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2026
**GIVING
CHALLENGE**

Be The One

Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

The Academy provides
a pathway to success,
friendship and careers
for adults seeking
mental health wellness.

#BETHEONE

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties.

The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Giving is strengthened by The Patterson Foundation with a 1:1 match of all unique donations between \$25 and \$100 per donor.

**Noon April 15 -
Noon April 16**
GivingChallenge.org





Aaron teaching a multimedia workshop at the Academy at Bradenton



Aaron and Sharra Everett celebrating the Academy at Bradenton's one year anniversary, April 2025

I've starred in a video for our annual Telethon, emceed our first Bradenton "Frienderaiser" luncheon, and even got to play an umpire in a video that we shot at Ed Smith Stadium, where the Baltimore Orioles do spring training.

FINDING MY PEOPLE & MY PASSION

by Aaron Williams

This week, I'm celebrating my two-year anniversary of being an Academy member in Bradenton. I've been reflecting on how my life has changed in those two years. The biggest change is my social life. Before I joined, I had no friends my own age. Now, I have a solid crew of five Academy members, and we hang out nearly every weekend at one of our houses, or sometimes we go out to restaurants.

I've also learned how to budget my money by attending financial workshops at the Academy. This is something I never knew how to do before. I'm doing well at staying within my budget.

Another big change is all the skills I've learned here. Since becoming a member, I can edit videos and even create videos of my own. I first learned from another member, but now that we have our new Multimedia Instructor, James Derzypolski, here in Bradenton, my knowledge is really taking off!

There have been so many opportunities offered to me here. Last year, I attended the World Seminar in St. Pete Beach.

(continued at top right)

It's fun to look back and see how different my life is now, and it has

definitely affected my outlook on life. I hope to enjoy many more years of growing and learning at the Academy.

THE "BARBER OF BRADENTON" RETURNS



Thank you to Master Barber Angelo Pompetti Bonetti for returning to the Academy at Bradenton and cutting member's hair.

You can find Angelo at: menshaircutsarasota.com

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

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AcademySRQ.org

and click on the  Donate Now button

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