



RICHMOND

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – RODNEY BOSHER

It's clear in conversation with Rodney Boshier, that he moves with a giving heart. Wanting to contribute. Wanting to connect. Wanting to give back.

Yet time and time again, upon returning home, employment opportunities were hindered by background checks that resulted in disqualification. The process was discouraging, and yet Rodney persevered.

A potential job as a Lived Experience Expert with the Help Me Help You Foundation felt promising and perfectly aligned. Especially because their primary goal is to reduce jail/prison recidivism and improve public safety by addressing the needs of returning citizens! But to secure the position, Rodney would need reliable transportation. And buying a car? That felt almost impossible.

That's when his counselor told him about the Fountain Fund and everything started falling into place. Shares Rodney, "Tom was like a big brother to me. He was there, step by step. Always trying to help me and push me forward. To make sure I got the loan." He continues, "They don't judge your past, they're willing to give you an opportunity and a chance."

Rodney says the loan has been instrumental. Now he visits clients, checks in on their mental health, supports them if they have doctor's appointments, and more. He also runs a reentry house, connecting people with jobs and encouraging them to, "save their money and get themselves together ... so they can continue along this path and do right."

Rodney acknowledges that it's often difficult for the previously incarcerated to trust others. Sometimes it's hard for him, too. But his experience with the Fountain Fund shifted his perspective. For those who feel unsure, he offers this, "I've learned to believe. When I took a chance on this, you know, it changed my view on a lot of different things. The help is there. ... They will help you, they understand your situation, and if you're struggling, just trust and try."



Rodney Boshier brings support and care to others.

RICHMOND FACTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

97% "Achieved better financial stability."

100% "Achieved primary loan goal."

97% "Transformed life for the better."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was able to devote a place to live for myself and my children. I can now better pursue my goals."

"The loan gave me a head start to get back on my feet. Also, paying the loan back in increments is helping my credit. Overall, it's a win win!"

"I was able to stabilize my finances by reopening my business."

ACTIVE LOAN PORTFOLIO

As of October 31, 2024,

Richmond's active loan portfolio included 67 loans valued at nearly \$305,426.



To visit our website and find out more, scan here!

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – RAM MOTORS

For many Client Partners, securing reliable transportation is a top priority. Employers often demand that job seekers have it, and family members often depend on it.

As one CP shared, “Having a car gave me access to employment.” For another it meant creating safety for their kids getting to school. And for another, it means supporting a spouse with sickle cell anemia. Access to a vehicle, he explains, “...helps with her medical needs and limits family stress.”

For this reason, Tom Mundy, Director of Client & Community Engagement in Richmond, considers RAM Motors to be one of his strongest partnerships. He shares, “Finding a reliable, affordable car in today’s market, with inflation is challenging.” Because Fountain Fund vehicles must adhere to certain specifications, locating the right car can be even more complex.

To address this, RAM Motors specifically stocks vehicles that meet our guidelines. They also provide “free” 6-month warranties for our CPs, which brings extra peace of mind without added cost. “Having been in business for over a decade, they are a community staple.” Tom continues, “And they go above and beyond to make the buyer experience a good one.” Thank you, RAM Motors, for helping our Client Partners achieve their goals, one vehicle at a time.



NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – THREE MILLION AND COUNTING!

Taking time to celebrate life’s milestones is an important ingredient to success. It creates an opportunity to pause and reflect, not only upon how far one has traveled but also upon the relationships that have been formed along the way.

In that spirit, the Fountain Fund is excited to mark another major milestone. Earlier this fall, we crossed the threshold of distributing \$3.4M in loans, nearly \$1.6M of which has already been recycled! This includes 736 loans for 607 returning citizens.

Behind every low-interest loan is an inspiring Client Partner who has paid off fines and fees, secured transportation, landed a job, gotten an apartment, enrolled in classes, or maybe even opened a new business. And every time someone repays their loan, those recycled dollars become a window of opportunity for the next person who is rebuilding their life.



Paul Yates, National Director of Economic Empowerment, meets with a Client Partner to discuss business options and finalize loan documentation.

CONTACT US IN RICHMOND



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EXAMPLES OF LOANS IN RICHMOND

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

OTHER SERVICES

- Financial Literacy Trainings
- Housing Referrals
- Links to other Reentry Services

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