



EMBRACING NEW HORIZONS

by Dana Homick



(L to R) Dana Homick and Ellen Russell in Business & Technology

Goal planning at the Academy encourages me to step outside my comfort zone and explore new opportunities across different teams. I began attending at various times and on different days, challenging routines I had grown used to. One of my biggest milestones was attending my first newsroom meeting; an experience that eventually inspired me to write this article. As I work toward my goals, I discover how much more I can learn and contribute. I've strengthened my connection with peers, increased my self awareness, and built employment skills that will stay with me. I learned how to navigate the Bloom database, create greeting cards, and even help prepare our breakfast buffet in culinary. Each new experience helps me grow more confident and capable.

I am grateful for the goal planning support. Wellness Coordinator Brooke DePuy played an important role in helping me organize my goals and incorporate the 8-Dimensions of Wellness into my plan. Her guidance has made it easier to stay focused, motivated, and open to new experiences. Because of this process, I've achieved more than I expected and gained a clearer sense of direction. I'm excited to continue building on everything I've learned, and to see what the future brings.

WELCOME TO ROB MCMAHON

by Rob McMahon



I first learned about the Academy at Bradenton from a family friend. I was spending nearly all of my time at home, and I felt like I wanted more from life. I agreed to take a tour and check it out even though the idea made me a little nervous. Once I was here, I began to relax and realize that the Academy is a good place.

I work in the culinary team, and it brings purpose to my life. It feels very good to be useful and needed. I'm learning how to prep ingredients and my knife skills are improving. But the best part is that I am part of a great team.

I come from a big family with four siblings. I'm really close with all of them. Sometimes we take walks together and talk. My family is happy that I joined the Academy because they can see that it's already improving my outlook on life.



Robert McMahon working in the culinary team



THANKS TO



Aaron Williams (R) receiving the keys to his new car

ON THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS

by Aaron Williams

Financial wellness to me is the ability to pay for things and be financially stable afterwards. The budgeting techniques I've learned at the Academy have allowed me to manage my credit card, my spending, my medical bills and the medication that I rely on. It's given me the freedom to have a good housing situation, and reliable transportation.

Which brings me to big news: I recently bought a car! I had a trade-in and I was able to finance the balance of the new one. The salesman was very helpful. He went through all the vehicle options with me, and we then went to the financing office where they took me through the vehicle documentation process step-by-step.

It's very helpful to know that if you're willing to put the time and effort in, people are willing to help. When it comes to financial wellbeing, the Academy at Bradenton has really taught me how to budget my money properly.



Clubhouse International

Creating Community: Changing the World of Mental Health

HIGH STANDARDS

Academy at Bradenton has just begun the exciting task of taking our first step toward becoming accredited by Clubhouse International (CI). Our first assignment is to complete a thorough self-study, outlining how we *think* we are doing in our compliance to the 37 Standards, or tenets, that all Clubhouses follow.

We are meeting weekly and completing the study as a community, reflecting on our strengths and weaknesses in regard to the Standards and the Clubhouse model. This will make our actual accreditation visit much more efficient, as our accreditors, called Faculty, will know, based on our answers, where to probe more deeply when they're here.

Accreditation not only helps us to operate at the highest level of program integrity, it also gives us credibility to ensure our members, donors, and community partners know that we are working in alignment with an evidenced-based model. Our accreditation visit isn't until April of 2027, but we are already full steam ahead!



Members and staff gathering at the Academy at Bradenton to work on Self Study regarding Accreditation for Clubhouse International

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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