



**ACADEMY**  
AT GLENGARY

**SPRING 2021**

**941-921-9930**

**[www.AcademySRQ.org](http://www.AcademySRQ.org)**

**1910 Glengary St., Sarasota, FL 34231**

## SERVICE, COMPASSION AND LOVE



*Larry Allen (left) with William McKeever*

Love is important. That sentence wrapped up a visit and studio interview with Larry Allen, an administrator with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN), our state Managing Entity. His words make perfect sense to us. Love and compassion are central to our day-to-day operations.

We were excited to invite our good friend and colleague Larry back to the Academy for a visit and a bit of reminiscing. It is not a stretch to say that without CFBHN's involvement, the Academy might not exist. From the start, CFBHN embraced our vision for Sarasota and guided us in the creation of a public-private partnership for mental health. Reflecting back through the lens of time, things seemed to have flowed effortlessly. But that was not the case. The creation of the Academy was a winding road, indeed. Through the ups and downs, we knew CFBHN had our back.

Larry is the Chief Operations Officer for CFBHN, a nonprofit that manages state mental health and substance abuse funding for 14 counties on Florida's central west coast. Larry has a big job. He is in charge of all operations, from quality improvement to roll-out of program services. He is a former clinician with a heart for service and a good mind for business (he also has an MBA).

Larry's boss, Linda McKinnon, CEO of CFBHN, has been one of our most ardent allies. Like Larry, she is available 24/7 to serve us and other CFBHN providers. And

also like Larry, Linda's work as a clinician fueled her belief in recovery. She understands the relationship between funding and quality of services. In an era when new state mental health funding is rare, CFBHN—along with their state partner, the Department of Children and Families—committed financial support to our Clubhouse program. Currently, CFBHN provides 40% of our annual operating budget—a key component of our sustainability. The Academy is committed to raising an additional 60% through fundraising efforts, family and member support, grants, and corporate sponsors. This public-private partnership model of diversification makes perfect sense in a state that looks to private investment to ensure the quality of services.

During his visit, Larry provided a message to our members:

***"The Academy is a place of opportunities, a place of healing, where members can come and explore. To those who are struggling, hang in there. To those who are successful, please help those who aren't."***

We are truly fortunate to have the support of Larry, Linda, and the entire CFBHN team. We know that we are on solid ground when our public funding administrators share the values of service, compassion, and love. Thank you, Larry!

Please don't miss it: To watch the Larry's studio interview at the Academy, visit [www.AcademySRQ.org/CFBHN](http://www.AcademySRQ.org/CFBHN)



*(left to right) Ian Churchill, William McKeever, Larry Allen, Rebecca Wolfson, Melissa Leslie, Joan Geyer, Patricia Overway and Linda McKinnon*

*The Academy maintains normal hours of Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., using screening procedures and COVID-19 precautionary measures.*



**The Academy at Glengary**

**AcademySRQ.org**

# VALUES-BASED

*Values inspire our journey and guide the pathway to recovery.*

## NO MEMBER LEFT BEHIND

Although we have come to appreciate the value of virtual encounters, online experiences, and Zoom meetings, nothing adequately replaces in-person, human contact. Yes, our hybrid Clubhouse program has proven to be an effective strategy to keep our members engaged, by providing the option of onsite or virtual services. Nevertheless, nearly half of our members have not stepped foot into the Academy since March of last year. With vaccinations readily available and infection rates dropping, we are yearning to rebuild our community, see one another again, and enjoy the camaraderie to which we have grown accustomed.

As part of our determined efforts to reestablish and recreate community, we are adopting a personalized approach to each Academy member: *No Member Left Behind*. We are providing outreach calls, emails, and texts to reassure members and families of our safety protocols. We are also identifying individual options, addressing personal concerns, and discussing next steps. On issues ranging from transportation to vaccination, we aim to equip our members with the information they need to make informed decisions. The Academy is open and ready when members decide to return. Safety remains our top priority.

Now that members are indeed starting to return, the excitement in our building is palpable. There is a feeling of homecoming. Even minus "open arms" for now, our reunions are full of joy in our hearts and happiness in our eyes. The opportunity to once again encounter each other in our welcoming, communal space might be the ideal remedy for the isolation that many have felt during the past year.

*William McKeown*  
Director



*On-site attendance continues to grow as members return and new members are enrolled. We are elated to welcome them back.*

## OUR AMBASSADORS

*The Academy Ambassadors fill a vital role by sharing our mission and helping us build strong roots in the community.*

**Peter Abbott**, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments  
**Steve and Barbara Armstrong**, local business owners  
**Ed Bertha**, Owner, Executive Publisher, REAL Exclusive Magazine  
**Stewie Bitterman**, Director, Synovus Bank  
**Kim Bleach**, Private Client Advisor, Bank of America  
**Veronica Brady**, Director of Advancement, The Bay Park Conservancy  
**Kim Burns**, Occupational Therapist, REAL Exclusive Magazine contributor  
**Linda Cournoyer**, retired Practice Manager, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System  
**Phil Delaney**, retired Vice Chairman, Northern Trust  
**Larry Eger**, Public Defender, 12th Judicial Circuit  
**J. Scott Eller**, CEO, Community Assisted and Supported Living, Inc.  
**Robert Geyer**, President and CEO, Sunset Automotive Group  
**Ric Gregoria**, Managing Partner, Williams Parker

**Hal Hedley, Ed.D.**, retired CEO, Child Protection Center, Inc.  
**Michael Klauber**, Restaurateur  
**Tom Knight**, President and CEO, First Step of Sarasota  
**Don and Sharon Lerner**, retired  
**David Maglich**, Attorney, Fergeson Skipper  
**Brian Mariash**, Senior VP, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith  
**Robert Meade**, CEO, Doctors Hospital  
**John Overton**, retired CEO, Pines of Sarasota, Inc.  
**Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter**, retired Pastor, Church of the Palms  
**Jeff Steinwachs**, Chairman, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**Paul Steinwachs**, Board Member, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**Sharon Steinwachs**, Board Member, Steinwachs Family Foundation  
**The Honorable Charles E. Williams**, Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit

COMMUNITY • WORK • QUALITY • FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • WELLNE







Lisa Hillje

## MEET LISA

I became an Academy member in August of 2019. When I first started attending, I had tremendous anxiety that made it difficult to stay for even an hour. But everyone was really nice and patient with me, and I started to feel more comfortable as time went on.

Early on, I spent my time in the Business & Technology team, but soon found my niche in the Culinary team. That's when I really got my confidence and comfort. Now, I arrive in the morning and stay until the work is done every day. And I really look forward to it! When I'm here, I am the Maître d' of the dining room. I've introduced some innovative ideas to make the dining room run more efficiently. I set the tables, put out fresh flowers arrangements, run food, and serve beverages. At the end of the day, I clear it all away and clean and sanitize. I take customer service really seriously, and I always make sure that all of our diners are happy. Also, the work stimulates my mind and is improving my memory.

Working at the Academy makes me feel worthy. My self-esteem has risen, and I feel caught up in the positivity of it all. I am also diagnosed with depression but coming here has made such a difference in my life. I have been stable for over a year now, which is the longest I've gone without serious mood swings; this, despite a considerable reduction of medication. I hope to be an example for people who might not understand that people with mental illness are capable of doing great things.

**“Working at the Academy makes me feel worthy.”**



Terrell Henry

## MEET TERRELL

My name is Terrell Henry and I've been a member of the Academy at Glengary since May of 2020. The thing that initially motivated me to want to become a member of the Academy was the culinary program. That was what first drew me in. I thought of it as a training program where I might get job skills. It is, but the Academy is so much more than that.

It's usually pretty hard for me trust people. I used to spend like 97% of the time alone. So I think the biggest surprise for me is that I feel like I'm part of a team that I can count on. I've learned to ask for help when I need it, and I've made genuine friends here. Having a mental illness is definitely challenging, but I'm dealing with it the best way that I can, and the Academy is there to support me. After a day at the Academy, I go home feeling charged up. The Academy has definitely opened my mind to my potential and

allowed me to really put myself out there and share my gifts without the fear of being judged.

My biggest goal is just to be a great role model to kids, and to lead with their best interest in mind. I'd like to teach literacy and get kids interested in reading.

The Academy is a helping hand to lift up my life and show me that mental illness doesn't have to be your downfall. I believe that great things are just around the corner.

**“The Academy is there to support me.”**



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(left to right) Jeffrey Jean and Idanes Paredes lead initiatives funded by the Barancik Foundation.

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Over the past 18 months, the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation has created a positive ripple effect throughout our young organization by enriching the lives of current and future members. Thanks to their generous support, we implemented an exciting new initiative to engage underserved individuals in mental health recovery, with a primary focus on young adults. Jeffrey Jean and Idanes Paredes spearheaded this initiative and expanded our reach across Manatee and Sarasota counties. We are excited to celebrate the culmination of this grant opportunity.



## TWICE AS NICE



In January of 2020, the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust launched its Matching Gift Program in an effort to inspire local residents to improve the quality of life through gifts to local nonprofit organizations. We jumped for joy when, at the beginning of 2021, they announced that they were extending this 1:1 match through 2021.

If you would like to participate in this matching gift program, please access the Flanzer Trust website and choose the Academy at Glengary from the drop-down list when making your donation. Please visit <https://flanzertrust.org/make-a-donation/>

**DONATE today and become part of the solution in mental health. Please visit:**

**AcademySRQ.org**

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## SUNRISE AT SUNSET ON THE PINES

A year ago in March, as the world seemed to come to a halt, so did our Transitional Employment (TE) program. A cornerstone of the Academy, our TE program provides opportunities for our members to gain paid job experience in an environment that is a highly supported on-site by Academy staff. After a year of uncertainty, there is reason to celebrate.



We were overjoyed when our first TE position was reinstated in February. Sunset Cadillac took safety protocols seriously, providing a safe workspace for member Rebecca Wolfson, along with Academy staff, to return to something resembling normalcy, the simple pleasure of a hard day's work! Next up are Pines of Sarasota and Sarasota Memorial Healthcare.

## GETTEL GETS US

The Gettel Foundation, drawn to our shared values, became our latest corporate sponsor. We would like to thank Gettel Automotive president Jim Gettel for his commitment to partner with us. The Gettel Foundation contributed a generous \$10,000 that was then matched 1:1 by the Toyota Corporation! This will definitely help drive our mission forward! We look forward to deepening our collaboration with his team in the coming years.



*Want to learn more?*

**The first step is to take a tour!**

Families, applicants and community providers are welcome.

To schedule a tour, or for more information, please contact 941-921-9930 or [Info@AcademySRQ.org](mailto:Info@AcademySRQ.org).

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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