

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA CELEBRATES \$ 1 MILLION IN LENDING WITH MR. VIV!



Client Partner Mr. Viv's creative vision, business acumen and embroidery know-how get customers the look that pops!



Strengths Unified in Diversity was shared as a memento to mark the occasion. The original artwork by Dormen Lisby, Sr. is a 12' x 47' mural that appears in the PA Dept. of Corrections.

In mid-November, client partners, program partners, Local Advisory Board members and enthusiastic supporters gathered at **Hopeworks** in Kensington to celebrate \$1 million in lending in Philadelphia!

A highlight of the night came when Client Partner Anthoni Williams – also known as Mr. Viv – shared his life's arc from returning citizen to successful entrepreneur. **The V Shop** provides custom embroidery and graphic logo design solutions that turn personal narratives and business messaging into wearable art. They've got all the flavors. Check 'em out!

Fountain Fund Team Members **Mike Butler, Dormen Lisby, Sr.** and **Stacey Torrence** also had time at the mic where they opened up about their own courageous stories of transformation. Shared Stacey, "From someone who served three decades of a death by incarceration sentence, I know how it feels to have unfulfilled and unattainable dreams because you are invisible to financial institutions and the credit system. The Fountain Fund removes those barriers. Financial empowerment IS criminal justice reform."



Founder Tim Heaphy, Dormen Lisby, Sr., Martize Tolbert, Erika Viccello, Mike Butler, Stacey Torrence and Kerry Day rockin' it in Philly.



At The Fountain Fund, we know it's about the **WE** and not the **ME**. Here we are... bringing on the **TEAM** while sporting Mr. Viv's embroidered jackets.

THE V SHOP / VIVIUNIQUE CLOTHING
Empowering Self-Expression through Fashion
215.303.6960 / Instagram: @mrviv04

ADDRESSING FINANCIAL INEQUITY AT THE 2025 PROSPERITY NOW SUMMIT



Stacey Torrence, Erika Viccello and Mike Butler attend this year's 2025 Prosperity Now Summit in Washington DC.

Earlier this fall, the **2025 Prosperity Now Summit** brought hundreds of individuals from across the nation together to "innovate, incubate, activate, and elevate new and existing systems-oriented solutions that address the root causes of economic barriers to opportunity." The theme of this year's Summit? *Together, we thrive!*

Mike Butler, Philadelphia Site Director, was invited to join a panel discussion on expanding capital access and entrepreneurship for justice-impacted individuals. The conversation explored replicable lending models such as The Fountain Fund and advocacy for a more inclusive financial ecosystem, alongside leaders from CDFIs, entrepreneurship and policy.

Shares Mike, "What continues to inspire me is watching people transform that initial spark of possibility into real progress. When someone pays off a loan or expands a business or shares how they have regained confidence in themselves, it reminds me why this work matters."

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER AT THE GLOBAL HOMEBOY NETWORK GATHERING



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.

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.



PHILADELPHIA FACTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

95% "Report having achieved their self-determined goals."

95% "Were not reincarcerated."

93% "Achieved better financial stability."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- "The Fountain Fund enabled me to secure housing for my family in a time where good housing was scarce and expensive and for that I am extremely grateful."
- "The loan took a huge burden off me, which allowed me to concentrate on my family, job and community."



Client Partner Anthony Rowe shows us what success looks like!

TOTAL LENDING

As of October 31, 2025, Philadelphia's active loan portfolio included 155 loans valued at \$1,371,103.

OTHER SERVICES

Financial Literacy Trainings
Certification Offerings
Housing Referrals
Links to other Services



THE FOUNTAIN FUND CELEBRATES \$5M MILESTONE

We are proud to report that our nationwide 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.

CONTACT US



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EXAMPLES OF PHILADELPHIA LOANS

- Housing: First, Last & Security
- Obtain a Driver's License
- Vehicle Repair & Purchase
- Business Start-Up & Equipment
- Tuition
- Court Fines & Fees



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