Lalita Airan

We applaud **Senator Rene Garcia** for serving as our Master of Ceremonies for the second year, and for Key Clubhouse members **Maximo de la Cruz and Lily Shambo**, who brought the clubhouse spirit to the stage.

Finally, a special thanks to board member **Peggy Gonzalez** and **Luis Pizarro**, who revved up the crowd to raise the extra funding needed for our new clubhouse facility.



Amy McClellan, Board President, and Joëlle Allen of Peacock Foundation, Inc.



MEET TONI

During this quarantine, I've found ways to stay active and mentally healthy. It wasn't easy. I wanted to break out of feeling depressed.

With help from Key Clubhouse, I've enrolled in Lindsey Hopkins Technical College virtual cosmetology classes. I'm very excited and grateful for the opportunity that was given to me.

So far, I've learned to do manicures, pedicures, and acrylic nails. Studying keeps my stress level down. I go to individual therapy and I do zoom meetings with family, friends and the Key Club. It helps me cope with anxiety.

I have a wonderful support system within the key clubhouse. I've had food delivered to me, invitations to social meetings, random check up calls and endless love and support. I feel amazing. I even was offered a part-time job by the clubhouse working on the weekends.

After I graduate school I will be able to work from home, taking clients during the week and work my part time job on weekends. I feel like I'm on the path to a stable life. I never knew so much support and love existed at the Key Club. There are people who truly care about me. Thank you Key Clubhouse for all that you do!