

FALL NEWS FLASH
PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK

Thought Leadership Blog



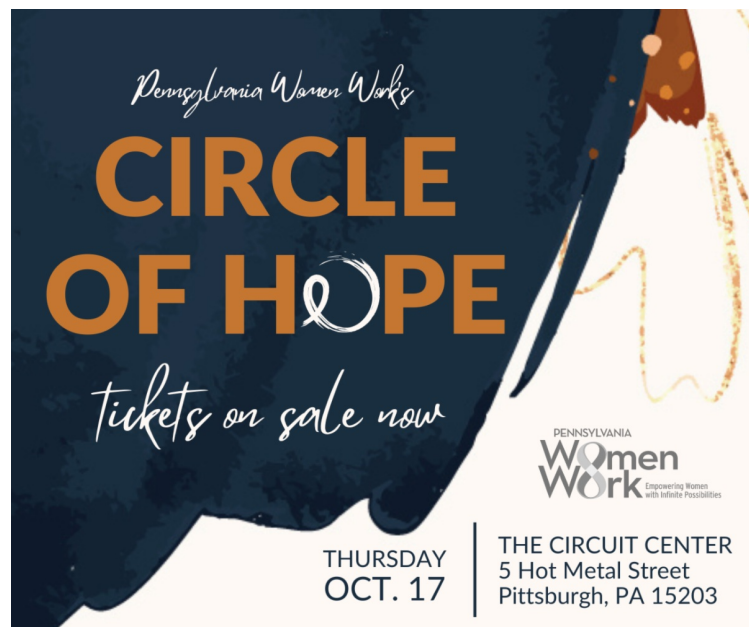
Learn best practices to strengthen your budget in our newest [thought leadership blog](#), by Yalanda Wells.

Empowerment in the Workplace



Get empowered to advance in your career and overcome

Celebrating women's leadership at Circle of Hope



Join us on October 17 at The Circuit Center for Pennsylvania Women Work's 23rd Annual Circle of Hope Awards Dinner to celebrate what we can achieve when women lead.

"As an attendee at Circle of Hope last year, I watched the Empowerment Awardees receive their awards and was so inspired. I can't believe that this year, I get to be one of those women. I get to tell my story to inspire others," Shana Williams, one of this year's Empowerment Awardees, said.

During this celebration, we will come together to honor our clients' successes and achievements and recognize the incredible support of our community, volunteers, employer partners and leaders. The evening will include a lively awards presentation, silent auction, games and raffles, and opportunities to network and mingle with colleagues

challenges in the workplace.

Empowerment in the Workplace (EIW) is designed to give professional women tools to overcome workplace challenges and maximize their impact. EIW is a full day of interactive classroom time, plus a panel discussion with women leaders.

[Register now:](#)

Saturday, October 5
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Volunteer Needs

We're currently looking for mentors with the following backgrounds:

- Graphic Design
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Data Analytics
- Housing and Human Services
- Social Work
- Writing (fiction and technical)
- Communications and Marketing

To sign up to become a mentor, [please fill out our volunteer form.](#)

Upcoming classes



[New Choices:](#)

September 23 - 27

and friends.

[Individual tickets and tables are on sale now through September 30.](#) We hope to see you there!

Thank you to our event sponsors: PNC Bank, UPMC & UPMC Health Plan, KeyBank, ABARTA Coca-Cola, Howmet Aerospace, American Eagle Outfitters, Eaton, Heritage Wealth Advisors, Ernst & Young LLP, and many others. To learn more about becoming a Circle of Hope sponsor, contact Brooke Fussner at bfussner@pawomenwork.org.

Nearly 200 new Americans served last year



Living in a new country is intimidating and presents unique challenges...especially when trying to get settled and find employment.

"The job search process is frustrating and confusing enough, but add language, cultural, or technology challenges many

immigrants face and finding employment seems impossible. That's where we come in to assist clients to bridge those gaps," said Kristen Tsapis, program manager at PA Women Work.

Our [Refugee and Immigrant Services for Employment \(RISE\)](#) program supports new Americans with intensive, one-on-one career coaching. With assistance from a PA Women Work career coach, job-seekers gain connections to employers and paid training providers, assistance transferring credentials, support navigating and understanding the job application process, along with guidance to determine the best career path for them.

"We take the time to truly understand each client's story and work as a team to think of creative ways to serve each client and meet their needs. Whether the client needs assistance filling out a job application, going on an interview, or many times just a listening ear, our coaches respond appropriately to those needs," said Hilda Valdespino, program manager at PA Women Work.

Last year, more than 170 foreign-born adults received career coaching assistance through the RISE program. More than 70% of those participants found employment.

The RISE program is available to any new American with work authorization and English speaking skills. To learn more about our RISE program, [click here.](#)

This program is generously funded by the Marinus and Minna B. Koster Foundation, PNC Foundation, FedEx Corporation, the Howard

6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

October 7 - 11
9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

October 21 - 25
6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

November 4 - 8
9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Career Kick-Start:

September 20
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Communicating for Success:

September 21
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Empowerment in the Workplace:

October 5
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Client Support Services

Already a current or former PA Women Work client? You're eligible to [participate in the following opportunities](#) to help continue on your path to success.

A Closer Look

October 15
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Mindful Connections

September 25
October 2
October 9
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Financial Wellness

October 30
November 6
November 13
November 20
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Power Up Connections

December 6
8:30-10:30 a.m.

[If you're a current client, sign up for the above client services here.](#)

& Nell E. Miller Foundation, and individual donors.

Finding his way in America: *Celestin's story*



After 20 years living as refugees in Uganda, Celestin Lukalo and his family were notified they would be moving to the United States.

"When we found out we were going to America, we were so excited," said Celestin. "We thought 'everything is easy in America'...but that wasn't the case."

Once in Pittsburgh, Celestin struggled to find meaningful work that met his financial needs.

"I was really stressed," said Celestin. "I didn't know what to do, but then we met Ms. Kristen and PA Women Work."

Working with Kristen Tsapis, RISE Program Manager, Celestin defined his career goals and applied for the Service Tech Apprentice Program, a paid training program through UPMC.

"PA Women Work helped me get my driver's license, and Ms. Kristen worked with me and UPMC to get my school certificate from Uganda in time to begin the program," explained Celestin.

Celestin started the four-year paid program in January 2024 and is thriving. He is excited to continue his education with an engineering certificate after he completes the program.

PA Women Work continues to stay connected with Celestin and his family.

"Ms. Kristen helped my sister get a job at Mercy Hospital, and my cousin a job at Shadyside," said Celestin. "Without PA Women Work and Ms. Kristen, we don't know where we'd be. PA Women Work has been our guardian angel in Pittsburgh."

Volunteers step up during a busy time of year

Thank you, funders!



Thank you to our supporter, FirstEnergy Foundation. FirstEnergy Foundation is a key partner in expanding PA Women Work programs and offerings beyond Allegheny County and into Westmoreland County. With their support, we now have the resources to connect with more job-seekers and support more women in achieving their professional goals.

Thank you, FirstEnergy Foundation, for your continued generosity and partnership.



Late summer is a very busy time here at PA Women Work with our fall fundraiser, Circle of Hope, just around the corner. All this extra work warrants some big “thank yous” to the volunteers who help us lift the additional load.

Thank you PNC volunteers for your support in mailing out both the Gratitude Report and the Circle of Hope silent auction letters. Your dedication - and exquisite penmanship - enabled us to connect and engage with more donors.

Thank you EQT volunteers for your help in packing over 100 backpacks with school supplies for our clients’ families. The start of school can be a very stressful time for families as they navigate back to school shopping lists. Through your efforts, we were able to meet the needs of our clients and continue supporting our incredible community in achieving their goals.

We are so grateful for all our amazing volunteers - thank you!

Pennsylvania Women Work
5607 Baum Boulevard, Suite 333
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-742-4362
Email: info@pawomenwork.org
Web: www.pawomenwork.org



Pennsylvania Women Work | 5607 Baum Boulevard Suite 333 | Pittsburgh, PA 15206 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!