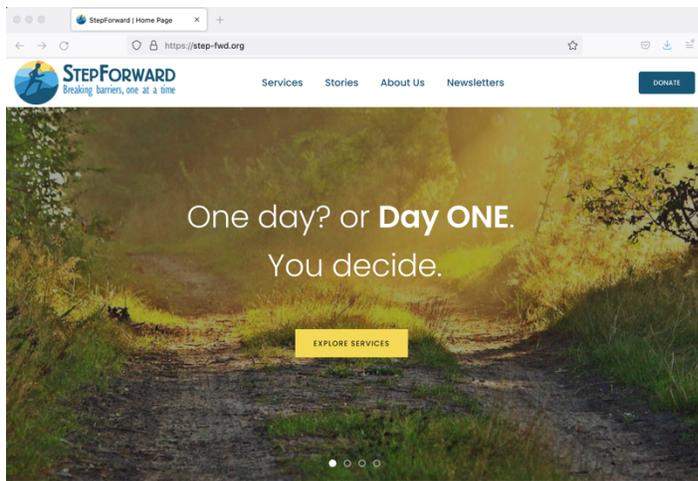




Greetings Friends and Supporters:

We are marking the completion of two years since StepForward's inception and are happy to share with you several of our own steps forward.



New Website

We have an updated and a more user-friendly website (www.step-fwd.org) with new pictures to support our name, logo, and purpose, plus a new section for client stories. It is easier to navigate and includes a lively moving acknowledgement of all our referral agencies so do check it out.

Tax Exempt Status Approved

We were recently approved as a 501(c)(3), so now donations can be made directly to StepForward (step-fwd.org) and claimed as a tax-deductible gift. In the past this was managed by a fiscal agent, Open Hands, and we are grateful to them, especially to Howard Evergreen, for performing that role up to now.

Visits to Partner Agencies

Since we depend on our referral agencies to vet clients for us, we have revisited and updated several of them on the profile of potential candidates who would benefit the most as a client of StepForward.

Recent visits have been with Amanda Key who is the PVCC (Piedmont Virginia Community College) Finance Coordinator, Carol Coffee at TJACE (Thomas Jefferson Adult Career Education), Frank Squillace at Network2Work, Ashley Barlow of the Women's Initiative, Fanny Smedile of Sin Barreras, Louisa Candelario, Kathleen Glenn-Matthews and Joy Johnson of CRHA (Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority), Whitmore Merrick of Home to Hope, and Shawn McGowan of New Hill Development who is also currently mentoring two of our clients.

PO Box 5009
Charlottesville, VA 22905

Webpage: <https://step-fwd.org/>
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Clients

Most importantly, we have welcomed 3 new clients, all with a clear vision of their life goal, and all with a number of obstacles in the way, like job changes, childcare needs, insecure housing, food insecurity, and tuition needs. One, here from South Africa, has a dream to become a nurse, and one from Honduras wants to be a Pharmacy Technician. Also, we have our first DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) client, originally from Mexico, who has set her highest purpose to be a teacher.

Meanwhile our ongoing clients are thriving, continuing to progress, but occasionally a big boost comes along. One was recently noted in Charlottesville's Daily Progress for receiving a small but substantial grant for his Black business enterprise, and another was featured in the University of Virginia Law School news, for a legal victory over oppressive limitations for those formerly incarcerated.

Finally, as always, we wish to thank all of you who have contributed to StepForward. As our list of clients with successful track records grows, we hope that will enable us to apply for grants, but for now your donations are very helpful and much appreciated.

*With Warm Regards,
Achla Marathe, Lynda Fanning, and Dana Tornabene*

Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen.
Ralph Waldo Emerson