



ACADEMY
AT GLENGARY

SPRING 2022

941-921-9930

www.AcademySRQ.org

1910 Glengary St., Sarasota, FL 34231

TECH GATEWAY IS NOW OPEN

Imagine living where you don't speak the language. Visualize yourself there: people whiz past you, connecting, laughing, communicating, or maybe yelling out a warning, and there you are, unable to understand a word of it. What might you feel? Isolated? Stagnant? It is not a stretch to suggest that digital literacy is equally imperative to our active engagement in the world as is language.

Technology requires a steep learning curve, and is cost-prohibitive for many, and this is even truer for those pursuing mental health recovery. How then do we address the disparity between those with access and those without? For a solution, we reached out to our amazing community partners.

The William G. & Marie Selby Foundation responded generously to our request with a \$100,000 grant to fund our "Gateway to the Future" initiative. Readers might remember that the Selby Foundation supported the creation of the Academy's culinary program in 2017 by funding the installation of our commercial kitchen. This most recent Selby Foundation grant



SHARP AQUOS BOARDS

(left to right) Stephen Anderson, Jose Campos, Ian Churchill and Irene Lunt

also received a 1:1 match from State of Florida (with big thanks to State Senator Joe Gruters and State Representative Randall Maggard for sponsoring our 2021 special appropriations request). With our "Gateway to the Future" initiative, members are now training on interactive Sharp Aquos Boards, tablets, Mac Studios, new PCs, updated software, and a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system.



TECHNOLOGY SETUP

John Wohlforth

Special thanks to John Wohlforth of Sunset Automotive for volunteering his time to implement our "Gateway to the Future" initiative.

Members are actively involved in the logistics of getting this off the ground. Member Candy El-Azzaoui is excited to be learning how to use a Mac Studio. She said, "I'm learning so much every day, using complex software to create. I finally feel connected and a part of the modern world."



NEW PHONES AND PCs

Zach Pastor

We used to say that technology is our future. But clearly, the future is now. No longer are these the whistles and bells of luxury, they are vital tools that are moving our members out of isolation and into the mainstream.



MAC STUDIO COMPUTER

Chantel Gingerich

The Academy maintains normal hours of Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 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.

NOTHING BETTER THAN BEING TOGETHER

When I walk through the Academy these days, I notice the growing buzz of activity, as members re-join our work-ordered day, re-encounter each other, re-enter the workforce at area businesses and re-engage in planning for the future. You get the idea, there are a lot of "re's" during a springtime rebirth of our community.

Sure, technology has been extremely useful in keeping our members on track in their recovery over the past two years. Tablets, smart phones and PCs have all found a central role in our mission. Yet nothing replaces the magic of being physically together in community, working side by side, and experiencing the restorative power of relating to each other in person. We have now come full circle, as we replace social distancing with social togetherness. And it feels wonderful. Mental health recovery is enhanced when we are physically present to each other.

I recently checked in with Rima Ghalieh about her experience of being back in community, back in the flow of recovery. "I prefer coming to the Academy, it's better than being on Zoom. I like to participate in different activities, make friends and learn new things. I come here to get out of my comfort zone. If I was at home, I would be doing nothing. Now, I am offering a typing

workshop at 4 pm on Mondays to help members and staff improve their typing skills. It's nice to be able to help others."

There's nothing better for recovery than being together in community.

William Hokeorn

Director



Rima Ghalieh assists Stephen Anderson during the typing workshop.

OUR AMBASSADORS

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

Peter Abbott • Rob and Ruth Anderson • Steve and Barbara Armstrong
Jon and Kris Berg • Ed Bertha • Stewie Bitterman • Kim Bleach • Veronica Brady
Kim Burns • Warren and Cecile Collmer • Linda Cournoyer • Phil Delaney • Larry Eger
Scott Eller • Robert Geyer • Ric Gregoria • Hal Hedley • Michael Klauber
Tom Knight • Sharon Lerner • David Maglich • Pat Mahoney • Brian Mariash
Robert Meade • John Overton • Reverend Bruce Porter • Mike and Mary Quillen
Rich Segall • Jeff Steinwachs • Paul Steinwachs • Sharon Steinwachs
Debbie and Dave West • Joan and Brian Wides • Honorable Charles E. Williams

COMMUNITY • WORK • QUALITY • FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • WELLNE





Irene Lunt

MEET IRENE

Before I found the Academy, I really didn't do very much all day. I was bored and unfulfilled and I knew there had to be more out there than just sitting around doing nothing all day.

When I first toured the Academy, I was very impressed! I had never seen so many computers, and so much modern technology before. I didn't really know how to use any of it when I started, but that sure has changed. Since becoming a member of the Academy, I've worked in the Business & Technology Team, learning the basics of using a computer, and I now feel more confident than ever to take on new challenges. From never having used a computer, I have now earned a beginner's certificate in typing, and I can right-click and left-click, select text, and cut and paste. It's a whole new world!

I'm learning to be patient with myself because everyone at the Academy is so patient with me. Members and staff make me feel important, and they point out when I've done something well. This little community has really changed everything for me. My friends and housemates have commented that I seem happier and more active. Stepping out of my comfort zone still makes me feel nervous, but I don't let fear stop me. The Academy makes me feel like I can accomplish anything.

"I now feel more confident than ever..."



Christian Pisani

MEET CHRISTIAN

I've always had an interest in technology, but until now I wasn't clear on what I wanted to do. When I joined the Academy and started working in the multimedia team, my interest grew, and I realized I had talent in this area. Since becoming a member, I have been exposed to software programs like Photoshop and Final Cut, digital cameras, and lighting equipment, even acting, and it's all happening in our Academy multimedia studio.

Recently, we were scheduled to film our bi-weekly news program, but the multimedia staff was out sick. At first it looked like we would have to cancel the shoot. But then, I realized that I had learned enough to lead the project! I set up the lights, and then set up the shot. I filmed several takes and then, when it was a wrap, I popped out the SD card and downloaded the video to the computer, and I got to editing. My skills were definitely tested, and I felt pretty good about the outcome.

My experiences at the Academy have motivated me to enroll in a two-year Digital Cinema program at State College of Florida. Between college and the Academy, I'm developing a solid skill set to hopefully lead to a fulfilling career. I feel hopeful that someday I will be able to do what I love to support myself.

"I'm developing a solid skill set..."



SS • SERVICE • KINDNESS • PURPOSE • ACCEPTANCE • STRUCTURE





(left to right) Rick Pardo, Carolyn Kreuzpaintner, Florida State Senator Joe Gruters, and William McKeever

TALLAHASSEE BOUND

The six-hour drive to Tallahassee was well worth the effort! Academy member, Rick Pardo, and director, William McKeever, traveled to our state capitol to advocate for mental health recovery services. In all, they met with 16 different elected state officials. Rick shared his story of hope and recovery at every meeting. The highlight of their trip was a chance to meet with our local State Senator, Joe Gruters, who has been a champion of the Academy's mission since our inception.

GETTEL OPENS DOORS TO JOBS

We are so pleased to have added Gettel Automotive to our family of Transitional Employment sites. It took no time to realize what a great organization they have, but finding the right position for our members was a lengthy and thoughtful process. The fine folks at Gettel Acura are providing our members with a scanning prep position for 12 hours per week in a gorgeous office setting with a view. Big thanks go to Gettel President Mr. James Gettel and Fixed Operations Director Fred Bartholomew for making it happen.



(left to right)
Diane Beimann,
Fred Bartholomew,
and Jodi Weiss.

BELIEVING IN RESULTS 1ST

In the world of non-profits, it's vital to demonstrate outcomes and positive results. To this end, we were blessed by a grant from the Manatee Community Foundation, in support of our participation in a 4-month Results 1st Training under the direction of CEO Robyn Faucy. This experience has dramatically shifted our view of how we identify outcomes and measure effectiveness. We appreciate the hard work of our Academy's Results 1st leadership team!



(left to right)
Jeff Jean, Vanessa Alcantara,
Paul Hennekes,
and Patty Haltinner

RAISING OUR PROFILE

We are redesigning our website and developing updated, culturally-sensitive marketing materials, all thanks to a generous \$10,000 Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Special thanks to CEO, Roxie Gerde, and the Board of Directors, for their continued



support and belief in our mission!



(left to right) Neil Blake,
Paul Hennekes,
Jason Sulimay, and
Patty Haltinner



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, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

AcademySRQ.org

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