



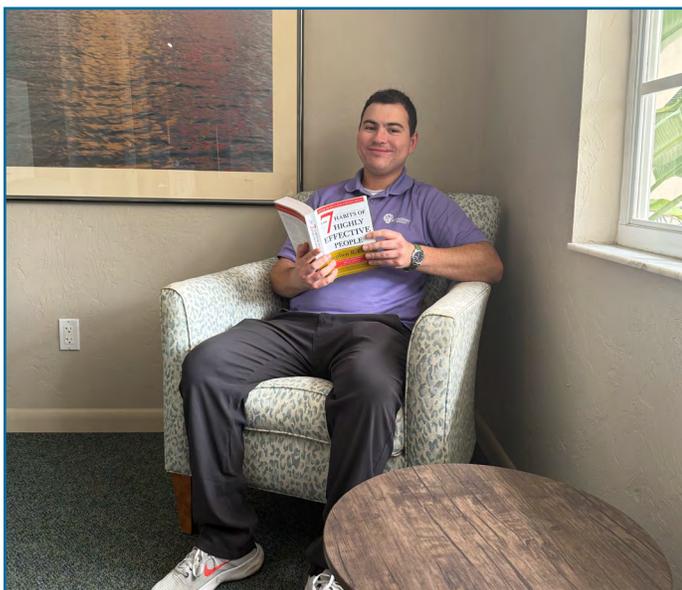
FINDING MY "PLACE"

by Ian Churchill

For many people, moving out at eighteen is seen as a societal expectation—something you have to do to prove you're really "grown up." However, not everyone fits into that box. Not everyone is ready for such a big change, and it really begs the question: who gets to decide what "grown up" truly means?

At age 26, after years of support and preparation to live on my own, the opportunity finally presented itself. As it turns out, my neighbor had been renting an apartment to an elderly woman. After many years, she decided to move out, and what a blessing that became for me—the opportunity to move in.

I am especially thankful to the Academy at Glengary for the opportunity to work in the Procurement Transitional Employment (TE) position at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, which allows me to pay my rent each month and take this important step toward independence.



Ian Churchill in his new apartment

WARM WELCOME TO VERA CRENSHAW

by Vera Crenshaw

I am grateful for the opportunity to join the Academy at Bradenton.

I am a new member here at the Academy, and we are also new to the area. Altogether, it has worked out great for me to meet people, make new connections, and learn new skills. I have really started to enjoy it because the Academy is a safe and welcoming environment where I can refresh my computer skills and learn how to become a photographer. That fits with my goal, because I have always wanted to learn how to take better pictures.



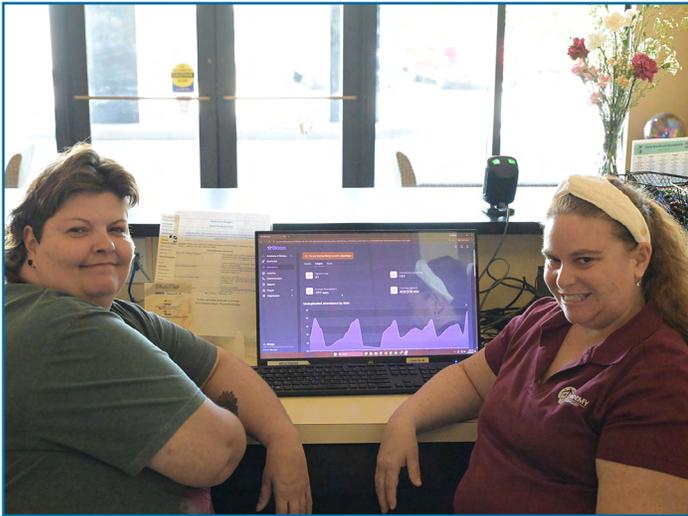
As a certified yoga instructor, I can use my skills to volunteer and teach yoga here. Most importantly, since I am taking care of my sick husband and my brother who struggles with mental illness, this gives me a place to get out of the house two to three days a week and have some time away.

I am presently semi-retired. I owned a small business, VPC Investments, LLC, and I am an author. I also retired from a federal government job in Massachusetts. In Thailand, I worked for UNICEF, and after the war in Cambodia, I worked at a hospital.

More about me: I have two furbabies—a big dog and a cat. I enjoy taking vacations to different places with a group of friends.



(L to R) Bill Hunter and Vera Crenshaw



(L to R) Chantel Gingerich and Nicole Pendleton working in Bloom at the Academy at Glengary's front desk

THE ACADEMY "IN BLOOM"

We are pleased to announce that the Academy has successfully transitioned to a new database called *Bloom*. We have been impressed by its efficiency and capacity to store all the data we could possibly need. This comprehensive data collection supports our reporting efforts, which are essential for securing funding and demonstrating the positive impact on our members. One of the most meaningful aspects of *Bloom* is that members and staff work side by side to input data, strengthening members' computer and data entry skills in the process.

We are also fortunate to continue collaborating with John Robinson, the creator of the database and a former Academy employee, who consistently makes improvements to enhance its functionality. We are incredibly grateful for his ongoing support and for providing us with a system that allows us to create reports with ease. This database opens the door to endless possibilities and provides members with ongoing opportunities to build new skills!

STRENGTHING CONNECTIONS

Academy staff Jodi-lee Weiss, Lynn Rupe, and Vanessa Alcantara recently attended the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) Vendor "Meet and Greet," where DVR staff had the opportunity to learn more about the Academy and what we offer. The Academy's programs, supports, and our strong commitment to helping individuals build skills and achieve meaningful employment were showcased as what sets us apart from other job placement vendors.

Attending these events with DVR helps them understand our unique approach to support; working side-by-side with our members to help them find and maintain gainful employment that suits them. As always, we appreciate our counselors at DVR who collaborate with us to help our members achieve great things.



(L to R) Jodi-lee Weiss, Lynn Rupe, and Vanessa Alcantara at the Academy table during the Florida DVR "Meet and Greet"

SARASOTA CAMPUS

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



BRADENTON CAMPUS

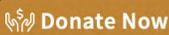
601 12th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 929-2800



AcademySRQ.org

DOUBLE YOUR INVESTMENT

visit our website
AcademySRQ.org

and click on the  **Donate Now** button
Thank you for transforming lives!

The Academy at Glengary, Inc., is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Academy at Glengary is registered with the state of Florida (CH56160). A copy of this official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services at www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices or by calling toll-free 800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



A network partner of:



Designed and printed on-site by members and staff of the Academy.



Public-Private Partnership