

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK

Fall News Flash

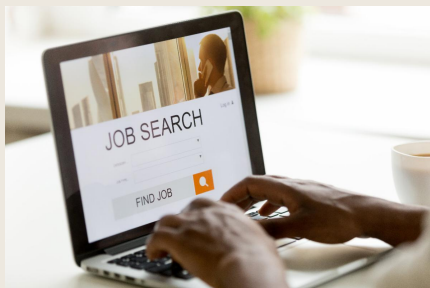
Thought Leadership Blog



Virtual networking is hard work. Our volunteer, Sharon Menchik, Special Counsel, Bowles Rice LLP, shares tips to build your connections through traditional and nontraditional outlets in our most recent Thought Leader Blog.

[Read the blog here!](#)

Upcoming classes



New Choices

Jump start your job search today! [Sign up](#) for our FREE New Choices program and boost your

Join us for the 20th annual Circle of Hope



On November 4 at 7 p.m., we will 'honor our legacy and celebrate our future' during this year's virtual [Circle of Hope](#) event. While we might not be gathering in person, we are planning an inspirational online celebration you won't want to miss.

This year's event will be free of charge and include virtual games, networking opportunities and a powerful presentation highlighting the incredible resilience and strength of the women we serve. When you register, you'll also gain access to our raffles and Silent Auction when they launch in the coming weeks.

New this year, we are selling Party Boxes with everything you need to create a festive event experience from wherever you might be joining us. We are also offering Party Packs, including enough supplies for up to eight of your friends and family members to gather for a watch party in your home.

We hope you'll join us for this year's Circle of Hope. [Register for FREE and purchase your Party Boxes here](#)

Help make this year's Circle of Hope a success. Reach out to Lauren Riegelneegg, development director, at lriegelneegg@pawomenwork.org to learn how you can volunteer.

Can't make the event? Consider supporting our clients by

resume, practice interviewing, build your confidence, and more.

- Oct. 11-15, Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 25-29, Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Customer Service First-Class

Build your professional communications skills and get connected with local employers.

[Register now.](#)

- Oct. 25 - 29, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - *Must register by October 13*

Client Support Services

Already taken New Choices but need a little more support to land that next job? We got you covered. [Join us](#) for one of the below opportunities to get things on track.

- Mindful Career Exploration: Oct. 4
- A Closer Look "I think I can, I think I can. The journey to positivity and happiness": Oct. 5
- Virtual Mock Interviews: Oct. 7
- Employer Meet and Greets: Oct. 20

[Register now.](#)

Circle of Hope Sponsors

We'd like to say a big thank you to this year's Circle of Hope sponsors. Your support not only makes our event possible - it helps us continue the work we do to change the lives of job seeking women across the state all year round.

Executive Level



making a tax-deductible contribution that will go right to work for the women we serve. When you sponsor a life-changing mentorship, a resume refresh, or even a pre-interview haircut, you put our clients on a path to family-sustaining employment. [Click here now to give.](#)

New Choices continues to expand



As we forge ahead through the pandemic, the increased need for our critical programming continues. In the last year, we served more than 1,500 job seekers from 41 counties

across Pennsylvania through our New Choices program.

"We created new relationships and partnered with organizations across the state to pilot New Choices classes in areas we knew were in need of our support," said Lizzi Holmes, data and compliance manager and a key member of the New Choices team. "The virtual format for New Choices allowed us to reach more job seekers, including those in rural areas that we had not been able to prior to the pandemic."

Last year, programs were conducted in the Northeast, Central and East Central regions of the state, in addition to the classes already running in the Southeastern and Southwestern regions. We also expanded our virtual programming with new workshops that are available to clients across the state. We look forward to furthering our reach into Northeastern PA with five new counties being served this year.

To learn more about New Choices and see a list of our upcoming classes, [click here.](#)

When your mentor becomes your employer: Jenn's story

As Jenn Kish approached graduation in May 2021, she was struggling to find a job opportunity that was right for her.

"Paralegal Studies is a broad degree. I was having trouble narrowing in on the

Career Level

- PNC Bank
- UPMC and UPMC Health Plan

Training Level

- Centimark
- Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
- PMC Cleaning

For a full list of this year's sponsors and information on becoming a sponsor, [click here](#).

Current volunteer opportunities



You can help make a difference at PA Women Work! Below are our current volunteer needs. [Sign up today](#).

- Mock Interviews
- Mentors
- Present to our clients
- Fundraising and events
- Customer Service Interviews

Thank you to our funders!



Thank you to the **Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation** for your continued support of our GROW program. With your help, we are able to serve low-income women and women re-entering the



right jobs to apply for," Jenn explained. "On top of that, COVID made it challenging to network, and I was finding it hard to connect with the right people to help me. It was very discouraging."

Just as her job search began to spiral, Jenn received an email about PA Women Work's 3 Cups of

Coffee GRAD program and decided to give it a try. She was connected with her mentor, Carrienne, who helped her get back on track. "She gave me advice on how I can get to where I want to go. She had the insider tips that I needed," Jenn said. Additionally, Carrienne helped Jenn polish her resume, update her LinkedIn profile, and create a career plan.

Ultimately, Carrienne helped Jenn find a job as a legal assistant within her own company, Bowles Rice.

"Getting a job at Bowles Rice was not anything I dreamed would happen when I first connected with Carrienne," Jenn shared. "I am just so grateful I participated in this program. It put me on the path that I was trying to find."

[Click here](#) to learn more about 3 Cups of Coffee GRAD.

Thank you to our 3 Cups of Coffee funders.

Arconic Foundation, United Way of Southwestern PA, FirstEnergy Foundation, Duquesne Light, J.Jill Compassion Fund, The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Slencak



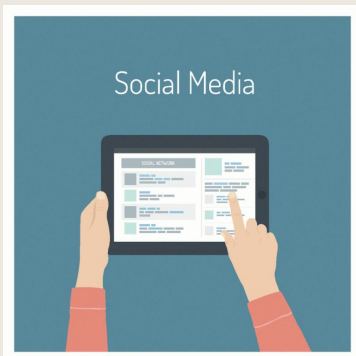
For the past six years, Kathy has advocated on behalf of PA Women Work, sat on our Corporate Advisory Committee, been an active participant in our Circle of Hope event, and helped secure donations and funding for the organization.

When asked why she volunteers, Kathy expressed her passion for helping

women achieve their goals. "Helping women gain skills for employment is essential for them and their children. PA Women Work provides all the tools needed for women to improve their employment situation. That's the key to building stronger, stable families," Kathy explained. "I love learning the success stories and watching the powerful videos of women helping women achieve their goals."

workforce after incarceration with critical free programming to help them overcome their barriers and find sustainable employment.

Join our social community!



Stay up to date with everything happening at Pennsylvania Women Work when you like us on our social media channels.



Make a gift and change lives.

Without the support of our PA Women Work community, we would not be able to help more than 1,500 job seekers every year to overcome the economic, educational, and emotional obstacles to achieving meaningful employment.

Gifts to our organization ensure that women experiencing a career transition can continue to receive the support they need through our transformative programs.

Make a gift today and become a life changer.

GIVE NOW

Kathy has a caring and generous heart. We are lucky to have her in our volunteer community.

Amazing volunteers like Kathy help make our work possible. If you would like to join Kathy and the rest of our incredible team of volunteers, [sign up here](#).

PA Women Work staff announcements



Deputy Director, *Susan Showalter-Bucher*

Susan Showalter-Bucher, formerly PA Women Work's Director of Programs, was promoted earlier this year to Deputy Director. Susan brings great experience to this role, both within the organization and beyond.

Susan has volunteered, taught courses, advocated, and supported the organization since the '90s. We are proud to have her as our Deputy Director. "I am so pleased for this opportunity to be working toward the empowerment of individuals with this amazing, dedicated group of women. As a team, we are committed to continuing the thoughtful growth of our programs locally and across the state. It truly is an exciting time for us at PA Women Work," Susan expressed.



Development Director, *Lauren Riegelneegg*

Lauren Riegelneegg joined our team as the Development Director this July. Lauren oversees individual and corporate giving, special events and manages our volunteer teams.

Lauren was born and raised in Central Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. She has 10 years of experience in nonprofit development. She's excited to get to know our volunteers and donors in her new role. "I love working with our donors. It's a privilege to be able to help people do good in their communities, and connect them to projects they're passionate about. We would not be able to serve our clients without them," Lauren said.



Communications and Development Specialist, *Nora Lopez Cruz*

Nora Lopez Cruz joined PA Women Work as the Communications and Development Specialist earlier this month. Nora moved to

Pittsburgh from Mexico three years ago and graduated with her Master's Degree in International Development at the University of Pittsburgh.

In her new role, Nora assists with public relations strategies, fundraising and events, volunteer opportunities, social media plans and more.

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