THE FOUNTAIN FUND

RICHMOND SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – KAREN GRANT

Whenever the Fountain Fund approves a loan, one of our greatest hopes is that it will create upward economic mobility and new opportunities – now and in the future – for the individuals we serve.

Has Karen Grant's life trajectory been improved because of her car loan? She answers with an unequivocal and enthusiastic, "Yes! One hundred percent!!!" She adds, "The loan is helping me follow-through on my personal intentions, one of which is building credit. My credit had fallen off for nearly eight years. Today, I'm turning that all around."

Karen's new car has also helped her elevate in her role as project coordinator with Recovery Corps at REAL LIFE. Each day, she shares her hard-earned wisdom with others, many of whom have been previously incarcerated and are struggling to overcome substance use and mental health disorders.

In her multifaceted role, Karen works with 80+ clients: leading support groups, helping individuals navigate programs, conducting follow-ups, and staying connected with alumni to make sure they are staying true to their recovery.

Karen Grant supports others on their recovery journey. An auto loan from the Fountain Fund is helping her thrive... personally and professionally!

When asked to describe three of the most important tools to success on her own journey, Karen pauses for a moment to reflect and then shares: ***Accountability. Responsibility. Consistency***.

She remarks, "One of the things that often comes with addiction is that there are no borders. No boundaries. No rules." By using these tools as building blocks for a new life one begins to break the chain and set the stage for healing. Karen has over three and a half years of sobriety. Recovery, she will tell you, starts with small steps that lead to big change.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – SHARING THE STAGE WITH BRYAN STEVENSON

Martize Tolbert, Bryan Stevenson and Erika Viccellio

On Friday, April 11, our agency was honored to share the stage at Monticello with criminal justice icon **Bryan Stevenson**. Guests gathered on the West Lawn to celebrate Founder's Day and award Stevenson with the **2025 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership**. The ceremony also included the presentation of the **2025 Citizen Service Award** to **Martize Tolbert** on behalf of The Fountain Fund.

Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Through a powerful keynote address, he reminded listeners of Jefferson's deeply held belief that honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. He eloquently shared, "We deny ourselves the beauty of justice when we refuse to tell the truth." And he thoughtfully encouraged, "We can all be citizen leaders by committing to being truthtellers, even when it's inconvenient, even when it's uncomfortable." He continued, "I believe there is something better waiting for us. Something that feels more like freedom."

For Stevenson, receiving the award, at this particular moment in time, is a call to action. "A challenge not to sit down, but to stand up. A challenge not to be quiet, but to keep speaking. A challenge to be a truthteller for the kind of just world that we all so desperately need."

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – A BETTER DAY THAN YESTERDAY

Tom Mundy, Richmond Site Director, is always looking for positive and effective ways to network with other reentry agencies. Today, we shine a light on the important work being done by **A Better Day Than Yesterday**. Their mission is to educate, empower, and equip at-risk families with the skills to overcome adversities caused by incarceration, divorce, and military deployment. As shared on their website, an astounding "103,000 Virginia children will have had a parent behind bars during their youth." This nonprofit offers a variety of K-12 youth programs whose goal is to, "reduce the pain and stigma experienced by children, improve communications between the child and the incarcerated parent(s), and make visitations more child-friendly and less traumatic." They also offer an array of adult programs that focus on strengthening basic literacy skills which are essential for securing a job and reducing the likelihood of recidivism after imprisonment.

Looking for a smackerel of delicious southern cooking? Check out ***Charde's Kitchen,*** *a Client Partner business that's rocking the food world in Richmond.*

RICHMOND OFFICE CELEBRATES ITS NEW HOME IN SHOCKOE

Site Director Tom Mundy congratulates a Client Partner on his loan closing at the Fountain Fund's new office in Shockoe Slip.

Our new space is conveniently located near bus lines in the heart of downtown Richmond. Interested in applying for a loan, volunteering or becoming a supporter? Call 804.214.7151 to learn more.

RICHMOND FACTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
100% "Achieved primary loan goal."
97% "Transformed life for the better."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- *"I came to the Fountain Fund looking to pay off some court fines & get some things off from over my head. It was a great experience. … Appreciate you!"*
- *"The whole process was very easy from start to finish. And today I can proudly say that my life is only going forward from here. … If you ever need anything, I suggest you reach out to the Fountain Fund. They're nothing but good people.*
- *"Everything with the Fountain Fund was smooth. Thomas' communication was great. He was precise and made everything clear."*

ACTIVE LOAN PORTFOLIO
As of February 28, 2025, Richmond's active loan portfolio included 76 loans valued at nearly $359,164!

Scan here to learn about great things happening at all of our sites.

CONTACT US

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EXAMPLES OF LOANS IN RICHMOND

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

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

OTHER SERVICES: Financial literacy trainings, housing referrals, and links to other services