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StepForward Newsletter

The Premier Issue

Seep, courtesy of Leah Fanning, <http://www.fanningart.com/>

How we choose and start working with clients

We get referrals of potential clients from teachers, tutors, mentors or our partner agencies.

We meet with the reference first, assess the client's needs and our ability to help; then we engage with the client, meeting them wherever they are in life.

One requirement for the clients is to understand that they are the drivers in their journey with us.

Our service is free; we are supported by donations.

If you would like to partner with StepForward, please send an email to:

support@step-fwd.org

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

– Mary Oliver

Dear supporters and friends of StepForward,

It has been five months since our October launch of StepForward when we accepted our first client. Since then, we have networked with many Charlottesville agencies whose missions are similar, as well as with local volunteers, and we have been humbled by everyone's kind support.

In case you do not know StepForward, we are a small charitable group founded by three women in Charlottesville, seeking to help highly motivated individuals who have lifelong aspirations, goals or dreams, but who have been held back due to various roadblocks in life. Our clients are mainly referral-based from agencies with missions related to ours and with a basis for vetting. We help clients map their steps forward on the path they choose to follow, and champion them on the way. We mentor them, connect them with appropriate agencies, help finance their training, childcare, or even housing needs for a period of time, whatever they need to reach the next level.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to those of you who have made financial donations to this work, or who have provided sound advice when we really needed it, who have shared relevant experiences, or have simply given us a pat on the back. We want you to know that all forms of your generosity or support are making a real difference in people's lives.

Here are a few examples: One of our clients is pursuing his dream of becoming a licensed electrician while working full time as a custodian. What was holding him back was the cost of dependable childcare for his children during his weekly evening class, and with your help we are able to provide this expense until he completes the program next year. Another client has not worked in over a decade due to multiple challenges, but with StepForward's support she has committed to a reputable training program of her choice. This will lead to not only self-sufficiency but to more meaningful lifework. Still another client is facing challenging circumstances on multiple fronts while pursuing her Associate degree. We are working on pulling together her issues of housing, ongoing classes, part-time work, and childcare.

We believe you would be proud to know how your support has been used. Please keep us in your good wishes and share our information. Thank you for your support.

With Warm Regards,
Sunny Choi, Lynda Fanning and Achla Marathe,
Co-founders of StepForward

StepForward

where every dream gets a chance

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Email: support@step-fwd.org

TO:

StepForward is on the Web

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

We are under the umbrella of Open Hands. The donations you make to StepForward through Open Hands are tax deductible. Please look for us at <https://openhands.avenue.org/>



One of the most profound joys of my own life is personally connecting, one on one, with others on this human journey. It's such a rich opportunity to listen fully and from the heart, and to learn from each other. So at this time in our current world of widespread separation, it is especially gratifying to be a part of StepForward, with its mission to connect with and offer real help to real individual people who face real difficulties. Hopefully each connection we make will translate forward, so that those who progress on their journey with us will also connect with and inspire others.

- Lynda Fanning, Co-founder, StepForward
