

# The Gratitude Report

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## Circle of Hope 2022

*A record-breaking year!*



Thanks to you, we raised \$180,000 at this year's 21st Annual Circle of Hope Awards Dinner. Together, at last, more than 350 community members joined us on October 26, 2022, at The Westin to honor our clients' successes and achievements and recognize the incredible support of our volunteers, employer partners and community leaders.

We are humbled by how many of you gave back, stepped forward, and answered our call to support job-seeking women and men in our community. We feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such a powerful group of supporters and friends.

Your silent auction bids, raffle entries, ticket purchases and donations big and small will enable a critical step on a woman's path to meaningful and sustainable employment. Check out photos from this year's event and a full list of our generous sponsors at [www.pawomenwork.org/circle-of-hope-2022](http://www.pawomenwork.org/circle-of-hope-2022).

Take a look at the infographic on this page to see how your involvement, support and dollars will be put to work to help more job-seekers achieve their goals. Without you, our work is not possible - thank you!

Here's what your gifts from Circle of Hope can make possible this year:



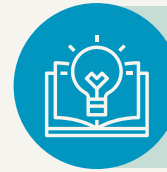
556 hours of one-on-one career coaching



40 life-changing mentorships



Direct client support with haircuts, bus passes, and attire.



24 professional development classes



2 one-day sessions to build resume and interview techniques



18 career workshops



# Taking her life back - *Christina's story*



Becoming a mom at a young age, Christina Gremba battled a series of challenges. She dropped out of high school, and her life began to spiral.

"It wasn't so much having a child that I couldn't work. It was the choices I was making, the bad relationships that were leading to instability and living in shelters. When home life is not stable, it makes it hard to keep a job," Christina shared. "But during all of this, I wanted to be a good mom. I loved being a mom. I just wasn't because of the emotional things going on and the things I needed to work through."

Thanks to caring supporters, friends and organizations along the way, Christina decided to take her life back and worked to build a stable future for herself and her two daughters. She completed her GED and Associate's Degree. Following graduation, she discovered Pennsylvania Women Work and signed up for New Choices.

"I learned a lot of things that I did not know. I learned about mindfulness, how to interact on a professional level, and how to apply for jobs," Christina said.

After completing the program, Christina found employment she enjoys, but she wanted even more. Now a 36-year-old mom of two teens, Christina is working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh with support from a PA Women Work scholarship and plans to use her degree to help young mothers and teens.

"It's almost unbelievable. I can't believe I'm really doing this. I'm just so grateful," Christina said.

Christina received one of this year's Client Empowerment Awards at Circle of Hope. Watch Christina share her story by visiting [www.pawomenwork.org/success-stories](http://www.pawomenwork.org/success-stories).



## Get involved!

Feeling inspired after Circle of Hope? We have more events coming this spring, and we need your help! Sign up to join our event committees for a 3 Cups of Coffee breakfast and a spring bingo event (more details to come)!

To join an event committee, or learn more about volunteering, contact Development Director Lauren Riegelneegg at [lriegelneegg@pawomenwork.org](mailto:lriegelneegg@pawomenwork.org)

## Stay in touch

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## Donor spotlight: *Stephanie Simmons*



Stephanie Simmons, Cyber Security Manager and Portfolio Manager at Accenture, recognizes the hurdles women go through to advance in the workplace. She sees it as her mission to share her knowledge and mentor young women. "I didn't have a 'me' when I was coming up in my career," said Stephanie. "I'm now in a position to let younger women benefit from my experience and make sure there are women ready to take over when I retire."

She believes that a key component in achieving workplace equity is having more women join the workforce and climb the ladder. "Getting more women working is one step in the fight for equality."

When Stephanie discovered Pennsylvania Women Work, she found an organization that aligned perfectly with both her professional and philanthropic goals and was inspired to become a 3 Cups of Coffee mentor and donor: "I hope we as women always reach one and teach one," said Stephanie. "Once you become successful your job is to reach back and teach someone else to pull them forward."

Recently, Stephanie joined us at Circle of Hope and graciously purchased a table to invite PA Women Work clients to attend. We are humbled by Stephanie's continued generosity and thankful for her involvement with our organization as a mentor and donor.