

# Winter News Flash

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK

## Thought Leadership Blog



Do you ever feel like you can't get anything done? Our Manager of Participant Learning and Development, Liz Gryger, is sharing her [tips on our blog](#) for how you can achieve your goals... one step at a time.

**Give community.  
Build prosperity.**



Searching for a job is hard. It can be a lonely, isolating and intimidating experience. This holiday season, you can provide a woman with a community of

## New, exciting career development opportunities!



PA Women Work is excited to introduce [Career Kick-Start](#), a career coaching event designed to help job seekers get their employment search back on track in just one day. During the workshop, participants identify their skills and learn to effectively communicate them on a resume and in interviews, and discover strategies to find and apply to job openings. Participants have the opportunity to meet with a career coach one-on-one to refine their resume, take a career assessment, and practice interviewing.

"Career Kick-Start was designed to support job-seekers who are maybe on a tight timeline for finding a job," said Liz Gryger, Participant Learning and Development Manager at PA Women Work. "Our goal is to provide the tactical elements of an updated resume, enhanced interview skills, and job search knowledge. Not only that, participants will gain the encouragement and the community of support that comes from spending time with our staff, other job seekers, and potential employers."

Our first-ever Career Kick-Start, made possible thanks to a generous grant from the EQT Foundation, was held today, December 15, in conjunction with our partner, Fayette

support to help her achieve her goals, build a brighter future, and not feel so alone during the process.

Make your gift to PA Women Work before the end of the year to help more women in our community be heard, be supported, and be understood.

[GIVE NOW](#)

## Locals to know!



Our Senior Director of Programs, Naomi Tannenbaum, was featured in *The Incline's Locals to Know* section this fall. Get to know Naomi and learn about the great work she's doing at PA Women Work by [reading her spotlight here](#).

## Volunteer opportunities



Looking for a way to give back? We are currently seeking volunteers for the following opportunities. [Click here now to sign up!](#)

### Virtual Mock Interviews

Do you have experience interviewing? Help our clients practice through virtual interviews. Slots are one hour between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 5.

Education Center, at the Westmoreland County Community College in Uniontown.

Earlier this month, we also relaunched our highly successful customer service program - now called [Communicating with Success](#). Also a one-day, in-person offering, participants learned critical communication skills transferable to any job and were connected directly with employers for job interviews.

We're looking forward to continuing the expansion of our services and hosting more in-person opportunities in the new year to better serve our job-seeking community. [Click here](#) to learn more about our programs.

## Circle of Hope 2022: A record-breaking year!



Thanks to our incredible community, we raised nearly **\$180,000** at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Circle of Hope Awards Dinner. Together, at last, more than 300 friends and supporters joined us on October 26, 2022, at The Westin. This year's event honored our clients' successes and achievements and recognized the amazing support of our volunteers, employer partners and community leaders.

We are humbled by how many of you gave back, stepped forward, and answered our call to support job-seeking women and men in our community. We feel incredibly honored by the outpouring of generosity. Every silent auction bid, raffle entry, ticket purchase and donation big and small enable a critical step on a woman's path to meaningful and sustainable employment.

A special thank you to our Executive Level Sponsors for this year's event: Howmet Aerospace and PNC Bank. [Check out photos from our event and a full list of sponsors here.](#)

*Stay tuned for exciting news in 2023 as we introduce a new fundraising event for the spring! If you're interested in joining our event planning committee, email [Brooke Fussner](#), Events & Development Specialist.*

## Upcoming classes



### New Choices

Boost your job search with our FREE [New Choices](#) program!

### VIRTUAL CLASS

- January 23-27, Monday to Friday, 6-8:45 p.m.

### IN-PERSON CLASS

- January 9-13, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at UPMC Health Plan Neighborhood Center

### Client Support Services

Already a current or former PA Women Work client? You're eligible to [participate in the following free workshops](#) to help continue on your path to success.

### Virtual Mock Interview Sessions

- Thursday, January 5, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Employer Meet & Greets

- Wednesday, January 18, 9 - 11 a.m.

### The Gathering Place

- Thursday, December 22, 7 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 11, 12 - 1 p.m.
- Thursday, January 26, 7 - 8 p.m.

### A Closer Look Workshops

- Tuesday, January 17, 10 - 11:30 a.m. - Communications and Networking for Business Success

## Thank you, funders!

A special thank you to [UPMC](#) for their generous support of our clients! Funding from UPMC is underwriting the cost of PA Women Work's programming and

## Taking her life back: *Christina's story*



Becoming a mom at a young age, Christina Gremba battled a series of challenges. She dropped out of high school, and her life began to spiral.

"It wasn't so much having a child that I couldn't work. It was the instability of life, and the choices I was making, the bad relationships that were leading to more instability and living in shelters," Christina shared. "But during all of this, I wanted to be a good mom. I just wasn't because of the emotional things going on and the things I needed to work through."

Thanks to caring supporters, friends and organizations along the way, Christina decided to take her life back and worked to build a stable future for herself and her two daughters. She worked hard and completed her GED and Associate's Degree. Following graduation, she discovered Pennsylvania Women Work.

"I learned a lot of things that I did not know. I learned about mindfulness, how to interact on a professional level, and how to apply for jobs," Christina said.

After completing the program, Christina found employment she enjoys, but she wanted even more. Now a 36-year-old mom of two teen-agers, Christina is working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh with support from a PA Women Work scholarship and plans to use her degree to help young mothers and teens.

"It's almost unbelievable. I can't believe I'm really doing this. I'm just so grateful," she said. Christina received one of this year's Client Empowerment Awards at Circle of Hope. See her full journey by watching the video above.

## Thank you to our volunteers!

services at the newly opened Bakery Square Neighborhood Center. Their generosity is allowing us to bring critical career building services to clients in Homewood, Larimer, and East Liberty.

*We are honored to work together on this effort!*

**Stay connected with PA Women Work!**



Stay up-to-date with everything happening at PA Women Work by joining us on social media! Learn about new professional development opportunities; hear the latest about our events; read our clients' success testimonials; and so much more.



*"It takes a village,"* the saying goes. Here at PA Women Work that statement rings true. We have a lofty mission: empower women to achieve self-sufficiency through career development and mentorship. The pressures put on women during the pandemic made our vision for a more equitable future feel out of reach at times. Yet, we found hope in each other and in our generous community of volunteers and supporters.

As 2022 comes to an end, and we look toward a new year, we feel incredibly grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who provided for our clients and organization this year. When women in our region plunged deeper into poverty, battled against unemployment and underemployment, or struggled to meet their evolving needs, you were there. Together, we are creating an environment of support and connection for the working and job-seeking women of our region.

We would like to offer a special thank you to our 3 Cups of Coffee mentors; the team from EQT who stuffed backpacks so our clients' kids could go back to school ready for success; the many PNC Bank volunteers who provided guidance, office support and more; the friends from KeyBank who offered a financial literacy workshop for our clients; our incredible Circle of Hope volunteers who made our event possible; all of the members of our Board of Directors, Volunteer and Ambassador Council and Employer Partner Committee; and so many more. ***Thank you for being a part of our village.***

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