

## SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

### CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – CHRISTOPHER GREEN

When describing his new home, Christopher Green’s smile becomes radiant. “I have a big backyard, spacious, quiet. It’s a three-bedroom rancher. ... When I found this place, it was everything I hoped for.” He describes the moment he got the keys by simply saying: “*Life is so amazing.*”

But the road to this place and this moment in time, he admits, has not been easy. In 2013 when he returned home, he struggled to find meaningful work, experienced homelessness, confronted job insecurity, and found difficulty maintaining sobriety. He knows that the heavy weight of his past could have defined him. But Christopher was determined to overcome that narrative. Today, he is a community organizer, mentor, artist and author who uses his lived experience to uplift others.

In early 2025, he released his first book called **Gorilla: The Manifesting of Rashad – The Awakening**. His powerful memoir chronicles his journey, “...from a gifted youth, through years of addiction and incarceration. In the face of structural barriers, Christopher transforms his life, reclaims his fatherhood and family, all the while finding redemption in serving communities resisting oppression and marginalization.”

Christopher had heard about The Fountain Fund through his extensive community work, but it wasn’t until 2021, when he found himself in need of a vehicle, that he applied for a \$12,000 loan. He recalls with gratitude, the team is always supportive and helpful. This has proven especially true when it comes to bolstering his knowledge of financial empowerment and improving his understanding of credit.

In fact, when Jeffrey Beacham, Loan Assets Specialist, contacted him earlier this year to let him know his auto loan was nearly repaid, Christopher updated our team about his new home! Jeff was thrilled to hear the news. He recalls, “I walked Christopher through how mortgage interest works, how even small extra principal payments can help him pay down faster, and the long-term value of a mortgage.”

Part of what makes Christopher’s journey truly inspirational is that his victories are not held close—they are shared. He demonstrates that opportunity is not only something we find; it is something we create—and then make reachable for others. In the life he is building, future generations inherit more than a house or a name. They inherit a model of courage, accountability, and hope—evidence that transformation is possible, and that one person’s resilience can become a bridge for many.



*After buying his first home, Christopher told his children, “This is your house.” He told his grandchildren, “You can go to school and tell them your pop-pop bought a house for you.”*

### THOMAS MUNDY JOINS THE RICHMOND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

We’re pleased to announce that **Tom Mundy, Richmond Site Director**, was recently appointed by the Richmond City Council to serve on the **Richmond Human Rights Commission**. The goal of this 13-member commission is to advise the City Council and the Mayor on matters involving human rights violations occurring in Richmond. The commission, “Seeks to protect individuals from unlawful discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, national origin, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, transgender status or gender identity.” Tom’s invitation to join the commission is a testament to his leadership and his commitment to safeguarding the rights of all citizens. Congratulations, Tom!



## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – FOUNTAIN FUND TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL CBA SUMMIT

The Fountain Fund is excited to share the news that the **Credit Builders Alliance** has invited our team to present at their national summit this June! Through a dynamic, facilitated conversation, our lending leaders Shantel Hopkins (Director of Lending), Sankofa Alkebu-Lan (Loan Operations Specialist), and Jeffrey Beacham (Loan Assets Specialist) will explore how credit can serve as a tool for elevation for the formerly incarcerated. The session will examine how lending systems can honor dignity while still meeting expectations around risk, sustainability, and performance, ultimately helping individuals move beyond barriers toward a future that is “cleared for takeoff.”

Facilitated by Shantel in a fireside chat format, the conversation will go beyond theory to offer a transparent, real-world view of how credit building can lead to economic growth and financial stability for vulnerable populations. The session will highlight the importance of turning a systemic “No” into a life-changing “Yes.”



Sankofa Alkebu-Lan (left), Jeff Beacham (right), and Shantel Hopkins are excited to share their hard-earned wisdom at this year’s CBA Summit taking place June 10-12, 2026, in Arlington, Virginia.

## RICHMOND OFFICE CELEBRATES \$1M MILESTONE IN LENDING!

On April 22, 2026, our Richmond office hosted a festive reception to celebrate surpassing the \$1M milestone in lending! Client Partners, program partners, philanthropists, board members and staff gathered to enjoy delicious catering provided by Client Partner **Charde’s Kitchen** and an inspiring program of diverse voices. Guests learned more about our agency’s impact, heard powerful testimonials, and helped raise funds in support of our mission.

This celebration coincided with **Second Chance Month**. Observed nationally since 2017, Second Chance Month raises awareness about the challenges faced by justice-impacted individuals while reducing stigma and expanding opportunities for successful reentry. Events are held across the nation to highlight the systemic barriers that impact millions of individuals and families and encourage communities to create pathways so people can thrive.



Speakers gather on stage. Left to right: John Carrington, Tajaddin Daily, Charde Crockett, Rainey Niklawski, Rodney Boshier, Tim Heaphy and Tom Mundy.

## RICHMOND FACTS

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- 100% “Report achieving their self-determined goals.”
- 100% “Have hope for the future.”
- 97% “Have an improved understanding of credit.”

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- “My son was so proud of me. He told me later that he was really in tears.”
- “Building my credit with your support has opened doors for me, giving me stability and opportunities I didn’t have before. Beyond myself, this growth allows me to better serve my community, showing others that recovery and change are possible.”

### TOTAL LENDING

As of February 28, 2026, Richmond’s total lending included 178 loans valued at \$1,068,726!



Inspiring things are happening at all of our sites. Scan here to learn more!

## CONTACT US



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SUPPORTING CLIENT PARTNERS AS THEY  
ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS  
IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

### EXAMPLES OF LOANS:

- Business Equipment
- Housing
- Obtain a Driver’s License
- Vehicle Repair & Purchase
- Tuition

**OTHER SERVICES:** Financial education, housing referrals, and links to other services.