



# FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

## CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – TYRONE DAVIS

When Tyrone Davis began rebuilding his life after incarceration, he knew the road would be difficult. Having spent most of his life in Harrisburg, it was particularly challenging when parole conditions mandated that he live in Philadelphia. This meant starting from ground zero, in a halfway house, with no close connections or social support... in an entirely new city. He also knew that quickly finding a job would be essential if he hoped to pay off outstanding debt, enroll in classes and get established.

With a variety of strong work skills, such as forklifting and IT, Tyrone was able to land a steady job and begin paying down expenses. The next daunting challenge would be securing funds for the first & last month's deposit on an apartment.

Through a conversation with a representative at the Center for Employment Opportunity (CEO), Tyrone learned about the Fountain Fund. This was exactly the bridge he needed.

After completing the loan application and working with members of our lending team, Tyrone successfully secured a \$2,850 loan! Now he proudly has a place to call home, as well as a little extra funding for furnishings.

When reflecting on his transition back into society, Tyrone is quietly grounded. "I've stopped trying to explain myself to people," he notes. "I just listen now. I observe, and then I move forward." He knows that other returning citizens might be tempted to hop back into the hustle, "... with the same old mindset, the same old ways." He encourages them to take it slow and listen. It's a whole new world.



*Tyrone Davis transforms challenge into change.*

## PHILADELPHIA FACTS

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

100% "Improved understanding of credit."

100% "Have hope for the future."

100% "Were not reincarcerated."

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The Fountain Fund helped me restore my credit, family life, and work life through consistent small wins and self-development."

"Thanks for saving my life."

"Having no limits to my ability to support my family. Helped create a level of humility, gratitude and resilience within me!"

### ACTIVE LOAN PORTFOLIO

As of October 31, 2024, Philadelphia's active loan portfolio included 75 loans valued at \$535,269.



*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 – UNITY RECOVERY

When Lenny Burnett, Director of Re-Entry Support Services at Unity Recovery, and Mike Butler, Philadelphia Site Director, first met, they were behind the wall. Today, they've teamed up on the outside, helping returning citizens bring their entrepreneurial dreams to life!

The Unity Entrepreneurial Center (UEC) at Unity Recovery offers a unique, 13-week training course aimed at helping individuals who are system and substance-use impacted overcome barriers to employment.

Their curriculum teaches the fundamentals of business formation, administration, and financing. It also helps individuals create structure for their ideas so their businesses can be implemented, developed and sustained.

Another exciting component of this innovative programming, Lenny explains, is that it serves as a business incubator and allows individuals to compete for (3) \$7,500 micro-grants that support business start-ups. The selection process, done "Shark Tank" style, is conducted using a rubric to ensure objectivity and fairness. "Out of each cohort," Lenny continues, "we are able to provide three grants in support of new businesses!"

It's at this exciting point in the process that the Fountain Fund often ends up in conversation with grantees, brainstorming possibilities and approving additional funding in support of their endeavors.

Providing business capital in this unique way multiplies the impact. It strengthens individuals, families and communities. It also helps ensure that returning citizens can shape their future based on their own lived-experience, unique vision and powerful dreams.



*Unity Recovery and Fountain Fund team members unite to bring business ideas to life.*

## NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – THREE MILLION AND COUNTING!

Taking time to celebrate life's milestones is an important ingredient to success. It creates an opportunity to pause and reflect, not only upon how far one has traveled but also upon the relationships that have been formed along the way.

In that spirit, the Fountain Fund is excited to mark another major milestone. Earlier this fall, we crossed the threshold of distributing \$3.4M in loans, nearly \$1.6M of which has already been recycled! This includes 736 loans for 607 returning citizens.

Behind every low-interest loan is an inspiring Client Partner who has paid off fines and fees, secured transportation, landed a job, gotten an apartment, enrolled in classes, or maybe even opened a new business. And every time someone repays their loan, those recycled dollars become a window of opportunity for the next person who is rebuilding their life.



*Paul Yates, National Director of Economic Empowerment, meets with a Client Partner to discuss business options and finalize loan documentation.*

## CONTACT US IN PHILADELPHIA



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### EXAMPLES OF LOANS IN PHILADELPHIA

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

### OTHER SERVICES

- Financial Literacy Trainings
- Certification Offerings
- Housing Referrals
- Links to other Reentry Services

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