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Fall greetings from StepForward

If you are receiving this newsletter, you already know StepForward's unique mission: helping members of our community who are determined to achieve a goal or purpose but face obstacles that stand in their way.

Everyone has different aspirations, circumstances, and challenges. That is why StepForward takes a personal approach with every individual. Each grant is tailored to an individual's unique story, experiences, and goals, providing support where it can make the greatest difference.

We are delighted to share a few stories and updates since our Spring newsletter. Our clients include both longtime members of our local community and individuals from around the world who have made our community their home. Many have faced significant hardships and loss but continue to work toward building a brighter future in a world that often feels uncertain and challenging.

Helping Clients Move Forward

Building a future through education and training

A recent high school graduate recovering from a family loss, turned to StepForward for help preparing a resume, securing job references, tuition fees and enrollment in the Electrical Apprenticeship Program at the Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center (CATEC). He is also enrolled at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC), where he hopes to begin a journey toward

a degree in mathematics or astronomy at the University of Virginia.

Easing the burden of transportation

Several single mothers face transportation challenges that make balancing multiple jobs and long work hours even more difficult. StepForward was able to ease some of these burdens, helping them overcome a practical obstacle to maintaining employment and supporting their families.

Supporting a mother through a difficult time

When a single mother experienced a major personal calamity, StepForward helped her refurnish her home as she worked toward reuniting with her children. This support helped her take important steps toward rebuilding stability for her family.

Pursuing a dream of becoming a nurse

Two clients who migrated from Iraq have goals of becoming nurses. StepForward is helping one with transportation and tuition fees for his classes in Richmond, while the other is receiving assistance with enrollment at PVCC and obtaining the tools needed to participate in her classes. Both are taking important steps toward their professional goals.

Keeping a dream alive through basketball

StepForward is contributing partial tuition fees toward a post high school graduate program that will help a young man pursue his dream of earning a college basketball scholarship.

Preparing for a new professional chapter

A client with a long and varied professional career, had been unable to work because of significant medical challenges. StepForward helped her prepare to reenter the workforce through a professional counseling program, supporting her efforts to begin a new chapter.

Building skills and confidence in the kitchen

StepForward sponsored Greg (pictured) to participate in Culinary Concepts' Go Cook program. Through this immersive seven-week training experience, Greg gained hands-on technical kitchen experience, industry certifications, soft skills and something equally valuable: a sense of community in the workplace and the confidence to succeed in a professional kitchen.



Growing Our Community Partnerships

We are excited to welcome two new partner agencies: Piedmont CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) and Virginia Career Works. We look forward to working with these agencies to connect more individuals with the resources and opportunities they need to move forward.

Beyond these recent stories, we continue to check in with numerous ongoing clients, cheering them on, celebrating their progress, and providing support as they work toward their goals. Every step forward matters, and we are honored to be part of their journeys.

Thank You!

To all our donors, supporters, and community partners: thank you for making this work possible. Your generosity helps people overcome obstacles that might otherwise prevent them from pursuing an education, finding meaningful employment, or building a more secure future.

StepForward is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization run without the overhead of office space, supplies, or salaries. All your contributions go directly toward helping people lighten their struggles, pursue opportunities, and move closer to achieving their goals.

With gratitude,
Achla Marathe, Lynda Fanning and MaryLewis Meador

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.
— Vincent van Gogh



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