



Thought Leadership Blog



Now is the time to make your end-of-year charitable donations. Kim Stinson, Corporate Controller, EQT Corporation, shares how your philanthropic contributions can make a difference for your community and your finances in this month's blog. [READ.](#)

Circle of Hope



Thanks to our generous community, we raised over \$145,000 at the 23rd Annual

[Discover your impact](#)



At Pennsylvania Women Work, our programs, workshops and career coaches empower women from many different backgrounds to achieve their professional goals. With support from caring people like you, ***more than 1,500 job-seekers furthered their journey to success last year.***

"I have been battling depression, but my PA Women Work career coach encouraged me to come to this program. You don't know how much I needed human connection and support. This organization means the world to me," a recent job-seeker shared.

When you make a donation before the end of this year, you will support more women on their path to self-discovery, connection and hope.

If your donation is \$50 or higher, we'll even enter you to win a raffle basket filled with life coaching sessions, a Stanley water bottle, professional must-haves, and more.

Discover what you can make possible with a gift this year. [GIVE NOW.](#)

Circle of Hope Awards Dinner. More than 350 friends and supporters joined us on October 17 at The Circuit Center. During this year's event, we shared inspiring stories and honored our clients' achievements, and we recognized the critical support of our volunteers, employer partners and community leaders.

For event photos, visit our [Facebook page!](#)

A special thank you to our Executive Level Sponsor, PNC Bank, for their support of this year's event.

Staff Announcements

We are excited to announce several recent changes to PA Women Work's staff!

Heather Coleman has taken on the role as our Manager of Employer Engagement, where she will build partnerships with local employers to better connect clients with open positions in the community.

Nancy Estrada joins our team as a Manager of Participant Learning for RISE and New Choices. She is one of our career coaches and works one-on-one with job-seeking refugees and immigrants.

Lizzi Holmes is now our Manager of Volunteer and External Relations, focusing on stakeholder engagement, statewide programming, and volunteer management.

Manmeet Sodhi-Raab joins our staff as our new Manager of Data and Evaluation, analyzing data and tracking progress and impact across our programs.

Hilda Valdespino has transitioned into a new role as the Manager of ReWork, where she will lead the expansion of our work to support individuals recovering

A supportive space for networking



On December 6, we hosted our biannual [Power Up Connections](#) event, where program participants celebrate their achievements and network with local

employers and training providers in a supportive space.

"It was wonderful to talk with people in a low-stakes environment and get comfortable sharing my narrative," said Mary, a Power Up Connections participant. "Being in a place where people are in the same situation, it's very comforting to know you're not alone in it."

This month's Power Up Connections was our largest yet, with more than 40 participants and partners creating impactful connections and sharing tips, skills, and opportunities.

"It's always great to talk to the job seekers," said Brianna McMeekin, Recruiting Solutions and Outreach Manager at PNC Bank and PA Women Work employer partner. "Even if they weren't looking for a position at PNC, we had wonderful conversations and made great connections."

Our next Power Up Connections event will take place in June 2025.

Special thank you to Commonwealth Charter Academy for hosting us, and to G.C. Murphy Company Foundation for providing funding that allows us to bring programming to the Mon Valley.

The support she needed: *Victoria's story*



Victoria found a successful career after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002.

When she had her second child, she decided to step back from full-time work and move into a part-time position. However, when the pandemic hit, her work came to a halt and Victoria took on the challenge of

from substance use disorder as they transition back into the workforce.

Upcoming classes



Client Support Services

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

A Closer Look

A New Year, A New Job
Tuesday, January 21
12 -1:30 p.m.

Join PA Women Work's Manager of Participant Learning, Shanyl Winnowski, as she leads a panel of past PA Women Work clients in a discussion on how they secured their current positions.

Thank you, funders!



Last year, PA Women Work was proud to be named one of **The Upwork Foundation's** grantees working in support of inclusionary workforce reentry for our job-seeking clients.

Thank you to The Upwork Foundation, for partnering with us to help create

educating her two young children at home.

"Literally overnight, we pivoted in a new direction," remembers Victoria. Once her children were back in school and workplaces were open again, Victoria was ready for a new opportunity.

"I had never really been to a formal job interview; I had no idea where to start or what to do," said Victoria. "An internet search led me to PA Women Work."

Victoria participated in New Choices, where she refreshed her resume and learned new tools for navigating the job market. She explored new industries and positions and is now happily employed with a local nonprofit.

"I was prepared for a lot of rejection during this time in my life, but what I found was a lot of support," said Victoria.

After starting her new job, Victoria wanted to continue her professional growth, so she connected with a volunteer mentor through 3 Cups of Coffee. With her mentor, she is now mapping out a path to succeed and achieve in her new industry. Victoria continues to stay involved with PA Women Work to further support her career growth!

The 3 Cups of Coffee program is generously funded by Arby's Foundation | Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation | Eaton | J. Jill Compassion Fund | Arconic Foundation | Aerie Real Foundation | United Way Community Impact Grants.

Volunteer spotlight: Darcie Orr



After learning about PA Women Work in 2021, Darcie Orr, Project Management Expert at Duquesne Light Company, was ready to raise her hand and make an impact. To start, she signed up as a 3 Cups of Coffee mentor.

"It is truly such a rewarding experience to help someone find their way, or give them support, or sometimes

just to lend an ear to listen and to let them know that they will succeed and find the right role," said Darcie.

Her dedication to PA Women Work's mission has since expanded. Now, Darcie also supports events and fundraising. She is a member of the Volunteer Ambassador Council, and she generously donates monthly through **The Coffee Club**.

"PA Women Work strives to find meaningful employment for women looking to return to or gain access to the

economic opportunities for our community! [Click here to learn more.](#)

workplace," said Darcie. "That's a mission that I am proud to support!"

Thank you, Darcie, for joining our team as a donor and volunteer. Your connection and commitment to our organization make a life-long impact.

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