

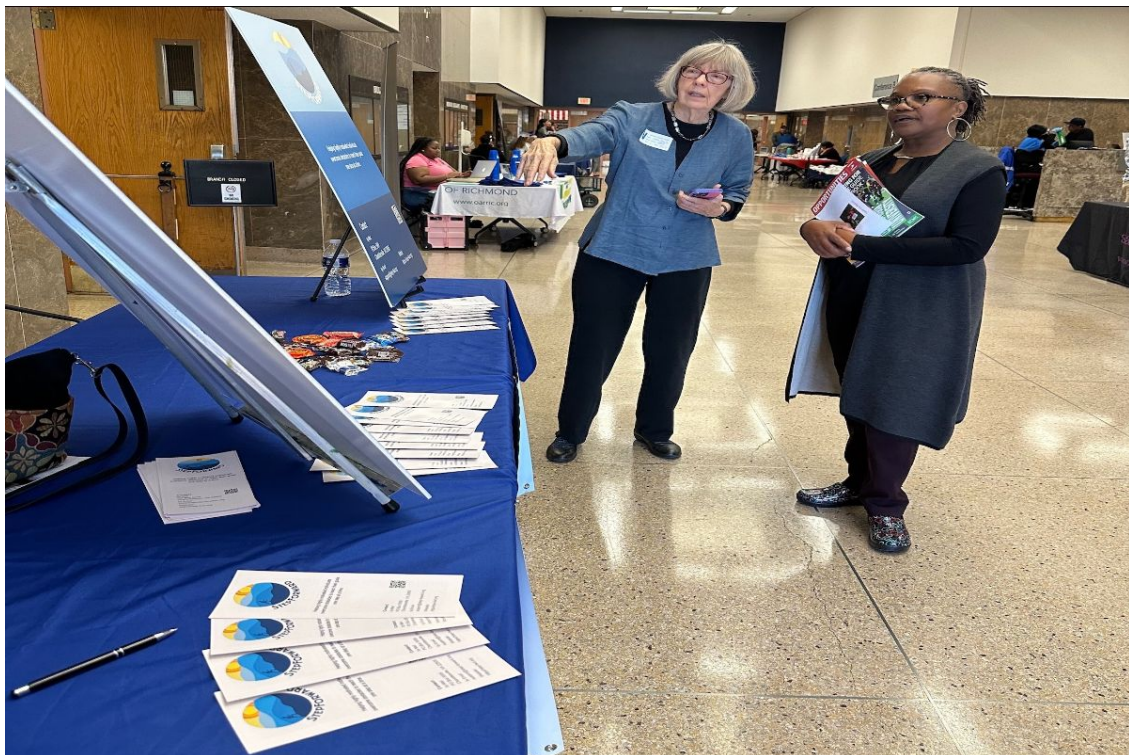


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Good News

StepForward has now been officially recognized by the CVC (Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign). This is the state's annual giving program, encouraging all state employees to make tax-free donations to one or more of 754 recognized charities.



Also, CVC holds Charity Fairs for state employees, and in early October StepForward was one of 35 charities invited to set up a display table at a Fair in Richmond. We were able to share our mission using posters and brochures that featured several of our clients who have made significant progress on their paths. Last week StepForward was invited again to exhibit at still another

Richmond Charity Fair.

Client Update

Meanwhile, here are several client updates and some new clients, each vetted and referred to us by the partner agencies listed on our website:

A mother of 3 who came to us having completed training in construction and heavy machinery, but who needed funds for special classes and for a reinstated license; she has completed all and is now on to the next steps of finding employment and transportation.

A Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) student in the US from Afghanistan, with a record of several extracurricular accomplishments, has chosen dentistry as her life goal, and StepForward has been helpful toward necessary computer equipment and tuition payments.

StepForward was able to help **a young father** who has full custody of a 6-year-old as well as a full share of obstacles, by providing childcare during her summer out of school. He has been attending PVCC in Liberal Arts, but his main goal is a UVA degree in Behavioral Neuroscience and is currently in the application process. He also has been able to use his computer skills like web development, graphic design, etc. as a source of income.

Our longest term client came to us with numerous obstacles: housing, child care, tuition, and health/anxiety issues. StepForward was able to provide help with tuition at PVCC for the Nursing degree, and various needs. Thanks to her graduating as a Nurse and passing the National Licensure Exam, she now has an excellent, well-paying job, which will make it possible for her to handle current and future obstacles.

Our Partner Agencies

Many thanks to all our partners, and we would like to give a special shout-out in this issue to **Shawn McGowen at New Hill Development**, whose expertise in business-related issues such as planning, credit, expanding customer base, having a web presence etc. has been critical to several of our clients whose dream is to start or expand their own fledgling business. Shawn is a godsend for them, even meeting weekly as needed. Moving forward, we continue to reconnect with our agencies, take on new agencies, and as a result, expand

our list of clients.

Donations

Of course we can do much more with greater funds, so as a 501©(3) we invite you to make a tax free donation if you can. If you happen to be one of the over 120,000 employees for the state of Virginia, you will be encouraged to donate via the CVC, and you may look for StepForward in their list of charities.

With Warm Regards,

Achla Marathe, Lynda Fanning, and Dana Tornabene

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. Helen Keller



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<https://step-fwd.org>

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