

# NEW STAFF

Over the past month, we've onboarded new team members. Welcome and congratulations, We choose our team members carefully because when we onboard someone, we commit to their success. We look forward to helping you do the best work of your life with us!



# **Wesley Thompson, M.A**

Wesley E. Thompson is the new Communications Manager at Uplift Solutions. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from Delaware State University and a Masters's Degree in strategic communications and Public Relations from Trinity Washington University. In addition, he has over six years of experience in strategic planning, social media planning, and event management. He runs a community-based modeling organization in his spare time and loves traveling.

Kaitlyn Sonnenborn is currently Drexel's AmeriCorps Non-profit Co-op Corps Member serving as a Workforce Development Assistant for the Workforce Solutions Program at Uplift Solutions. She is a Junior at Drexel University double majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CJS) and Psychology (PSY). Her role at Uplift includes supporting both the Workforce Solutions Lead Instructor and the Chief Program Officer with various duties such as data logging, assisting in lessons, and assisting in projects related to strategic planning and program development

# **Kaitlyn Sonnenborn**



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# **Ashley Faulkner**

Ashley Faulkner is currently serving as a Life Skills Facilitator at the North 10 location. She has an associate degree in Public Administration from Reading Area Community College, a bachelor's degree in Technical Leadership from Bloomsburg University, & a master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Alvernia University. She has over 12 years in customer service, manufacturing, business logistics & operations. She is a Leadership & Life Coach that assists people with becoming the "leader of their life". In her spare time, she loves to travel the world & spend time with her Tunkin Punkin (dog) Alex.

### **Astrid Minnie**

Astrid is an intern through the Drexel AmeriCorps Nonprofit program. She is currently a junior at Drexel University with a major in Public Health with a focus on LGBT Health and Social and Behavioral Health. In her role at Uplift, Astrid assists the workforce development program and workforce solutions lead instructor with tasks such as updating and creating program materials, organization, and assisting in lessons.

# Alumni Reflections

Roy Fowlin (39), originally from Queens, NY, has been A Philadelphia resident since 2008. He recently graduated from our 38th Cohort and participated in our retail program. Before joining, he was referred to the program upon reentry to the workforce and spoke with Uplift intern Emma Spearing about the context of our organization and was very hopeful about the many opportunities he could garner. While in the program, punctuality, team building, and cashiering are just a few skillsets he learned and assured set him up for success in his current role at ShopRite of Roxborough as a cashier. GRATEFUL would be one-word Mr.Fowlin would describe as his experience during his tenure. "I can't say enough about the encouragement, support, and general care the whole staff showed me during the all-too-quick six weeks," Fowlin explained as he elaborated on Uplift's continuous assistance even after graduation.

Being honest, open-minded, willing, and teachable helped Mr.Fowlin stay focused throughout his program. He recommends that anybody starting the program keep these 4 steps embedded in your mind because all the information provided will help you navigate in your next steps."I have and will continue to advocate and support the Uplift Workforce Solutions program by letting other men and women I may come across in my life know that there is hope if they feel as hopeless as I felt before finding out about and participating in the program." Through Uplift Solutions call to action and staffing shared experiences, his experience was one he considers life-changing, and he is a huge advocate for the mission and vision the organization stands for.



# Partner Announcements

Uplift Solutions is pleased to support efforts to close the digital divide by sharing information about a new initiative run by Heritage Wireless.

Heritage Wireless Group is an approved provider with the American Affordable Connectivity Program, a \$14 Billion allocation from the Biden Administration to help close the national "Digital Divide". For further information on the program, visit www.fcc.gov/acp

Heritage Wireless' goal is to distribute 100,000 Free tablets with up to 5 years wireless internet service to those who meet the Eligibility Criteria established by the Federal Government in the Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey Region.

If you are interested in learning more about Heritage's program, please click the link below to access their website. Questions regarding this program should be directed to Tony Pitts.

Want a Free Tablet or Smartphone with Free Unlimited 5G Internet?

Do you or someone in your Household receive:

-SNAP -WIC

-Medicaid - SSI

-Lifeline - Veterans Benefits

-Pell Grant -Free or reduced lunch

- 1. Click the link below to fill out a Quick Application https://formfaca.de/sm/WNO 4mg2G
- 2. Upload photo ID and picture of Supporting Document (For example: SNAP card, WIC card, Medicaid card)
  - 3. Get Free Device mailed directly to your home
    Then you can qualify SIMPLE AS 1-2-3
    For Customer Service Call: 215-324-9191



# Uplift RECORD CLEARING

CLINICAL EVENT GIDEON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2817 W GLENWOOD AVE, 19121

PHILADELPHIA, PA

MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023

GAMES FOOD

FACE PAINTING CHILD CARE PROVIDED

SPONSORED BY







TO PRE-REGISTER





# Organizational News

Begining May 1st-July 21st we will be offering a new program at North 10. The CDL professional driver training program we are offering Class B with a passenger endorsement which will prepare students who are seeking careers in the motor carrier field to obtain their Commercial Driver's License.

CDL certification track that will prepare participants to gain permanent gainful employment driving CDL vehicles. We will give students industry recognized nationally portable certifications, and include the life skills training from our Workforce Solutions program: enabling participants to not only further their career, but gain the tools to necessary to maintain that career and grow as an individual.

Located at North 10, 3890 N 10th St, Philadelphia, PA 19140

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lauren Ruday (215) 276-7238

Lauren.Ruday@upliftsolutions.org

Monday- Friday, 9am-3:30pm

Eight Weeks CDL Training

Four Weeks of life Skills

#### STIPEND BENEFIT

Each particpant recerives a

monetary stipend of \$100 TRANSPASS

per week Participants will have access

LUNCH

to transportation to make it to

Food provided daily during the duration of the program class

# DONATIONS

Uplift would not be what it is today without your help!

As you know every dollar given to our organization makes a crucial difference, and you are the reason we can make change. Because of you, we are able to provide life and workforce training to those who need it most, and continue to make our community a stronger place. Now, you can donate to the Participant Success Fund and directly support individuals going through our program to help them graduate. Thank you for your continued support, we cannot do it without you.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

communications@upliftsolutions.org