



# CHARLOTTESVILLE

## FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

### CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – NANCY HARVEY

When sharing time in conversation with Nancy Harvey, there is one word that consistently comes to mind: Resilient. At 70, she is no stranger to life’s struggles, but she also has what it takes to overcome. During the span of her life, she has survived an abusive marriage, a decades long battle with addiction, multiple physical ailments and more. Yet through it all, she has emerged stronger.

When describing her 2021 incarceration, Nancy states without hesitation, “I am a poster child for what can happen when you get a DUI.” Her sentence was nine months, six weeks of which she spent in jail. When she was given an opportunity to spend the remaining 7½ months at home wearing an ankle monitor, she took it.

“But that freedom,” she remarks, “wasn’t free.” The monitor cost nearly \$5,000, paid in weekly installments. And with other expenses like utilities, housing, health care and food, paying the bills often felt relentless.

In May 2024, Nancy became eligible to reinstate her driver’s license, but she simply didn’t have the funds. She needed to get a job, and to get a job, she needed to be able to drive. That’s when Nickles & Dimes Ministry in Staunton connected her with the Fountain Fund, she secured a loan and the rest is history.

For returning citizens who feel despondent, Nancy offers this: “If you look around, there are always people who care.” It might be a family member (her grandson is her biggest fan!) or perhaps it will be a friend. Or maybe, just maybe, there will be, “... people cheering for you even if you don’t know who they are.”



*Nancy Harvey is an inspiring example of resilience.*

### CHARLOTTESVILLE FACTS

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

95% “Have hope for the future.”

93% “Improved understanding of financial competency.”

97% “Established trust & felt supported by team.”

#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“This partnership allowed me to expand my inventory and update equipment.

It has also allowed me more flexibility with securing jobs in my community.”

“I was able to move into a place with the loan from the Fountain Fund

and not only have a home of my own, but also show the court

I was stable and able to get and maintain housing for my son.”

“The Fountain Fund is all about helping no matter what situation.”

#### ACTIVE LOAN PORTFOLIO

As of October 31, 2024, Charlottesville’s active loan portfolio included 157 loans valued at nearly \$641,508.



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

#### OUR MISSION

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

## PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – ONE STOP CVILLE

Sometimes it's hard to find the courage to step through new doors. This is particularly true for returning citizens who need to access a multitude of services as they create a fresh start.

The TO DO list can be incredibly daunting: find a job, get an apartment, reinstate a driver's license, tap into recovery services, find legal support, access affordable health care, obtain financial literacy, and more.

Martize Tolbert, Founder of One Stop Cville and Fountain Fund National Director of Client & Community Engagement, has experienced this overwhelm first-hand.

His simple solution? Eliminate the many doors that someone needs to walk through by bringing everyone under a single roof.

Toward that end, One Stop Cville holds a free, bi-monthly gathering at Carter Recreation Center complete with food, music and giveaways. A wide array of service providers are on hand to answer questions, help with referrals, and offer support. All community members are welcome, regardless of incarceration status.

Shares Tolbert, "We started off outside in the hot sun with only 8 service providers, and now, just a few years later, we've expanded to 60+. ... One Stop Cville, constantly going and growing!"



*More than 650,000 people are released from prison each year. Specific to our own home of Charlottesville, VA, 1 in 3 inmates booked at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail will return to incarceration. The goal of One Stop Cville is to help prevent this from happening, or to at least be ready with resources to welcome folks back if it does.*

## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – PARTNERING WITH ARBOR RISING



*Fountain Fund team members meet Arbor Rising staff in New York in October to launch this unique, powerful partnership.*

The Fountain Fund is thrilled to announce its selection as a 2024 Arbor Rising grantee. This highly competitive 3-year grant will bring \$450,000 in unrestricted funding as well as 600+ hours of consulting. By providing both expertise and financial support, Arbor Rising, "helps grantees become even more focused, impactful and sustainable."

"The timing of this grant simply couldn't be better," says Erika Viccellio, Fountain Fund Executive Director. "Our agency is at a dynamic stage, and this support positions us to build internal capacity, strengthen systems, improve outcome measurements and sets the stage for expansion."

During the extensive selection process, Arbor Rising researched 300+ nonprofits, invited 70 submissions, and ultimately honored five grantees. As shared by Caroline Ostrever, Senior Associate, "Our board was thoroughly inspired by the mission, dedication, and accomplishments of each finalist — narrowing the applicants to five was a monumental task."

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

*A recent survey across all five Fountain Fund markets offers a glimpse into our impact. 95% of respondents indicated that their loan helped them set themselves up for success, relieve an immediate burden and stabilize.*

## CONTACT US IN CHARLOTTESVILLE



### MARTIZE TOLBERT, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CLIENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Jefferson School City Center  
233 4th St, NW Box Z  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434.234.3600  
mtolbert@fountainfund.org

### EXAMPLES OF LOANS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

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