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Greetings Friends and Supporters!

As we approach our 2.5 year mark, we have welcomed several new clients pursuing various life goals, while a number of ongoing clients continue to make progress on their paths.

Our support ranges from connecting them with various experts or resources, to accompanying them as needed to fulfill their next steps, to just simply keeping in touch, caring and encouraging as they make strides towards their goals.

We continue to fine-tune our website and to stay connected with our referral agencies: most recently Charlottesville Redevelopment Housing Authority, Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC), The Women's Initiative, Home to Hope, New Hill Development Corporation, and others.

New Clients

In the past few months our new clients have included:

- A young woman from Afghanistan who aspires to be a dentist and who has been accepted into the program at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).
- A young man who is working at a fairly new job doing street repair with heavy machinery, and with his strong motivation has already become a foreman. He has also been asked to teach a work-skills course at PVCC that requires significant credentials. His ultimate dream is to successfully launch a career in real estate development.

- We have welcomed another client who has also become certified in road construction/driving heavy machinery; yes, atypical since she is a woman, but she is standing strong, and tackling various obstacles on the way, such as appropriate licensure.
- A young artist who wants to be an Art Therapist has just completed her first semester of graduate school at Georgetown University, during which she has already received a distinctive award! She is highly motivated to serve the health-related needs of her community through art therapy, and also highlight the various types of unique art in Mexican culture.



Featured Story

We accepted Whitmore Merrick as a client last year after recognizing a high level of motivation for his goal: building, running, and expanding his already launched business of winery tours, ***Adventures with Merrick***. For the tours, he uses a comfy and homey van, which needed repairs and improvements. He also needed to have a website (<https://merrickadventuresllc.com/>) for his business rather than just a Yelp presence. Now in order to expand to other kinds of services and improve reliability of winery tours, he needs to meet the challenge of procuring a second vehicle.

However, Whitmore’s overall motivation extends well beyond this personal dream, to his desire to fulfill community needs. His job is co-leading the non-profit “Home to Hope”, one of our referral agencies, which addresses the many challenges of those returning from incarceration, including resources, peer support, and advocating for fairness. Beyond this work he creates podcasts, where he addresses timely subjects such as fathering (he also has 3 children); has a strong connection with “Real Dads”, part of *ReadyKids* in Charlottesville, as well as other concerns/needs of those newly returning home after serving their time. He has also worked with the UVA School of Law to address injustice by regaining basic legal rights for these returning citizens.



Matching Donation Offer

Working with these clients is very gratifying, and we deeply thank you for all donations whether one-time or monthly.

For the first time this month we have an offer to match any donation up to \$3000, so if you are moved to help clients like these reach their goals, this is the best time to make a contribution, as you would be doubling your impact. This offer stands until July 31, 2023. Again, our deepest thanks to all.

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

It's not what you say to everyone else that determines your life; it's what you whisper to yourself that has the greatest power. Robert T Kiyosaki



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