

- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
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Pine Castle Connections

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Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC Partners with Pine Castle to Provide Employment Opportunity

These days, many people struggle to find an opportunity for stable employment. As a larger number of people on the First Coast have joined the ranks of job-seekers, the work opportunities for those challenged with disabilities are scarcer than ever. In this increasingly competitive job market, Pine Castle's Community Employment Program staff spends countless hours in the continuous pursuit of companies willing to make positions available to people challenged with disabilities.

One company dedicated to making a difference is Moran Environmental Recovery based in Atlantic Beach. In 2008, Pine Castle

Board Member Tony Bellamy, an engineer with CSX, appealed to Moran's Senior Account Representative, Rick McLeod, for corporate sponsorship support of Pine Castle's annual "Independence Classic" golf tournament. Brian House, Moran's President and CEO, and Rick participated in the tournament. During the tournament awards luncheon, they met some of the people served by Pine Castle's Community Employment Program and representatives from the companies that employ them. As a result, Brian pledged generous support.

"Because of Pine Castle's positive approach and its wonderful people, we decided that we wanted to become more involved and find ways to further enhance our participation with the organization,"

said Leslie Detlefsen, Moran's Manager of Business Development. "Working with Pine Castle, we hired Mr. Bobby Higgins to perform light cleaning and maintenance duties at our Atlantic Beach Resource Center."

Employment Coach, Michelle Ward, helped train and assist Bobby during his first two weeks as he

settled into the position. Michelle has high praise for him and for the people at Moran, who value Bobby as part of their team.

"Bobby happily adjusted his schedule to begin work at the facility at 5 a.m. to make sure that tasks are done early and don't disturb us during regular working hours.

He is always on time, diligent, hard-working and very thorough in all of his assignments. And, Bobby is always polite, professional and just a pleasure to be around. We are all thrilled with his success and his impact on our organization. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Pine Castle for helping us find such a fine person to work with," Leslie said.

At the Moran corporate headquarters in Boston, MA, plans include another work opportunity for a person with disabilities very soon.



L to R: Michelle Ward, Leslie Detlefsen and Bobby Higgins with Tom Hill, MER Marine Services Manager and Jay Daniel, Vice President.

1952-2012
Celebrating
60 YEARS OF SERVICE
ON THE FIRST COAST

Mark your calendars for Pine Castle's

Diamonds are Forever
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

May 5, 2012

DEERWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



Join us
for an elegant evening of fine cuisine, live music, dancing, Fine Wine Cork Pull, and silent auction—all in the style of Bond, James Bond.

MORE DETAILS TO COME!



INSIDE: PAGE 3

2011 Fall Festival & Abilities Celebration

MISSION STATEMENT

PINE CASTLE'S MISSION IS TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF PEOPLE CHALLENGED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND ACQUIRED DISABILITIES BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, WORK, AND LEAD MEANINGFUL LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY.



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JON MAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It's been said that when one door closes, God opens another. We're counting our blessings this fall when, after a year of more cuts to State service rates, Bank of America chose Pine Castle as a Neighborhood Builders Initiative \$200,000 grant award winner. We are thrilled and grateful for their acknowledgement of the special importance of our mission in the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities. Their support helps us face the next year without diminishing our commitment to those whose lives are more meaningful and fulfilled because the Pine Castle family exists.

Blessings continue also through our committed Board of Directors and their leadership in these difficult times. My appreciation goes to Board President Sarah Sallas-Herring for agreeing to lead the Board for a second year in 2012. I am very grateful for the service of Board Members leaving after six years of service: Marlene Domini, Lee Mercier, Mike Nicoletti, and John Oetjen. Great job!

Speaking of the next year, Pine Castle reaches another milestone in 2012 with the commemoration of our 60th year of service. When I share the Pine Castle story in the community, I always emphasize the reason for our beginning which can be lost if current progress is taken for granted. 59 years ago, parents had only institutional and no community based options for the

education, training, socialization or employment of their children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. A small group of committed parents had a vision for the future where their children would have opportunities for participation in community life. Pine Castle became a way for that vision to be realized.

Yet as I look at the political and economic picture today, I fear we are losing some of the progress

and commitment to these most vulnerable citizens. The State Legislature is currently considering whether to include the services of meaningful day activities and work center employment as "affordable" among other core program services. The 12,000 persons benefitting from this service daily statewide would be back at home with little to do. Parents also depend on this service to maintain their own employment. We cannot let this happen.

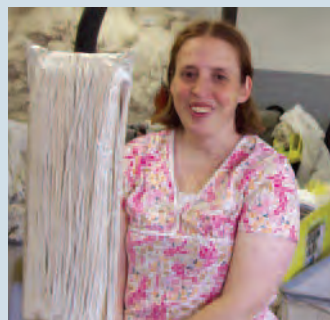
A 60th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to tell the Pine Castle story and reach out for even more community support. A fundraising celebration will be part of that effort May 5 at Deerwood Country Club. Please join us. Remember us in your estate planning. Most of all, consider that the next 60 years are just as important as the last 60 to the persons on our waiting lists who want to realize their dreams for a productive, meaningful life.

Honoring Personal Achievement and Pride in a Product

Whenever a mop rolls off the assembly line at Pine Castle, you can bet Stacy Brinkley had a part in producing it. Stacy, 23, works on a Respect of Florida contract to manufacture several product lines of mops for State agencies across Florida.

"Stacy's a hard worker and a quick study," said Mop Shop Supervisor, Delois Johnson. "She comes to work each day and she's always ready to work." Stacy has learned

many jobs, but the one she enjoys most is bagging and packing the mop heads.



Delois works with Stacy daily to improve her communication skills by discussing activities and current events. "She's improved so much since we started on this goal."

Stacy was honored as an exceptional employee at the Respect of Florida Luncheon in Clearwater in September.

Bank of America Awards NEIGHBORHOOD EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE GRANT to Pine Castle

Pine Castle is one of two Jacksonville organizations chosen by Bank of America to receive the 2011 Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards. The initiative is Bank of America's signature philanthropic program created to recognize and reward community-based organizations, local heroes and student leaders who contribute to the betterment of their communities.

"Neighborhood Builders" is the nonprofit category of the Initiative that provides \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding and training through the Neighborhood Excellence Leadership Program.

"Through our Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, we are helping to generate meaningful and cumulative economic and social impact at the local level where it's needed most," said Gregory Smith, Jacksonville Market president. "In Jacksonville and across the country, we are leveraging the combined strength of our philanthropy and lending and investing initiatives to help set opportunity in motion for organizations, families, individuals and entire neighborhoods."

Pine Castle will use the funding to expand its development effort to ensure the agency remains a strong community resource.



Jon May (left) and Pine Castle residents Lauren Nairobi, and Sandy gratefully accept check from BOA Jacksonville President, Greg Smith.

2011 FALL FESTIVAL & ABILITIES CELEBRATION: An Annual Tradition for Recognition of Achievement

Pine Castle welcomed nearly 700 people on campus for its Fall Festival & Abilities Celebration on October 21st. Sincere thanks go out to the event's sponsors and volunteers!

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Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida employees facilitated all of the event's games.



Wanda Ball receives an Ability Award for her exemplary work as a valued employee of Firehouse Subs on University Blvd.



Guest Curtis McMakin (left) and Vistakon's Bill "Elvis" Puskas perform a duet.

14TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE GOLF CLASSIC

Pine Castle hosted a full field of golfers for its 14th Annual Independence Golf Classic, presented by **1-2-1 Financial Credit Union** on July 11 at San Jose Country Club.

Gross Division Winners: Josh Scobee, Tyler Boyle, Duane Remington, and Jeff Wyatt.

Net Division Winners: Jim Black, Tom Brandvold, Tim Doozen, and Radhe Mittal.

During the Awards Luncheon, Pine Castle's Community Employment Program honored **Sam's Club** and **Petco** as First Coast employers dedicated to creating work opportunities for people challenged by disabilities.

Pine Castle's own dance troupe of vocational training program participants, **"The Dancing Shoes"**, proudly performed for tournament supporters during lunch. As they finished and bowed, the dancers were met with spirited applause and a standing ovation from the audience.

The annual event raised over \$40,000 to support Pine Castle's mission through its three programs: Community Employment Services, Group Home Services, and Training, Education and Support Services.

MANY THANKS TO THE TOURNAMENT'S SPONSORS!

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Employment Opportunities

See article page 1



Bobby Higgins on the job in MER's Resource Center.

SAVE THE DATE!
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15TH ANNUAL
INDEPENDENCE
GOLF CLASSIC
July 9, 2012

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Pine Castle
gives thanks...

... For all of the many people from area companies, civic organizations, and families who come together during the Holiday Season to make possible the great joy of Pine Castle's Holiday Party on campus each December.

This generosity in providing feasts, gifts, and, most importantly, time to be personally involved is, for many we serve without families, their only opportunity to share in the holiday spirit.

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- HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
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- MR. DAVID LANE & FAMILY AND DR. THOM BOROWY & FAMILY
- JERRY & ADRIAN SEWARD
- SAN JOSE ROTARY CLUB
- SOUTH JACKSONVILLE CIVITAN CLUB
- SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
- STATE FARM—JACKSONVILLE AGENCY FIELD OFFICE
- ALLISON SUFFIELD & BRIAN GUNTER

Ways You Can Help
Pine Castle

- ▶ If you contribute to United Way at work, name Pine Castle as a beneficiary.
- ▶ Join Pine Castle's "Bell Tower Society" by creating a bequest that can be structured to provide the greatest benefit to you, your loved ones, and Pine Castle programs for adults challenged by disabilities.
- ▶ Set up a recurring monthly donation at our website: www.pinecastle.org

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