



## BELIEVERS SINCE DAY ONE

The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation was one of the very first believers in our mission when the Academy opened its doors in 2017. They shared our vision of creating opportunities for mental health wellness and recovery by providing the bulk of the funding to build a state-of-the-art instructional kitchen at Academy at Glengary. Since then, their grants have provided Academy members with a cutting-edge work experience using industry-standard hardware like Mac computers, Aquos Boards and up-to-date versions of Microsoft and Adobe software packages.



*Erika Schlunk giving a tour to the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation CEO and board*

Beyond financial support, it's the people behind the name that we have come to know and love. So, we were excited to invite Susie Bowie, President/CEO, and her Selby Foundation board members in for a visit recently, to show them how their gifts have moved our mission forward. Member Erika Schlunk gave them a tour of our Academy at Bradenton campus, highlighting some of the projects that members are working on, from editing videos to managing our database - all of it made easy by having the right tools at hand. Member Moses Cardin put it best when he said, "The technology at the Academy is preparing us for competitive jobs, and our potential for growth feels limitless." We agree with Moses, and we are grateful that the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation shares our sentiment.

## WARM WELCOME TO ADRIANNE GREENE

*by Adrienne Greene*

As a new member of the Academy at Bradenton, I enjoy being here. It gives me peace of mind, so I do not feel so all alone.

I enjoy cooking in the Culinary team and also working on the computers in the Business & Technology and Graphic Design teams.



*Adrienne Greene*

I have found so many new friends and things to do. The Academy is a great place to be.

### 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TELETHON

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AT GLENGARY



ACADEMY  
AT BRADENTON



**AUG  
14  
2025**

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DATE**

## THE ONCE (AND FUTURE) MEMBER

by Stephen Anderson

Academy staff offered me this cool assignment for a newsletter article, waxing emotionally about how I continue to collaborate online through Zoom meetings, even though I now live far away, in Virginia to be precise. Since moving here, I have had to adjust to many new things. But one thing that has been a stabilizing force is the consistency of attending the Academy's morning meetings on Zoom, participating virtually in exercise classes, writer's workshop, and keeping up with my Academy friends on the phone (remember when phones were used as phones?)

I have just planted fresh summer flowers although it is getting late, and it makes me think of the Academy and the metaphor of tending to one's garden. I may not be a master gardener, but I know how to nurture and encourage growth thanks to the Academy. To them, I am a perennial I suppose.

My mother and I have been researching programs in my area and I'm sure I'll find something soon, but I'm glad to know that I can still weave a bit of the Academy into my



Stephen Anderson in Culinary

week while I get my bearings in my new town. We all need to look at things with fresh eyes sometimes, and in so doing remember what it was like to be without community. I have a renewed sense of appreciation for my Academy community and know that I will never travel so far that I can't return. Once a member, always a member.

## FROM KEYBOARD TO CUTTING BOARD

by Vanessa Tammaro



Vanessa Tammaro and Jodi Weiss in culinary

I've always been a Business and Technology kind of girl. I DO NOT like the kitchen. I wanted NO part of culinary.

But one day, I came in and saw Jodi and Hannah working alone in the Culinary team. I knew they needed help. Honestly, I didn't really want to jump in—it was completely out of my comfort zone—but I couldn't let them work by themselves.

So, I put on my sneakers and decided to help. At first, I was anxious because it was something new, but as time passed, I started to have fun.

We laughed and worked together, making grilled cheese, roasted tomato soup, and baked fries. And you know what? I even kind of liked it. After all, "nothing changes if nothing changes."

I took a step toward something new—and I'm glad I did.

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