



# Newsletter

5555 Woodbine Road  
Pace, FL 32571  
850.994.2000

## Congratulations Matt!

**Matt Holmes, a longtime participant of Vision of Hope, continues to shine as a success story of dedication and independence. After joining the program in 2013, Matt became the first participant to complete On-the-Job Training and gained employment in 2014. Since then, he has been a valued team member at Coffee Break Cafe in Pace, where he consistently demonstrates reliability, a strong work ethic, and a positive attitude. Matt said, "I always do my best and finish everything before I leave." Matt works independently and provides his own transportation, showing remarkable growth and responsibility. Vision of Hope is proud of Matt's continued success and grateful to Coffee Break Cafe for their ongoing support.**



## Brewing Friendships & Fun!



**Participants from Vision of Hope's JUMP Start and Life STRIDES programs recently enjoyed a special outing to Coffee Break Cafe, a local coffee shop**

**that offered a wonderful mix of fellowship, friendship, and fun. During the visit, participants practiced important life and communication skills by ordering their own drinks, building confidence and practicing self-advocacy in a real-world setting. Everyone enjoyed making their selections and interacting with the friendly staff.**

**The group then gathered around a table for Bible study, sharing encouragement and enjoying games together. The outing was filled with laughter and friendly competition, strengthening friendships and creating a joyful atmosphere.**

**Meaningful outings like this combine personal growth with fellowship in the community, reminding us that learning and growth can happen in everyday experiences while having fun and encouraging one another along the way.**

## UPCOMING

### Fishing Rodeo

Saturday, April 18, 2026

9 am—12pm

Open to ALL persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



July 13—17, 2026

Pre-registration Required

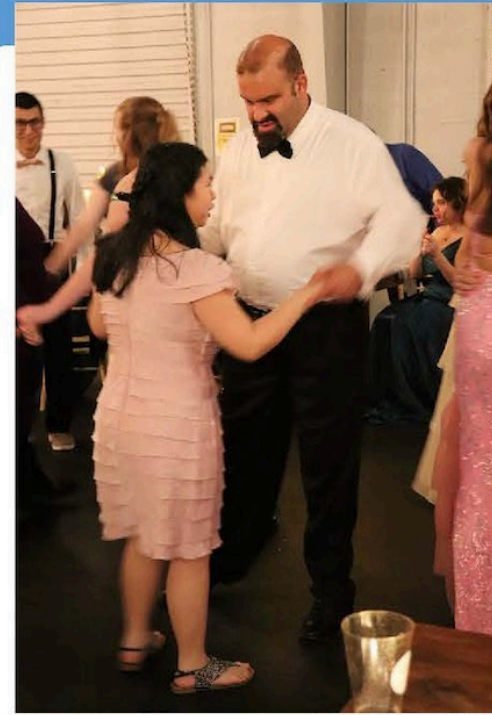
*Thank you to all of our participants, families, volunteers, and community partners who make these moments possible. Together, we're creating opportunities, memories, and futures full of hope.*

## A Night to Remember!

**What an incredible event! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Tracie Byrd and her business, SEWN, for hosting the wonderful Hearts & Heels Charity Prom in February in honor of Vision of Hope as the recipient. Tracie and her amazing "Fun Committee" worked tirelessly and did a fantastic job creating a beautiful evening with wonderful décor, delicious food, and plenty of fun.**

**Our participants had an amazing time stepping onto the dance floor alongside all the other guests. It was truly special to see everyone come together as one community, sharing laughter, joy, and unforgettable moments. The evening was filled with celebration, connection, and memories that will last a lifetime.**

**We are deeply grateful to Tracie, SEWN, and the Hearts & Heels team for choosing Vision of Hope and for making such a meaningful difference in the lives of the friends who attend our program. It was truly a night to remember!**



## From Pallets to Purpose!

**Our Vision of Hope participants have been enjoying special woodworking days that combine creativity, teamwork, and hands-on learning. During these sessions, they worked together to design and build beautiful wall art and Scripture blocks, transforming simple wooden pallets into meaningful decorations that share encouraging messages.**

**Participants practiced valuable skills such as sanding rough wood, applying stain to highlight the natural grain, and painting their projects so Scripture verses could be added. They also gained experience using tools like electric and handheld sanders, along with basic tools such as hammers and screw guns. For many, it was their first time using these tools, and they approached the work with excitement and determination.**

**By the end of the day, the finished pieces looked amazing, and the participants were proud of what they had created. They are now looking forward to a future market day, where they hope to sell their handmade items and share their work with the community.**



## Faith, Film & Fellowship!

**Vision of Hope participants recently enjoyed a special activity night called "Under the Stars." Friends gathered outdoors with blankets and lawn chairs to watch the inspiring movie *Overcomer*, creating a fun and relaxing movie-night atmosphere.**

**Participants enjoyed popcorn and candy, adding to the fun and giving the evening the feel of a true outdoor theater experience. The movie's powerful message about identity, faith, and perseverance encouraged many as it reminded us that our true identity is found in Christ.**

**More than anything, the evening was a wonderful opportunity for our participants to relax, laugh, and enjoy fellowship with friends – making it another memorable Vision of Hope activity night.**