



Danica Willis (center) with the women of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) in the conference room

WOMEN ON A MISSION

by Danica Willis

I have been a member at the Academy at Glengary for a few years now. I am honored to share an experience I had recently. We had the wonderful opportunity to meet the women of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.), who came in for a tour and used our conference room for a meeting. It was very nice to share with them all about the different things we do here.

P.E.O. is a sisterhood of women who are purposeful and passionate about celebrating, supporting and motivating women. Their mission is to help women around the world advance through education. The women of P.E.O. have given so much and have been such a great support, not only for myself, but for my sister, Delaina. She was given a scholarship towards her bachelor's degree and now lives in New York City, NY working for the flagship Clubhouse program, Fountain House, as a social worker for young adults.

I personally have known P.E.O. member Susan Drake, for many years, and it was very special having the chance to see her again and meet all the other members of P.E.O., as well.

WARM WELCOME TO IZZIE PEREZ

by Izzie Perez

Hello! I am a new member at the Academy at Glengary.

I was admitted to Cornell Behavioral Health at Sarasota Memorial Hospital not too long ago, and it was there that I learned about the Academy.

I immediately had the feeling this was something I wanted to do. I struggle with some mental health issues but, in a very short time, the Academy has helped me get out of my shell and create healthy bonds with others.

I love working with our Culinary Instructor, Ben Burnside and everyone on the culinary team. Cooking keeps me motivated and everyone at the Academy is so welcoming and loving. I am grateful for all the wonderful people I've met!

If you want a friendly, safe, loving environment or just to keep motivated – the Academy is the place! Love you guys!



(L to R) Izzy Perez and Ben Burnside working hard in culinary

ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

by Aaron Williams

Our road trip to Club Success in Lakeland, Florida, was very interesting. Although they have different software programs and procedures, the mission of Club Success has the same focus: mental health recovery. There are about 70 members and staff, working toward a common goal.

When we arrived, we were given a tour of the campus. They showed us the reception area, the dining room, the kitchen, the business and technology team, and the multimedia room. They also showed us their garden and explained the different things they grow for culinary.

It was really interesting to speak to the members and staff, especially during lunch. I spoke with their director, John, and found out some interesting things, like how they're how they're open from 8-4 Monday through Friday and how they're open on the weekends sometimes for socials.

It would be interesting to volunteer at Club Success. I think it would be fascinating to learn their software programs and procedures the way I've learned these things at the Academy at Bradenton. It would be interesting to get to know the members and staff there.



Academy at Bradenton members and staff enjoying their visit to Club Success

SARASOTA CAMPUS

1910 Glengary Street
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 921-9930



BRADENTON CAMPUS

601 12th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 929-2800



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Brent Jephson speaking at the CATA event

BE OUR GUEST

by Brent Jephson

This week, Academy at Glengary hosted events for two of our community partners. First we welcomed Conversations Across The Aisle (CATA) to use our space for a community meeting.

We hosted our guests in our dining room where our Culinary team provided the food. Our members and staff were busy preparing several days in advance to offer a nutritious dinner, including dessert and coffee for approximately 70 guests. CATA is an organization that promotes civil discussion on various current topics of debate.

I was given the task of introducing myself and speaking to the group about my mental health and my experience at the Academy; what I have been through and how I have overcome my disability in many ways. I spoke about how, with the right environment and supports, recovery is possible. I have hope that people with mental/physical limitations can function, maintain long term goals, and do many things. I am living proof.

The other event we hosted was the annual celebration of Second Heart Homes. This organization provides critical resources, including long-term housing, for unhoused adults who live with mental health challenges. This time, we had over 80 guests and again, our Culinary team organized a fun and delicious day for them. Hosting our community partners is one of our favorite ways to build awareness and to get the word out to those who could benefit from our program.



Culinary serving at the Second Heart Homes event

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