



ACADEMY
AT GLENGARY

SUMMER 2021

941-921-9930

www.AcademySRQ.org

1910 Glengary St., Sarasota, FL 34231



A JOURNEY IN SERVICE

Our longtime friends likely remember our Grand Opening back in 2017. Nearly 500 guests packed into our halls, spilling out into the backyard as live classical music wafted through the crowd and plates of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres circulated the room. It's hard to believe that it was four years ago. Construction of the building was finally behind us. The process had been an exhausting two years but a true labor of love.



Grand Opening ceremony from November, 2017.

Building a facility is one thing, but how does one build a culture? Our real work was just beginning. Early on, with only a handful of new members in attendance, we grappled with how to set the tone for the type of community we wanted to be. We were tentative; getting to know each other while navigating the big picture of creating an atmosphere of respect, kindness, service, and inclusivity. We also had to differentiate ourselves from other programs and traverse a thin line between the voluntary nature of the Academy and our expectations of active participation. Local clinical providers saw our value and began referring members. Our Ambassadors, members' families, employment partners and Board of Directors created a network of support that continues to propel us forward.

Our work is ongoing as we grow, our community evolving, but now we have a solid team of longtime Academy members and staff who are instrumental in passing down our culture, leading by example.



Our 4th anniversary is a celebration and acknowledgment of our accomplishments, but in keeping with our commitment to service, we mark the day by giving back. This year, thanks to a generous donation from Target, we spent the morning filling backpacks with school supplies for low-income kids through the Salvation Army, ensuring that they are prepared on their first day of school. Our past has shown us that the more we give, the richer our own lives become. As we look towards the future, we can't help but believe that even better things are in store.



(left to right) Paul Hennekes, Nicole Pendleton, Vanessa Alcantara, Jules Meyers, Candy El-Azzaoui, Jennifer Baril, Tandi Maxwell, Diane Kreisman, Idanes Paredes, Rob Armstrong and Rebecca Wolfson finish backpacks for children.

The Academy maintains normal hours of Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., using screening procedures and COVID-19 precautionary measures.



The Academy at Glengary

AcademySRQ.org

VALUES-BASED

Values inspire our journey and guide the pathway to recovery.

WHO WE BECOME

As is customary at the Academy during important moments, we gathered in our dining room on our Fourth-Year Anniversary to share thoughts and reflections. We passed around the microphone while recounting experiences, struggles and successes, and hopes for the future. We often use the phrase "journey to wellness" to describe individual experiences. The same could be said of the evolution of our nonprofit. It is a *journey of integration*, as we raise awareness about mental health, dig roots into the community, build community partners, and open doors for our members.

Several themes arose while passing the microphone: building skills, finding friendship, practicing acceptance, and obtaining employment. Gratitude and appreciation filled the room as we remembered the road traveled. Creating community, a sense of belonging, and a culture of kindness is perhaps our most significant organizational accomplishment over these four years.

On an individual level, Academy members set personalized goals and pursue purposeful lives. Skill development and careers, though not an Academy requirement, are often part of the journey.

Ian Churchill, one of our young adult members, is well appreciated for his insight and philosophical reflections, and I always relish the opportunity to hear his thoughts. When Ian took the microphone at our Anniversary, he inspired us again: *"It's not the skills that we*

develop at the Academy that matter most, it's the person who we become in the process."

Ian is right. While we cheer the fact that he has put in time and effort to hone his skills--and that he currently fills one of our Transitional Employment positions--it's the person who he's become that really matters. The same is true for all members and staff: In our community of hope, recovery, and kindness, *it's the person who we become* that really matters.

William McKeever
Director



Ian Churchill (left) discussing his job with William McKeever.

OUR AMBASSADORS

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

Peter Abbott, Financial Advisor, 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, Private Client Advisor, Bank of America
Veronica Brady, Director of Advancement, The Bay Park Conservancy
Kim Burns, Occupational Therapist, REAL Exclusive Magazine contributor
Linda Cournoyer, retired, Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
Phil Delaney, retired Vice Chairman, Northern Trust
Larry Eger, Public Defender, 12th Judicial Circuit
J. Scott Eller, CEO, Community Assisted and Supported Living, Inc.
Robert Geyer, President and CEO, Sunset Automotive Group
Ric Gregoria, Managing Partner, Williams Parker

Hal Hedley, Ed.D., retired CEO, Child Protection Center, Inc.
Michael Klauber, Restaurateur
Tom Knight, President and CEO, First Step of Sarasota
Don and Sharon Lerner, retired
David Maglich, Attorney, Fergeson Skipper
Brian Mariash, Senior VP, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Robert Meade, CEO, Doctors Hospital
John Overton, retired CEO, Pines of Sarasota, Inc.
Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter, retired Pastor, Church of the Palms
Jeff Steinwachs, Chairman, Steinwachs Family Foundation
Paul Steinwachs, Board Member, Steinwachs Family Foundation
Sharon Steinwachs, Board Member, Steinwachs Family Foundation
The Honorable Charles E. Williams, Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit

COMMUNITY • WORK • QUALITY • FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • WELLNE





Nicole Pendleton

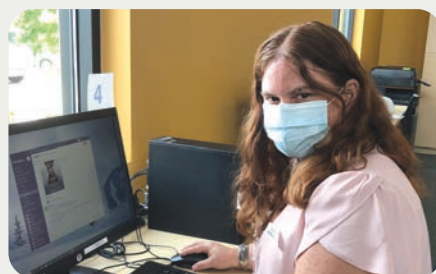
MEET NICOLE

Before I found the Academy, my life lacked structure. I wasn't doing much with my days, and I wasn't being productive outside of chores around the house. I was in a rut, lacking ambition, and feeling lonely and bored a lot of the time.

It's been 10 months now, and I feel like my life has transformed. I look forward to coming in each day and seeing the friends that I have made. I work in the Business & Technology team and my computer skills have really progressed. The staff here is knowledgeable, patient, kind, and always there to help. When I cover the front desk, I feel like I'm at the center of things, with my finger on the pulse of the Academy. The consistency of the structure every day really helps keep me going. Even though every day is different, the schedule stays the same which is really helpful.

The biggest news for me is that, with the help of the Academy, I just got a job offer! It's the perfect job for me, and even though it's been a while since I've worked and I'm a little nervous, I feel like I'm in good hands with the support I get. I'll share more once I officially begin. I can definitely say that joining the Academy has really been a dream come true.

"The consistency of the structure every day really helps keep me going."



Juan Martinez

MEET JUAN

Before joining the Academy, I had been working full-time for several years at the front desk of a motel. I had anxiety, but I was managing it. When my son was born, almost two years ago, symptoms of OCD really kicked in and made my job feel unbearable. I started having intrusive thoughts that I couldn't quiet. I was thinking about how I need to be perfect for my son, and I didn't feel like I could measure up. I cut back to part-time, but it has still been really difficult to be in customer service and be around people when I feel so uncomfortable.

When my symptoms got worse, I started researching where I could get help. I found the Academy website and it seemed like exactly what I needed. Being at the Academy gives me the opportunity to work on being myself in a work environment and letting go of my fear. Everyone is so nice, and so patient, and

I'm learning to trust that I am enough. I work in the Business & Technology team, doing things that are similar to what I do at my job. But here, I get to practice without the same stress as being "on the clock."

With the help of the Academy, I want to prove, not only to myself but to my family, that I can overcome my mental illness and live a normal life.

"I'm learning to trust that I am enough."



ESS • SERVICE • KINDNESS • PURPOSE • ACCEPTANCE • STRUCTURE





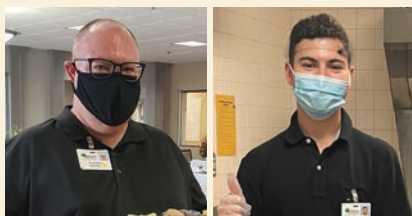
(left to right) William McKeever, Joan Geyer, Nikki Fried and Candy El-Azzaoui

COMMISSIONER NIKKI FRIED VISITS

Academy members were in the limelight when Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried, and her colleague John Stewart, paid a visit to see the Academy in action. In her position, Commissioner Fried also oversees Florida's nonprofit organizations. Member Candy El-Azzaoui was their tour guide, bringing them to visit each team while members carried out the activities of the work-ordered day. After meeting members and asking questions, Commissioner Fried and Stewart were treated to a first-rate meal with first-class service. We are so pleased that they took the time to see how the Clubhouse model works and to gain insight into the role that the Academy plays in strengthening our community.

BACK ON THE JOB

We are getting more members back to work! Pines of Sarasota has reinstated two Transitional Employment (TE) positions, joining Sunset Cadillac as one of our partners in this cornerstone program of the Academy. Highly supported by Academy staff, these positions are instrumental in building confidence, stamina, job skills, and experience in our members. For members Eric Broderick and Ian Churchill, who are both in positions as Dining Room Assistants at Pines of Sarasota, this also means earning a paycheck! We are thrilled that Eric and Ian can take this next step along the pathway to their goals.



Eric Broderick (left) and Ian Churchill

DONATE today and become part of the solution in mental health. Please visit:

AcademySRQ.org

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CLUBHOUSE GIVING DAY

Always up for something new, the Academy at Glengary joined the first annual Clubhouse Giving Day, along with 37 other Clubhouses around the world.

June 1 marked the official Giving Day, but fundraising began in

May so Clubhouses could integrate Mental Health Awareness Month activities. We ultimately received 57 donations, for a total of \$28,830, including 1:1 matching gifts from our good friends at the Steinwachs Family Foundation. We thank Clubhouse International for this opportunity to not only raise funds but to also collaborate with other Clubhouses, and receive what became an outpouring of community support!



LUNCH & LEARNS ARE BACK

The Academy is once again offering Lunch & Learn opportunities for community groups and visitors. Interested? Please contact William McKeever at 941-921-9936.



Administrators from Manatee County visited on June 29, 2021.



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.

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



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