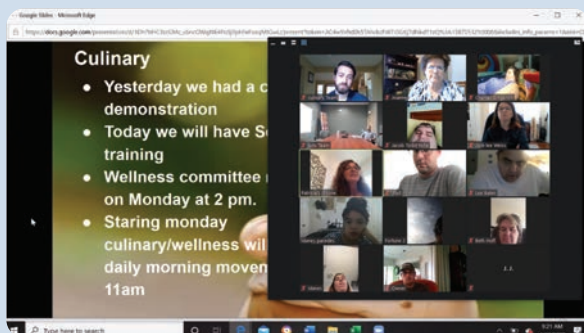


# TOGETHER DESPITE THE DISTANCE

When we made the decision to temporarily close our building in light of COVID-19, it was with a good amount of uncertainty. Breaking the cycle of isolation is intrinsic to our mission, how would we succeed if we were unable to work side-by-side, members and staff? We simply weren't sure.

How would we maintain connection with our members while physically distanced? (We prefer the notion of "physical" distancing to "social" distancing) How would we provide critical information needed to keep our community safe? How would we allay staff fears about job security? With innate optimism yet few answers, we spent days calling each member, often speaking to their families as well, to inform them of our decision to suspend on-site services.



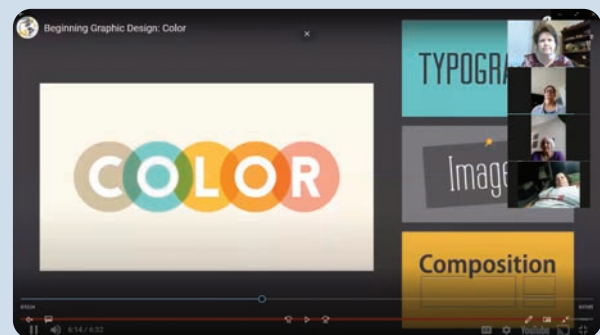
And then we got to work. With guidance from the Clubhouse International community, we became architects of this new way of connecting and engaging each other. Through live-stream conferencing and group messaging, we began delivering relevant content and providing an interactive and collaborative experience to our members. Throughout each day, real-time workshops reignited a sense of productivity that has always fueled our mission. From cooking demos and knife skills to graphic design and job interview preparation, members began participating and interacting from the safety of their homes.

If this new technological work platform is the brains of the operation, our outreach efforts are the heart and soul of our success during this crisis. We ask members about physical and mental health, the safety and stability of their living

situation, how they are accessing groceries and medications, and even pet care. For those who are struggling, we have effectively connected them to clinical services. Members and staff have begun Care-Van deliveries to members, dropping off fresh food, personal care items and cleaning supplies. Our hope is that no member is left behind.



Our efforts have yielded some surprising results. Average attendance at online morning meetings is high. Members are maintaining safe housing and other critical resources. A new 12-hour day has unofficially emerged on our social platforms where staff and members can be found at all hours, sharing inspirational quotes, funny stories, or pictures of our beloved pets; simply keeping each other company in this quiet time. Staff, all of whom are retained at full salary, are reporting deepened connections to our members. When it's all said and done, even through crisis, our relationships are flourishing.



(left: Keeping connected through videoconferencing – top: Care-Van provides necessary items – bottom: Training content provided virtually)

# VALUES-BASED

*Values inspire our journey and guide the pathway to recovery.*

## PROCEEDING WITH COMPASSION

On a typical day during COVID-19 measures, several staff work onsite at the Academy, eagerly planning for the eventual return of members. We sorely miss the sounds of our bustling community, of members and staff sharing friendship, debating ideas, and working together.

COVID-19 has forced us to hit the pause button, a pause button with hidden adversity. What makes the Academy special is the side-by-side nature of our shared experience. Without physical closeness, how do we overcome this adversity? Perhaps it's not the hardship, but our response to hardship that will determine our future success.

The front-page article describes our response, one inspired by love and mutual concern. It includes the energies of our Board of Directors, members, families, staff and volunteers. It's new terrain for us – from implementing a virtual platform to finding the right doorstep for a Care-Van drop-off. Ultimately, we are deepening our connection to members, while sharing joys and struggles over the phone or by video chat.

Compassion has become our inspiration. While participating in online interactions and Care-Van deliveries, I observe that our in-

terdependence and mutual care continue to grow during this time of adversity. We are here for our members, staying connected, working on shared projects, and eagerly awaiting the day when we will once again fill the Academy with the sounds of our working community.

*William McKeever*  
Director



(left to right) Philip Boyer and William McKeever load the Academy van with essentials needed by our members.

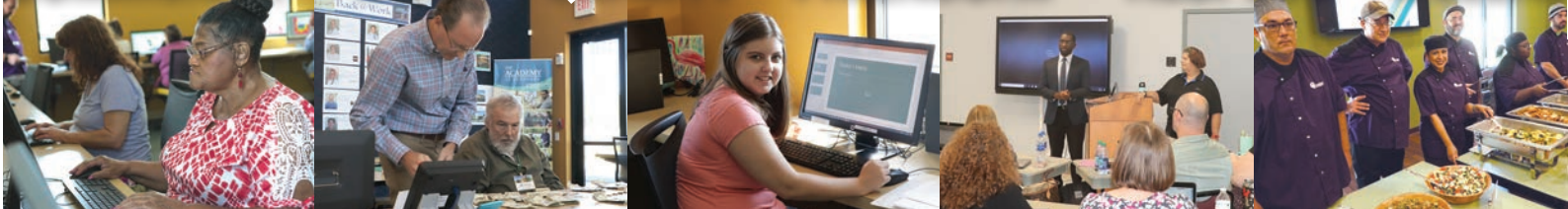
## OUR AMBASSADORS

*The Academy Ambassadors fill a vital role by sharing our mission and helping us build strong roots in the community.*

**Pete Abbott**, Edward Jones Investments  
**Steve and Barbara Armstrong**, local business owners  
**Ed Bertha**, Owner, Executive Publisher, REAL Exclusive Magazine  
**Stewie Bitterman**, Director, Synovus Bank  
**Kim Bleach**, US Trust  
**Veronica Brady**, Director of Advancement, The Bay Park Conservancy  
**Kim Burns**, Occupational Therapist, REAL Exclusive Magazine contributor  
**Linda Cournoyer**, retired Practice Manager, SMH  
**Phil Delaney**, former Vice Chairman, Northern Trust  
**Larry Eger**, Public Defender, 12th Judicial Circuit  
**Scott Eller**, CEO, CASL  
**Ric Gregoria**, Williams Parker  
**Hal Hedley, Ed.D.**, retired CEO, Child Protection Center, Inc.  
**Michael Klauber**, Restaurateur

**Tom Knight**, Sarasota County Sheriff  
**Don and Sharon Lerner**, retired  
**David Maglich**, Fergeson Skipper  
**Brian Mariash**, Merrill Lynch  
**Robert Meade**, CEO, Doctors Hospital  
**Don Osborne**, Sunset Automotive Group  
**John Overton**, retired CEO, Pines of Sarasota, Inc.  
**Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter**, retired Pastor  
**Pat Robinson**, Sarasota Deputy Police Chief  
**Jeff Steinwachs**, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**Paul Steinwachs**, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**Sharon Steinwachs**, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**Giselle Stolper**, retired CEO, Mental Health America NYC  
**The Honorable Charles E. Williams**, Circuit Court Judge

COMMUNITY • WORK • QUALITY • FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • WELLNE







Carla Giuffrida

## MEET CARLA

What do you do when you have a new job, a pandemic going on, and no restaurants to go to? Work from home if you are lucky. The Academy at Glengary helped me get a job at Centerstone, a non-profit that helps people with mental health diagnoses. I was only working for a little over two months when the pandemic emerged. Like many people, I was worried about my health and my job stability. I am so fortunate that I work for a wonderful company that provides us with safer ways to support our clients because, if we weren't able to continue to provide support, our clients would suffer. I have been learning to transition to a new way of working. Just like at the Academy, our staff now holds our daily meetings online through the Zoom app. Every day I get into my work routine just as if I was going into the office. I get out

of my pajamas and get into work clothes and start my day. I try to take little breaks here and there so I don't get burnt out. I have hope that we can get back to a normal lifestyle soon. For now though, watch the movies you didn't have the time to watch, read all the long books you said you would and, maybe even learn a new skill. This can be a time of reinventing oneself and becoming better versions of ourselves. I know that this time of uncertainty can be scary but, I truly believe that, if we are kind to each other, we can get through this together.

**"...if we are kind to each other, we can get through this together."**



Chris Parrish

## MEET CHRIS

I have been a member of the Academy since November 2019. When I first learned about the Academy's Transitional Employment (TE) program, I was excited. I had just had two jobs in a row that didn't work out, and it impacted my mental health. The TE that caught my interest was a data entry position at the Sarasota Public Defender's office. The work I was doing as a member in the Business and Tech team gave me a chance to refine my skills with Microsoft Excel. I was so happy when I was approached by the staff in the Business & Tech team and offered the position that I wanted.

Then, in the beginning of March, COVID-19 broke out and within a month or so the world was on lockdown. I worried that the position would not be offered; however, the staff assured me that it would happen when the pandemic was over. I stay busy by continuing to attend the Academy online. We hold Zoom meetings and workshops throughout the day. I take meeting notes and post them online so that

members are still informed if they miss a meeting. Even in quarantine, we still thrive, and have adapted well to the situation. Although these are trying times, we still flourish. We can learn new skills and practice how to manage our time productively, because time is the resource that we have right now.

I'm grateful to still have this routine in my life. I'm able to maintain a work routine. My mind is staying sharp and I'm staying motivated. I'm looking forward to eventually starting the job at the Public Defender's office and, thanks to the Academy's continued training; I'm still feeling confident and prepared to meet the challenge.



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## WINTER AMBASSADOR LUNCHEON

It seems odd to remember that just over two months ago, prior to COVID-19, we hosted 53 guests at the Academy for our Winter Ambassador Luncheon. We want to take this opportunity to express gratitude.

Linda McKinnon, President and CEO of Central Florida Behavioral Health Network spoke of our history, recalling when we first formed a public-private partnership with them. Dr. Matthew Thomas, Medical Director of Behavioral Health and Chair of Psychiatry for Sarasota Memorial Healthcare spoke of the imperative to consider each individual as unique in their recovery process. Sheriff Tom Knight of Sarasota County spoke of building a strong community through initiatives such as crisis intervention training and jail diversion programs.

We also express a huge thanks to the Steinwachs Family Foundation for their \$15,000 matching gift. We are grateful to everyone who made our Winter Luncheon such a big success!



(left to right) Linda McKinnon, Dr. Matthew Thomas and Sheriff Tom Knight

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE ACADEMY

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties. Spread the news of your support of the Academy – and inspire others to follow suit.

[givingpartnerchallenge.org](http://givingpartnerchallenge.org)

*The 2020 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.*



Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
**APRIL 28 - 29**  
**NOON TO NOON**

## FLANZER TRUST OPPORTUNITY

Our new partner, the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, will provide a 1:1 match for all donations made from \$5-\$500 as part of their recently announced matching program designed to inspire charitable giving during 2020. Individuals who wish to support the Academy at Glengary can double their donation!

Please visit [FlanzerTrust.org](http://FlanzerTrust.org) to make an online donation. When making your donation, please identify the Academy at Glengary in the note section as the charity of your choice. We have already received several donations through this matching gift opportunity. This is a very impactful way to support the Academy during COVID-19, and throughout the entire year.



## A WEEK OF GRATITUDE

We recently celebrated a Week of Gratitude on our Facebook page, thanking our friends and supporters for their generosity during COVID-19. This outpouring of care and concern is providing valuable resources as we transition services to better support our members and families. Special thanks to Bank of America Foundation, Melissa Wides Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, John Collins Foundation and the Flanzer Trust. For more information about how to support the Academy's efforts during COVID-19, please call 941-921-9936, or visit [www.AcademySRQ.org](http://www.AcademySRQ.org).



*Want to  
learn  
more?*



The first step is to take a tour!

Families, applicants and community providers are welcome.

To schedule a tour, or for more information, please contact 941-921-9930 or [Info@AcademySRQ.org](mailto:Info@AcademySRQ.org).

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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*Designed and printed on-site by members and staff of the Academy at Glengary.*

