

The Gratitude Report

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Celebrating your impact at this year's Circle of Hope



Thanks to our generous community, we raised more than \$145,000 at the 23rd Annual Circle of Hope Awards Dinner. More than 350 friends and supporters joined us on October 17 at The Circuit Center. During this year's event, we shared inspiring stories and honored our clients' achievements, and we recognized the critical support of our volunteers, employer partners and community leaders.

We are grateful for how many of you answered our call to support job-seeking women and individuals in our community. We feel incredibly humbled by the outpouring of generosity. This year's silent auction was record breaking - thanks to your participation and support. Every bid placed, raffle ticket purchased, and donation given will enable a critical step on a woman's path to meaningful and sustainable employment.

Thank you to all who came out to help us celebrate what we can achieve "when women lead."

A special thank you to our Executive Level Sponsor, PNC Bank, for their support of this year's event. You can find photos from this year's event on our Facebook page, and a full list of sponsors at www.pawomenwork.org.

Your gifts at work *Employment & Economic Stability*

As enrollment in our programs has grown, so too has our clients' need for wrap-around support. Many of the individuals we serve encounter various obstacles on their journey to employment, ranging from transportation limitations to a lack of professional attire.

Last year, generous support from donors and local foundations allowed us to provide additional basic needs support, such as helping job-seekers secure transportation to a job or interview, pay for professional attire, or even cover groceries while they await their first paycheck.

113

participants received transportation assistance through our Bus Pass program.



\$4,000

in scholarship money was awarded to graduates of our programs to assist in their continued education.

\$1,650

was given to participants to purchase new professional attire to feel confident for their new jobs or interviews.



Starting over and finding success: Charis's story



After recovering from Covid, Charis faced health complications that led to her needing to leave her job of 18 years as a math teacher. As a single mom, she began her job search and landed a new position rather quickly. However, although Charis liked the new job, she wasn't making enough money to support her family's needs.

"I worked hard to keep things going for my daughter, but I was really struggling. We have a great support system, but at the end of the day, it's just her and me, and I knew something needed to change," Charis said.

Charis learned about Pennsylvania Women Work, where her Career Coach recommended 3 Cups of Coffee. Prior to her first meeting with her mentor, Charis actually landed a job interview that excited her, so she and her mentor worked together to strengthen her interview skills and prepare. After receiving a job offer, Charis's mentor coached her on negotiation tactics that increased her confidence. "I wouldn't have had the confidence to ask for what I needed without my mentor. I didn't back down when it came to that job offer, thanks to her support," Charis said.

Charis is now in a job she loves that meets her financial and personal needs. Charis and her mentor used their third meeting to celebrate her new position and discuss the next steps for her career.

Save the dates!

Meet & Mingle Breakfast
Thurs., Feb. 20, 8-10 a.m.
The LeMont Restaurant

PA Women Work's Meet and Mingle Breakfast serves as an opportunity for our 3 Cups of Coffee mentors, mentees and supporters to come together to celebrate the power of mentorship.

Working 9-to-5 Bingo
Thurs., May 8, 7-9:30 p.m.

The Priory Grand Hall
Mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Working 9-to-5 Bingo. This highly anticipated event is a blast from the past with 70s themed music, outfits and activities.

Stay in touch

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Donor Spotlight: Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson



After Vanessa's husband passed away in 2012, she needed to support herself and her four daughters. She put herself through college, earning a B.A. in Government Affairs, while working full-time and caring for her children.

As Vanessa was about to graduate, she came across an ad for PA Women Work's 3 Cups of Coffee program, and decided to enroll. "My mentor helped me focus on where I wanted to go and helped me work through the issues I was having applying for jobs," Vanessa shared.

During her mentorship, Vanessa landed a job as a city manager and was able to provide for her family. However, in 2022 she was laid off and again found herself uncertain about her next steps.

Vanessa came back to PA Women Work, this time enrolling in New Choices. With the help of her class facilitator, Vanessa explored the many career possibilities her degree and experience afforded her. "New Choices helped me evaluate who I was. The class gave me the confidence to apply for a job that I previously would have thought was out of reach," she said.

Vanessa is now employed at Olympus Energy in a job she loves. Her experience with PA Women Work has come full circle. Vanessa recently represented her company at our Power Up Connections networking event, and she gives back to help others as a monthly giver through our Coffee Club. "I am where I am today because of PA Women Work. I'm so happy to be able to give back."