



# BOSTON

## FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

### CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – TODD CONNELLY

**Todd Connelly's** story is one of remarkable resilience. After spending nearly a decade incarcerated, Todd returned home determined to forge a new path. Unlike his previous release, which was marked by rapid decisions and setbacks, this time Todd chose to move slowly and deliberately.

One of the most significant turning points for Todd was his decision to seek help through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Stepping into his first meeting, he met a mentor who would become a close friend and sponsor. This relationship provided Todd not only with practical assistance—such as helping him with basic necessities like food and clothing when he had nothing—but also with emotional support and encouragement. Todd recalls, “I had lost everything. *Everything*. ... For the first time in my life, I felt like someone cared about me.”

Early on, Todd also found support through MyTERN, a year-long, trauma-informed reentry program at Tufts University that helped him earn college credits and introduced him to new opportunities. It was through this experience that he learned about The Fountain Fund.

He shares, “Your loan program was a game changer!” With the financial support to reinstate his driver’s license, he gained independence and the ability to provide for his family and contribute to his community. This experience fostered a newfound sense of courage and confidence, empowering Todd to become a source of support for others. His dedication was recently celebrated at Riverside Community Care where Todd was honored as a 2025 CARE Award recipient for his compassionate work as a recovery coach.

When reflecting upon his transformation over the past year, Todd shares, “It’s given me myself back – *like this is who I was always supposed to be*. It’s allowed me to let people love me. It’s allowed me to have peace.”



*Todd Connelly is deeply devoted to his new family. Their love and support have been instrumental to his recovery and success.*

### 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. **Thank you Dave Matthews Band!** Your music and generosity are transforming our world.



### 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.*

## PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – MYTERN AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

**MyTERN at Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College (TUPIT)** is a dynamic program that supports returning citizens – academically, emotionally & socially – as they rebuild their lives.

Justice-impacted students take classes alongside Tufts undergraduates, nurturing community while also building practical skills for future success. Their curriculum combines Tufts coursework with wraparound support in housing, employment, technology, financial literacy, and social-emotional well-being.

Since launching in 2020, more than 83 students have graduated from the program which offers learning opportunities both behind the wall and after release. Engaging courses cover topics such as: *The Literatures of Justice, Technology for Civic Impact, Personalized Financial Empowerment & Racial Justice, and Storytelling & Podcasting for Social Change.*

Hilary Binda, Executive Director and Founder, emphasizes that the student-driven nature of their programming is paramount to its success, and her devotion to the mission is evident in her compassionate eyes. She shares, “One of the things that people most value about the program is the sense of ongoing community and connection.” The camaraderie doesn’t end after graduation.

This is because more than half of their students are referred by alumni, fostering a growing peer network. The **MyTERN Fellows Program** allows graduates to become mentors, ensuring that new students have ongoing support – from those who have been there and done that! Alumni are not only advancing in their personal careers, they are also actively hiring and supporting each other, creating an inspiring ripple effect throughout Massachusetts and beyond.



Fountain Fund **Client Partner Todd Connelly** (front center) celebrates with fellow MyTERN graduates. Congratulations Class of 2025. You inspire.



## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – THE FOUNTAIN FUND REPRESENTS 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.

## BOSTON FACTS

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

100% “Achieved better financial stability.”  
100% “Better able to take care of themselves.”

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- *It was a small loan, but the staff really helped me feel dignity and respect. They are the best.*
- *I was able to start my business, generate income, and support myself and my family.*

### TOTAL LENDING

As of October 31, 2025, Boston’s total lending included 32 loans valued at \$104,719.

## CONTACT US



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### EXAMPLES OF LOANS

- Business Equipment
- Purchase or repair a vehicle, including cars or eBikes/Scooters
- Secure Housing
- Obtain a Driver’s License
- Tuition
- Court Fines & Fees



*Courageous things are happening at all of our sites. Learn more!*