



LAW & ORDER UP

This week we had the pleasure of hosting Bradenton's newest Chief of Police, Josh Cramer and Assistant Chief of Police Brian Thiers along with State Attorney Ed Brodsky, Chief Assistant Cynthia Evers, and several others from the police department. Academy member Ashley Muscat provided a tour of our facility, fielding questions and sharing a bit about her personal story. She explained the side-by-side work that we do and how we move our mission forward through collaborative and inclusive efforts. There is perhaps no better example of our "horizontal leadership" than sitting together to share a meal that was conceived, executed and served by members and staff in partnership. Chief of Police Cramer had this to say: "It's been wonderful today, from the services provided, the opportunities available to members, and the wonderful lunch we were served, we felt so welcome. We were so happy to be here."

Our Lunch & Learn series is one of the best ways for our community partners to see firsthand what we do. It's an opportunity for guests to see the immense potential of those who live with mental health challenges while still leading creative, connected, productive lives.



Thank you to our guests this week at the Academy at Bradenton!

Interested in a Lunch & Learn?

Please contact Patty Haltinner at 941-921-9932.

WARM WELCOME TO JOSEPH LEWIS

by Joseph Lewis

I was encouraged to join the Academy at Bradenton by a family friend. I was spending a lot of time alone in my room and my parents worried that I was getting more depressed. They weren't wrong. I was lonely and had no friends my own age.



That changed when I became a member. Just getting out of the house has been a major improvement, but the Academy offers so much more! I'm given opportunities to be productive and contribute to something important. I usually work in the Business & Tech team, helping create organizational calendars and sign-up sheets, and taking photos that get used in newsletters, Facebook, new member ID cards and more. It feels amazing to be of use to this very special community.

I look forward to having a multimedia team here because my career goal is to be a sportscaster. The Academy is helping me realize my dreams.

*From Glengary to Bradenton we scrub and glow.
On annual cleaning day, our Academy sparkle shows!*



Academy at Glengary



Academy at Bradenton



Academy at Glengary members and staff enjoying their visit to Hope Clubhouse

HIGHWAY TO HOPE

by Regina Ilaria

Excited for a road trip to Hope Clubhouse in Ft. Myers, FL, a group of Academy members and staff pulled out onto Glengary Street, headed for the highway. Once we arrived to Hope Clubhouse and were immediately embraced by our hosts, holding the door wide open as they excitedly exclaimed, "The visitors are here!"

After signing in, we stood behind a tableful of friendly members in the center of the room and were soon greeted by Program Director Cort Norman, who introduced us to our enthusiastic guide, member Andrew. He led us to the garden, a lush expanse of lettuces, herbs, green peppers, and fruit trees—mango, papaya, jackfruit, banana, and avocado.

Then we were invited to order a side salad from the kitchen, and soon were met with an appetizing spread of delicious rose-sauced gnocchi, Italian bread and salad. I sat among members

(continued at top right)

and staff who eagerly asked about our Academy. One member shared he was preparing a speech for their upcoming "Faces of Hope" fundraising event and invited us to attend.

After lunch, CEO Lauren Walker presented exciting renovation plans for a contemporary Clubhouse design, featuring an open floorplan, expanded multimedia spaces and a new indoor connection to the lanai. In Multimedia, member Donovan shared his passion for design, Canva, and creative workshops to boost community engagement.

On our tour, we noticed a packed bulletin board filled with job postings and sign-up sheets for socials. We also toured the Employment team, where they explained their education-based approach to preparing members for Transitional Employment and independent jobs.

Finally, everyone gathered for the Daily Meeting, featuring Donovan's beautifully animated Canva presentation. When Standard 4 about Clubhouse equality was proposed, Andrew, summed it up beautifully: "It's all one love here; we're all one love."

Member Sheridan's warm farewell hugs sealed the day's message of personal connection and heartfelt enthusiasm—truly, a cause for "hope."

THANK YOU STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA!



A big thank-you to the State College of Florida (SCF) occupational therapy students for hosting such an engaging workshop for us at the Academy at Glengary!

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