



A CUT ABOVE

by Ryan Krajewski



(L to R) Ray Reilly, Jose Campos, Grant Goodin, Master Barber Angelo Pompetti Bonetti, Jaquez Fisher and Ryan Krajewski

Last week, we had Master Barber Angelo Pompetti Bonetti come to the Academy at Bradenton to give free haircuts to our members. It has been a long time since I had a haircut because I tend to procrastinate on things like this. Not only was it very convenient, but it was the best haircut I've ever had. He even trimmed my beard!

This may seem like a small thing, but it really put a spring in my step. After the haircut, I felt more confident, and I carried myself a little taller. It even made me feel younger! This is just one of many examples of how the Academy provides members with little extras beyond the regular agenda in order to help us live our best lives.

For the record, I tried to tip Angelo, but he wouldn't take my money! Big thanks to him for being so generous with his time and talent, and to the Academy for always helping us put our best foot forward.

You can find Angelo at:
menshaircutsarasota.com



Ray Reilly getting a haircut

WARM WELCOME TO NATHALIE ESTIVERNE

by Nathalie Estiverne

I was born in Haiti and got my nursing degree there. Haiti had a lot of violence at the time and, when I started experiencing mental health symptoms, my brother encouraged me to move to the United States through a humanitarian program.



When I got to the U.S., I first lived in Texas and California before settling in Bradenton. In Bradenton, I connected with Centerstone and that is how I learned about the Academy.

Starting over in a new country has been a blessing but it has come with many challenges. For starters, my degree is not recognized in the states. And although I knew some English when I got here, it has been a steep learning curve to live in an English-speaking country. For the first year in the U.S., I tried working in restaurants, but my symptoms got worse. After my last job in 2023, I was hospitalized. When the Academy was recommended by my doctor at Centerstone, I was skeptical, but she convinced me to give it a try. I'm so glad I did!

Being an Academy member gets me out of the house and socializing. I have learned so much here! I work in the culinary team, and recently I passed the ServSafe food safety exam. There are so many opportunities here that come without pressure to do more than I want to do. Everyone is so supportive of me.

Eventually, I want to get a job in a restaurant and continue to plant roots in my new hometown. I am very happy to have the support of the Academy.

FROM FAR & WIDE

by Paul Hennekes

This week, Academy Director William McKeever and I were given the opportunity to lead a financial sustainability workshop with 11 of our colleagues from two Clubhouses in Oregon, one in Michigan and three in Florida. Andrew Schonebaum, Senior Advisor of Strategic Growth from Fountain House, the original Clubhouse program in New York City joined us and contributed a great deal to the workshop.

According to the United Nations, sustainability is defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” We were honored to have several guest speakers touch on such topics as our Academy Ambassador Program, building relationships with community foundations, measuring and driving outcomes via Results 1st, the role of family Ambassadors and county government funding.

Ensuring financial sustainability is a collective effort. Members and staff contribute through luncheons, telethons, Academy tours and in-house produced marketing materials. Our Board of Directors, Ambassadors and family members help build awareness within their respective communities by inviting guests for member-led tours and demonstrating our open-door policy. We all contribute to our successful sustainability; the responsibility does not solely rest with any single person or group.



Training colleagues at the Academy of Glengary

MONEY MATTERS

by Brent Jephson



Members at the Cadence Bank Workshop

The Academy recently hosted an informative workshop led by Peter Farley, Financial Center Manager of Cadence Bank in Sarasota. He shared helpful tips on managing income and expenses, planning for retirement, and making smart financial choices. He also explained the benefits of FDIC insurance, safety deposit boxes, and direct deposit, which remains the most trusted way to handle payments.

I learned how saving money in accounts that earn interest supports long-term goals. Peter discussed how retirees benefit from compound interest, where savings grow steadily over time. He also described Certificates of Deposit (CDs) as a low-risk, guaranteed way to build financial stability.

This workshop helped me feel more confident about my finances and reminded me that managing money is part of overall wellness. At the Academy, we follow the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, and this workshop supported the financial dimension—helping us build knowledge, confidence, and peace of mind.

Overall, it was a very informative and empowering session. I'm looking forward to the next one!

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