



November 2015: Gina Vogt

In pursuing higher education in mental health services, Gina Vogt found a service learning home at ACORN Clinic. Gina began her journey with us last May, as part of her field placement for her master's degree in social work. Since then, she has become an integral part of the ACORN family.

Most recently, Gina helped organize and execute ACORN's Thanksgiving basket drive with three local churches in Gainesville. With the help of Gina and her team, we were able to provide 68 ACORN Clinic families with Thanksgiving food baskets, and help additional families with grocery gift cards from private donors.

"It was a great opportunity for teamwork among the staff," Gina said of the event. "A lot of staff members helped out, even though it wasn't required of them."

What attracted Gina to ACORN is the diverse group of patients, staff and volunteers that love the clinic's mission as much as she does. "ACORN Clinic appears to just be a small clinic in a rural area, but it's a lot more than that," she said. "It's a unique and wonderful place with a compassionate community that I get to meet and work with on a regular basis."

In addition to her work at ACORN Clinic and pursuing her master's degree at Florida State University, Gina also has a full-time position at Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. in Gainesville. At Meridian, she has the opportunity to work with clients who have severe mental illnesses such as Schizophrenia, Bi-Polar Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder.

“Mental health is my passion, and I pursue that passion everyday thanks to Meridian and ACORN Clinic,” she said.