

The Gratitude Report

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Circle of Hope

A message of thanks

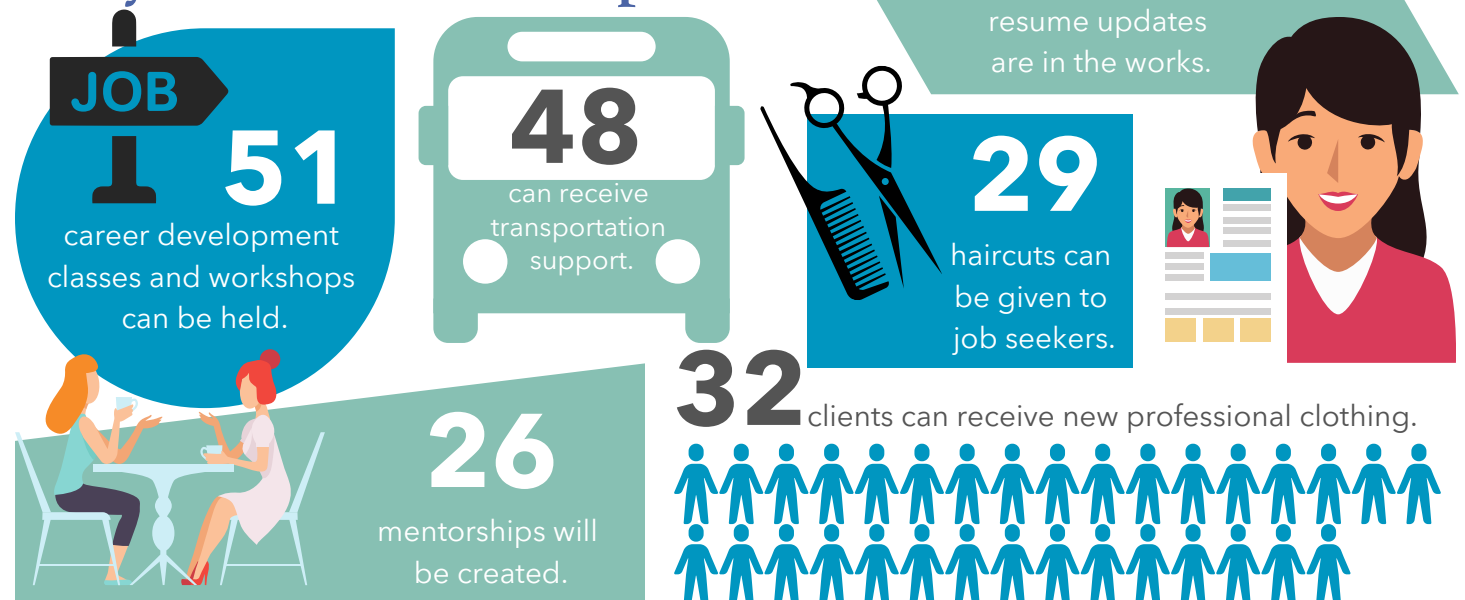
On November 4 we gathered virtually for our annual Circle of Hope, an inspiring celebration of our community and clients. We shared stories of incredible strength and resilience -- and how support like yours helps hundreds of women to achieve career success and financial security. We are humbled and honored by how many of you stepped forward to answer this call and support our community.

Our Circle of Hope guests and sponsors contributed a record-breaking \$116,000 to support our clients this year! Every gift that you made - whether it was a donation, a raffle ticket purchase or a silent auction bid - will enable a critical step on a woman's path to family-sustaining employment.



Check out the infographic below to see how your gift will go to work for the clients we serve and know that without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank you, PA Women Work friends!

Because of your generosity at this year's Circle of Hope...



Finding community during difficult times



As the COVID-19 pandemic set in, Jen James experienced hardship after hardship. Their life began to spiral, and after getting laid off, they felt more alone than ever.

"I felt like this was only happening to me. It was very isolating," Jen remembered.

Jen was referred to Pennsylvania Women Work by a caring friend who thought the organization could help. Jen participated in New Choices and Customer Service First-Class where they gained valuable skills and, most importantly, discovered a community of other individuals experiencing some of the same obstacles and challenges as them.

PA Women Work helped Jen combine their passion for theater with their professional skillset, and they landed a job as the General Manager at the Dormont Hollywood Theater. "I was able to discover myself. I feel a sense of empowerment. Definitely a sense of pride," she said.

To watch Jen tell their own story, visit www.pawomenwork.org/success-stories/jens-story.

Volunteers needed



Giving back and supporting women in our community couldn't be easier. Join our talented team of volunteers by becoming a mentor, conducting mock interviews, reviewing resumes, serving on an event committee, or leading a client workshop.

Find out more about how you can get involved.

Contact PA Women Work's Development Director at riegelnegg@pawomenwork.org.

Stay in touch

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Donor spotlight: *Beth Bodner*



"I wasn't looking to add another thing to my plate," laughed Beth Bodner when asked about what inspired her to join the PA Women Work Board of Directors. "But after hearing the client stories and learning about the mission, I realized how much the work resonated with me. I have known so many people who could have benefited from PA Women Work's services."

As a child, Beth watched her mom struggle to re-enter the workforce after being a full-time homemaker. She also witnessed the challenges that formerly incarcerated friends suffered as they tried to get their lives back on track. "They didn't have the resources or the help they needed to succeed."

Beth understands the struggle and grit needed to create a better life. "Money was tight for our family, so I started working at age twelve." By high school, she was working full-time to save for college. She was the first in her family to graduate from college. Now the Global Vice President, Internal Audit of American Eagle Outfitters, Beth attributes her success to a mentor who taught her how to network and helped her land a job. "Without his help, I don't think I would have had the same career advancement. He set me on a path to success," Beth said.

Beth is a PA Women Work board member, donor, volunteer and a mentor. Thank you, Beth for the many ways that you support our clients on their journeys to meaningful and family-sustaining employment!