

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – JONATHAN METCALF

When you look up “Turn a Wrench” in the Urban Dictionary, you might just find **Jonathan Metcalf’s** name... because he’s the very definition of a mechanic who is hands on, hard-working, and gets down to business when it comes to making cars hum.

Ever since returning home, his determination to build a fulfilling career as a mechanic has been reflected in his commitment to his craft and the creative ways he has overcome financial hurdles. Starting out, the cost of essential tools and training loomed large. The Fountain Fund became a lifeline, providing crucial loans that enabled him to purchase expensive equipment and grow his small business.

He shares, “From the moment they started helping me, the bad stuff just kind of faded out of my lifestyle completely. And that’s a big thing.” His experiences with the Fountain Fund staff, particularly Paul and Tez, nurtured his self-confidence, encouraged him to stay positive and inspired him to push through adversity.

With the successful repayment of each loan, Jonathan proved his reliability and steadily built a reputation for integrity and dedication. The support he received not only improved his business but also empowered him to give back to others, including work with **United Way** and **Network2Work**, helping clients with affordable repairs and installations.

“We all run into situations where we need something, it’s just that in certain fields, the way things are priced are just completely unrealistic and unreal.” He continues, “Most people can’t afford the bills to put in a motor or transmission. I can offer a solution to stuff like that. ... Oftentimes it’s that repair that’s going to allow someone to maintain their livelihood.”

Jonathan’s story is one of hope, resilience, and pay-it-forward generosity, illustrating how perseverance can transform not just one individual but entire communities.



*Jonathan Metcalf...
working hard, caring for family and
supporting others along the way.*



*Looking for a top-notch mechanic?
Call 434.235.3932.*

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS: \$1M GIFT FROM BAMA WORKS FUELS OPPORTUNITY

The **Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band** recently announced a catalytic, \$1 million grant in support of our agency. A quarter of this generous, 5-year donation will support operations, while the remaining \$750,000 will be dedicated to the Charlottesville loan fund. Thanks to our loan fund’s average recycle rate of 80% every four years, this gift will enable an astonishing \$2.5 million in lending over the next 20 years! Most importantly, their transformational gift will bring upward economic mobility to 500+ returning citizens who call Charlottesville home. “Bama Works has already improved the lives of countless people,” says Erika Viccellio, Fountain Fund executive director. “We are grateful for this recoverable grant, which creates opportunities that will strengthen our community for many years to come.” **Thank you Dave Matthews Band!** Your music and generosity transform our world.



OUR MISSION

The Fountain Fund increases economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people to improve their lives and remain in their communities.

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – NETWORK2WORK

Network2Work@PVCC is an integral partner in our efforts to support returning citizens. This workforce program connects job seekers in Charlottesville and the surrounding counties with the training and resources they need to secure and excel in meaningful employment. So, when individuals approach The Fountain Fund for a loan but are not yet employed, Network2Work is the first place we turn! Their innovative program stands out by intentionally recruiting individuals facing economic insecurity through trusted community “Connectors.” This holistic approach ensures job seekers receive not just job placements, but the comprehensive support – such as childcare, transportation and access to training - needed to succeed. By developing strong relationships with regional employers and vouching for job-ready candidates, the program reduces hiring risks and improves outcomes for both job seekers and businesses. Referrals between our two agencies prepare Client Partners for success now and in the future.



THE FOUNTAIN FUND CELEBRATES \$5M MILESTONE

We are proud to report that our agency recently surpassed the \$5 million mark in lending!

We believe that everyone we help stand strong is one less person caught in the cycle of a broken system. That's REAL recidivism prevention.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER IN LOS ANGELES



Homeboy Dre Comers with team members Tom Mundy (far left), Martize Tolbert (far right) and supporter Chris Little (right center).

In late summer, a generous donor sponsored two Fountain Fund team members' attendance at the **2025 Global Homeboy Network Gathering**. This annual conference brings together organizations from across the United States and around the globe to share knowledge and explore ways that elements of the Homeboy Industries model might strengthen their own agency's impact.

Event attendees traveled from 7 nations, 37 states and 101 cities! An engaging array of breakout sessions and compelling speakers offered vital reminders of the power of empathy in our shared work to address social inequity and injustice.

Homeboy Industries is the largest gang rehabilitation and reentry program in the world.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FACTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

98% felt supported by the Fountain Fund
97% were able to better support their families
94% reported achieving better financial stability

TOTAL LENDING

As of October 31, 2025, Charlottesville's total lending included 566 loans valued at \$2,436,515.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Being stable allows me to continue to work and be productive within Charlottesville where I’ve now resided going on 10 years. I am super grateful to the whole team.”

GROWING STRONG

We're excited to welcome **Stephanie Conteh**, **Business Loan Administrator** to our Lending Team!

CONTACT US IN CHARLOTTESVILLE



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EXAMPLES OF LOANS

- Business Equipment
- Secure Housing
- Obtain a Driver's License
- Auto Loans & Vehicle Repair
- Court Costs & Fees
- DMV Fines & Fees



Scan to learn more!