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Spring greetings from StepForward

Even in a world that often feels uncertain and challenging, we continue to see something inspiring every day: people taking courageous steps toward new opportunities and brighter futures.

This spring, StepForward has welcomed many new clients taking steps along their paths toward educational achievement, career advancement, certification, licensure, and greater independence. We have also helped former clients reach new plateaus.

Much like this year's spectacular arrival of spring, these new clients stand out!

Their stories remind us of the resilience, determination, and hope growing throughout our community. Since last Fall, StepForward has helped clients pursue goals such as:

- Driving lessons for a mother of young children, increasing her independence and mobility.
- Career counseling for a woman navigating health challenges and a need to pivot from her once established career.
- Support for a surgical assistant beginning the path toward a nursing degree.
- Cybersecurity certification training for a client pursuing a career in IT solutions.
- Transportation assistance for multiple clients balancing classes and employment.

- Technology devices to help clients connect online, grow businesses, and strengthen English-language skills.

Current clients reaching new heights

We are equally proud of our existing clients who continue building on earlier successes:

- Two clients who first came to StepForward over four years ago recently graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA) on their paths toward becoming dentists and have secured admission in a Dental school.
- A former trainee electrician is now working toward becoming a licensed electrician.
- A client who earned her nursing degree with StepForward's support has secured a better job and is now developing strong financial management skills.
- A small business owner continues refining and expanding his vision for the future.

A client recently completed University of Virginia's four-year Facilities Management Apprenticeship Program to achieve his long-held goal of becoming a licensed electrician. This highly competitive program offers an opportunity to learn a skilled trade through a combination of on-the-job training, technical education, and classroom instruction. With StepForward's help and his own determination, he is now a licensed electrician.



Some of these clients are new neighbors who have relocated from Afghanistan, Congo, Iraq, Syria, and South Africa. Others are natives and lifelong members of the Charlottesville community. What connects them all is determination, purpose, and the willingness to keep moving forward.

To our donors

We thank you for making these steps possible. Your generosity directly supports education, opportunity, and long-term stability for individuals and

families in our community.

We also remain deeply grateful to our partner agencies for connecting us with motivated community members who have clear goals, strong potential, and temporary obstacles standing in their way.

Together, we are helping people move forward—one step at a time.

StepForward is a 501©(3) where every dollar goes directly to meeting our clients' needs.

With Warm Regards,
Achla Marathe, Lynda Fanning and MaryLewis Meador

We rise by lifting others. — Robert Ingersoll



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