



# YEAR IN REVIEW



# CEO *Message*

## **BRAD JONES** President and CEO

It's been an exciting and busy year here at The Haven. We are seeing unprecedented growth which would not be possible without the generosity of our community. Currently, we are wrapping up our biggest construction project in the past 70 years including two additional group homes and a new administrative building. The completion of Michael's House and Brad's Place will mark the end of a four-year project and open up spots for new residents that have been on our waitlist. On top of that, we have plans for another new group home, Jake's Place, for which we will likely break ground next year.

Additionally, we have acquired three acres of new property just down the street from our main campus for the future Residences at UTC. After touring the spectacular residential program at Opportunity Village in Las Vegas, we began plans for an innovative residential program to meet the wider needs of our residents. This new project will focus on fostering independence and rich social connections for clients by including two to four bedroom homes and a club house with a fitness room, theatre, and game room. The primary goal is to provide personalized care and resources for each resident, which is needed in the community. The Residences at UTC will be privately owned and operated, ensuring that each resident's individual needs are met.

We are grateful for the successes we have seen this year at The Haven, and we look forward to keeping the momentum going into the future.



# SEE THE *ability* IN DISABILITY





## GOLF TOURNAMENT *fundraiser*

In May of 2024, Selby Preschool held its first-ever Golf Tournament fundraiser! Sponsored by the Fry Family Foundation and chaired by Erin Nowakowski, Alison Thomas, and Tyler Bell, the event took place at Sara Bay Country Club and raised \$60,000 for the preschool's operations and scholarship for tuition and therapy.



This year, Selby Preschool saw many successes. From holiday celebrations to graduation, it's never a dull moment!

Selby Preschool looks forward to another exciting year filled with lots of events, toddler program expansions, and solidified approaches towards the classroom and curriculum on the horizon. Flip to the next page to see some of this year's highlights.







# THE BEST STUDENTS

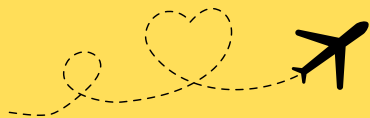
Nothing went uncelebrated at Selby this year! From Valentine's Day tea to breakfast with Santa, the preschool kept it festive all year long.

Santa wasn't the only surprise guest at Selby. The Haven's Special Olympics golf team stopped by to show off their moves and teach the little ones some golf skills.



## GRADUATION

*"You did it,  
and now we  
get to watch  
you fly!"*



Selby celebrated the end of the year in the usual fashion, with bubble machines and a foam party. Director Erin Nowakowski notes that this is her first graduation ceremony with Selby Preschool and reflects on it fondly as a highlight of the 2023-24 year. For her and the students, graduation was a "you did it moment, and now we get to watch you fly." Selby looks forward to another year of bringing families together and watching kids grow.





# HAVEN ACADEMY



Haven Academy congratulates  
this year's 2024 graduates:

BRIAN BREWER  
MAGGIE MAGEE  
DYLAN MAYES  
KEVIN SWEENEY  
JOSEPH WATSON



## MAKING NOISE

Haven Academy students performed alongside renowned violinist Adrian Anantawan at The Bay Sarasota in March. They provided percussion and accompaniment to a rendition of "Walking on Sunshine." Thank you to the Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation and Gulf Coast Music Therapy for making this opportunity possible!



## OUT AND ABOUT!



Haven Academy stayed booked and busy this school year! Pictured are field trips to The Myakka Elephant Ranch and an Atlanta Braves spring training game.

Some field trips that aren't pictured (but are just as exciting) include:

- Embracing our Differences at Marina Jack's Bayfront Park
- The Ringling Museum
- *Rainbow Fish* at the Van Wezel
- Manatee Viewing Center at Apollo Beach



Ms. Ronda's class had their art featured in this year's Embracing our Differences showcase!





# HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH

**High School High Tech** is a program with The Able Trust of Florida that focuses on vocational training and job skills. The program aims to equip students with hands-on work experience, whether that be through tours and trips, guest speakers, internships, or in-classroom soft job skills. High School High Tech at The Haven is currently partnered with Braden River High School and North Port High School.

Some of High School High Tech's 2023-24 trips and internships include:

- Amalie Arena, home of the Tampa Bay Lightning
- Raymond James Stadium, home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- Southern Sweet Tea Company
- Goodwill
- Crumbl Cookies

## HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH AT THE HAVEN:

JOHN MCCLAIN  
BLAZE BENNET  
MICHAEL FEDERICI  
MARK HORNYAK  
CALEB CROWE  
DYLAN MAYES  
KATHERINE FREED  
KEYONA HICKSON  
DAMIAN COLON  
TRAVIS NEIDERT  
TREVOR ROGERS  
GEORGE LAWENDY

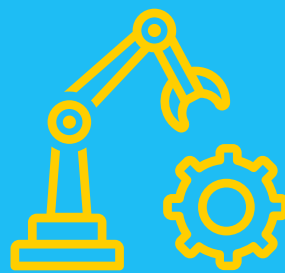
Students visited Haven Academy alumni currently enrolled in the UMATTER program at USF St. Pete and toured campus.



## INCLUSION MANUFACTURING CAMP

Thanks to the support of Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs and the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, The Haven Academy has participated in their Inclusion Manufacturing Camp. This program aims to provide students with both soft and hard job skills that will give them a leg up in a manufacturing work environment.

The Haven's Manufacturing Camp ran through the first four weeks of June. Campers met with guest speakers, toured businesses, and acquired various soft job skills. From building their own trophies with Crown Trophy Sarasota to engraving their personalized water bottles with Coastal Customs Design, participants received hands-on experience and brought home the products to show for it! Some other trips included a tour of Natural Immunogenic with Eric Lundy and speaking with Sarasota Area Manufacturing President Rob Harris. For the final two weeks of the camp, participants worked with PGT through their full onboarding process, equipping them with the training and skills to work alongside employees at PGT.







# HAVEN ACADEMY

## *Renovations*

Last summer, Haven Academy received a capital grant from The Eamon Foundation. Kitchen and bathroom renovations, storage and classroom upgrades, new lighting, fresh paint, and kitchenette installations were some of the improvements the Academy accomplished with this grant.



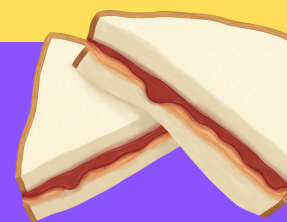


REACH is a program that focuses on recreation, education, advocacy, community, and health. REACH's goal is to provide experiences where clients can get out into the community and engage with the opportunities around them. By doing so, the community can learn more about interacting with different abilities while clients can try new things through experiential learning. Clients develop skills that enable them to advocate and communicate for themselves while having fun and participating in activities that they select. Don Herndon, our Director of Mission Services, created REACH during his first year with The Haven and we look forward to watching the program grow!



## LESSONS

In September of last year, we had our very first REACH program lesson. The lesson focused on communication skills through making PB&Js. Clients learned valuable strategies for effective communication and got a tasty snack out of it!



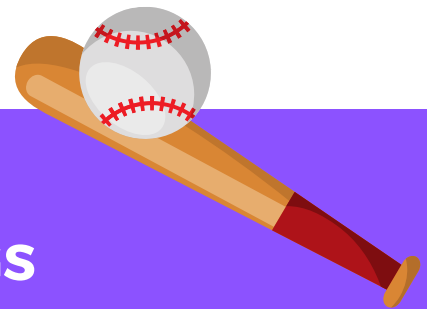
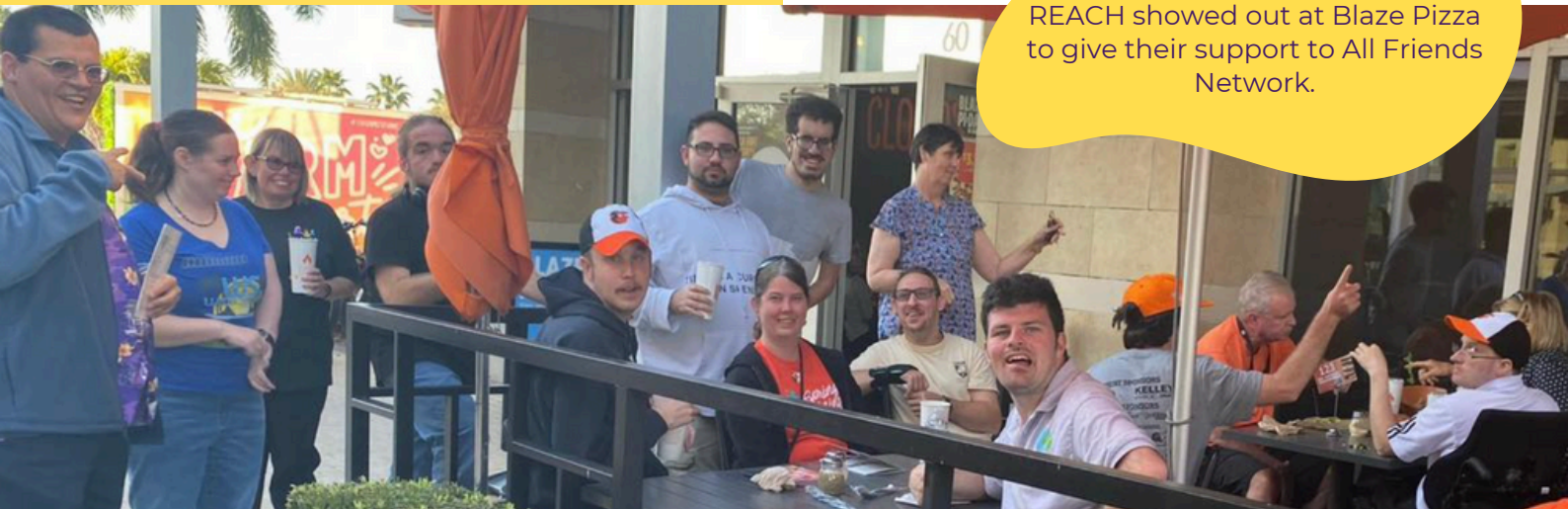
## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

One of REACH's focuses is building valuable connections within the community. Michael Johnson, consultant for Edward Jones, regularly helps out with the REACH program to share hands-on skills with our clients. Thank you to all of our partners who make the REACH program possible!





REACH showed out at Blaze Pizza to give their support to All Friends Network.



## OUTINGS

Another goal of REACH is to get our clients out into the community. Some REACH trips from this year include a Tampa Bay Rays game and a murder mystery theater dinner.



## 12 HANGRY MEN

Don Herndon, house manager John W., and some of The Haven crew served up delicious Monte Cristo breakfast sandwiches straight from the Mary Jane's house cookbook for The "Twelve Hangry Men Who Cook" Luncheon at the Asolo Repertory Theatre.



# Culinary ACADEMY

This year, The Haven is thrilled to roll out the new Culinary Academy: Empowering Through Experience. Through varied activities, participants receive hands-on training in the world of food service. They have the opportunity to work with culinary professionals from restaurants, cafes, and catering companies. Each step of the food service process, including preparation, cooking, customer service, table service, and kitchen operations is taught in the Culinary Academy.

Not only are practical skills covered, but team-building and social skills that are crucial to the culinary world are emphasized in the Culinary Academy. Students will learn how to work together and navigate challenges in an uplifting and encouraging environment.

By partnering with local businesses, The Haven's Culinary Academy provides an enriching and empowering program that will equip participants with the tools for a successful career in the food service industry.



**THANK YOU** **GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



Jayne Jones, the No Sugar Baker, made a guest appearance to teach about baking substitutions. The result — tasty, sugar-free cakes that anyone can enjoy!



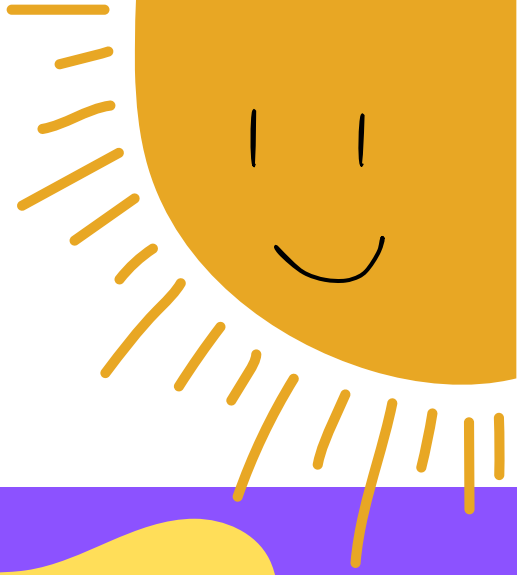
Chef Joel from Le Mans Kitchen presented an array of essential culinary skills.

**THANK  
YOU TO**





# ART PROGRAM



The Art Program provides opportunities for clients of all ages to unlock their creative potential. Each project is student-led and adaptable so clients of every ability can participate.

Some highlights from this year include a new mural for the Selby Preschool playground. Both children and adults of The Haven worked on this artistic vision and brought it to life. At Suncoast Community Church, clients hosted an art market and sold their creations to raise funds for the Art Program.

This May, The Haven Art Program held its 2nd annual on-campus ArtMart featuring local artists, live music and art activities, and delicious food vendors. A portion of art sales went back the Haven's Inclusive Visual Arts Program.

At Selby Preschool, children and adults lent a creative hand to paint a brand new mural and brighten up the Haven's campus.



The Haven Academy partnered with the Out-of-Door Academy to create a unique t-shirt design with hopes to expand it into a mural in the future.





# ADULT DAY TRAINING: MAIN CAMPUS



Adult Day Training (ADT) provides social and educational opportunities for adult clients of The Haven. Through interacting with the community by exploration and volunteerism, participants gain valuable life skills to enrich their day-to-day.

ADT clients love getting out in the community, and 2024 was no exception. From pottery painting at Arts A Blaze studio to exploring the collection at the Ringling Museum, ADT is always getting in touch with their creative side.

ADT has not only engaged with our local community but given back as well! They hit the road with Meals on Wheels, delivering food to senior citizens struggling with food insecurity.



## ADT'S RISING STARS

Some of the highlights of 2024 with ADT have been their productions in collaboration with the Florida Studio Theatre. Their midyear holiday production in December was a hit and spread Christmas cheer all throughout The Haven. Later, their Spring Showcase wrapped up the year with a bang.

The entertainers of ADT can do it all. On October 11th, they put on their laugh factory comedy show at the Keating Theatre. Featuring performances from The Haven's very own, Alfred, Michael, Kristy, and many others, the night of hilarity was a success!





# ADULT DAY TRAINING: VENICE CAMPUS



02

The Haven's Venice campus provides ADT programs for the southern Sarasota County area. The Venice campus opened in January 2022 and has seen continuous growth since then. A few of the programs offered by the Venice campus include Aktion Club, music therapy, Laughter Wellness, and the theatre program with Venice Theatre.

This year, the Venice campus received tremendous community support. Thank you to all those who have contributed to their success!



This holiday season, local nonprofit START surprised The Haven's Venice campus with a Christmas party to remember. They provided freshly grilled hot dogs along with other drinks, snacks, and yummy holiday baked goods. They even brought Santa along!

Entertainment included a live piano performance from George with the Venice Theatre as well as a holiday sing-along. And of course, it wouldn't be a Haven party without a game of bingo!

Thanks again to the volunteers with START of Sarasota for making the Venice campus' holiday merry and bright!



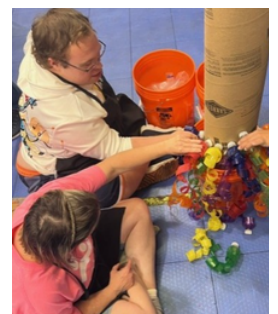
## GETTIN' ARTSY

The Venice campus knows all about the arts!

During a trip to the Venice Art Center, clients participated in a scavenger hunt while looking at pieces from artists in the community.

Inspired by the glass artwork of Dale Chihuly, Venice campus' artists used recycled plastic water bottles to build their own creation that reached over 10 feet tall.

In April, Mr. Ken made a visit and taught an exciting guitar lesson. Rock on!





# RESIDENTIAL

Across our 6 current group homes, Haven residents saw an exciting year in 2023-24. From baseball games to prom to just hanging out, residential kept the fun going all year long.

Next year, the program looks forward to more fun events and welcoming new residents to The Haven.



## CELEBRATE!



Residential knows how to throw a party! For Halloween, they hosted a trunk-or-treat celebration, complete with decked out trunks and spooky treats. There's no better way to embrace the Florida fall than hanging out in some outdoor haunts.

For Memorial Day weekend, residents slid into summer with a water slide.

During the Holidays, Suncoast House received a visit from none other than the Grinch. Luckily, there's more than enough cheer to go around at The Haven, so there were no humbugs anywhere to be found.

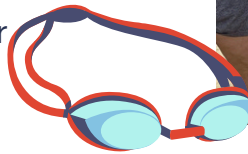






# SPECIAL *Olympics*

Our Haven athletes showed their stuff this year at various Special Olympics events. Golf, swimming, bocce ball, baseball, and bowling are just some of the sports Haven clients brought home medals in. We are so proud of our clients for giving it their all at the Special Olympics this season.



# *Dances*

Our residents never miss a chance to get all dolled up and have a good time. For prom in April, residents donned their finest threads and dancing shoes for a night to remember.

Last summer, residents attended the Therapeutic Recreation (T-REC) Formal Dance at the Phillippi Estate Park Mansion. They dazzled and danced the night away!







# FRIENDS OF THE HAVEN



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Raised \$20,000 in less than a month for new picnic tables and umbrellas on the patio.
- Sponsored The Haven's first gala.
- Sponsored other annual events, such as the Jingle n' Jog and the Shamrock Shuffle fun runs.
- Provided volunteers for Haven events.



## GET

## CONNECTED!

"THE HAVEN  
DOESN'T EXIST IN  
A BUBBLE. THE  
HAVEN EXISTS  
BECAUSE OF  
GENEROSITY  
FROM OTHERS."  
-KELLY ASKERUD,  
PRESIDENT



One of the ways Friends of The Haven increased their member engagement this year was by fostering connections between Haven families. Charcuterie nights drew in new faces and gave parents the opportunity to connect with each other and other members of The Haven community.

It's all hands on deck with Friends of The Haven! They saw a massive volunteer turnout at the 2024 Jingle n' Jog and grilled hotdogs and hamburgers for 600 hungry runners.







## THERES NO PLACE LIKE THE HAVEN GALA 2/3/2024

On February 3rd, 2024, The Haven was whisked away to Oz for the No Place Like The Haven Gala. Presented by Aladdin Equipment Company and hosted at the Circus Arts Conservatory, the Gala included live and silent auctions, mystery raffles, a live painter, farm-to-table catering, and artisan beverages to celebrate 70 years of The Haven. The event was a success, accommodating 375 guests and raising \$300,000 for The Haven.

*Save the Date:*

**ALL IN FOR ABILITIES GALA  
2/22/2025 AT THE ORA**

The Haven is looking forward to its third annual gala on February 22nd, 2025 at The Ora in Sarasota. Join us for a night of luck and laughter with all the lights and glitz of the Vegas Strip. Featuring entertainment from comedian Josh Blue of Last Comedian Standing and America's Got Talent, get ready to go All in for Abilities with us!





# FUTURE *plans*



## HAVEN RESIDENCES AT UTC

Thanks to the Shapiro Family, we are excited to introduce The Haven Residences at UTC. Situated on 3 acres near our main campus, this new project focuses on social life and independent living that continues to be built around community. The Residences will include 2 and 3 bedroom homes, a community center with fitness space, game room, and theatre. The Residences will be privately owned on operated, ensuring that each resident receives personalized care. Future residents will have 24/7 access to main campus resources while maintaining a sense of ownership and independence.

## COMMUNITY CENTER MAIN CAMPUS

The Haven is currently developing plans for a new community center located in the heart of the main campus. This space will be used for fostering activity and community for The Haven's clients in a space that is comfortable and inclusive for all guests.

## JAKE'S PLACE GROUP HOME

Thanks to funding from families and parents, Jake's Place will be the 9th single family style group home at The Haven. We are likely to break ground on this new build next year.





THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS  
SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

