

NEWS FROM



August 2024

We have so much exciting news to share this month ... from welcoming new staff members to launching our Inaugural Mental Health Conference to registering for next record-clearing clinic, we continue to expand our services to justice impacted individuals. Other announcements include new cohort dates for our CDL and HVAC classes and Monique shares some fun end of summer activities for the whole family to enjoy. Of course, all our free programming is not possible without the support of our generous donors, and we hope you will consider becoming a sponsor to our only fundraiser of the year, Hardship to Hope!

A promotional banner for the Hardship to Hope Annual Award Ceremony. It features a decorative background with gold and green wavy lines and a Uplift logo. The text includes the event title, date, time, and location.

Uplift

HARDSHIP TO HOPE
Annual Award Ceremony

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, November 7, 2024
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Cescaphe Ballroom

Hardship to Hope

Uplift's annual award ceremony, Hardship to Hope, will be held Thursday, November 7, 2024 at the Cescaphe Ballroom from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

This is Uplift's only fundraiser of the year and we need your support!

Click [HERE](#) to sign up as a sponsor today and earn exclusive rewards.

Click [HERE](#) to view some highlights of our 2023 reception.

Uplift's Inaugural Mental Health Conference

Uplift is responding to the mental health crises that, in some way impacts all of us, but impacts justice involved individuals more significantly and acutely. A sobering fact, mental disorders in the incarcerated population are 3 to 12 times higher than that of the general community.

This free, live-streamed event will be accessible to all through our Facebook page on October 3, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The objective of the conference is to improve the understanding of mental illness, reduce the stigma around mental health, and increase access to necessary help for those who need it," says Uplift Board Member, Keir Bradford-Grey who was the brainchild behind the event.

Five high quality workshops will be delivered throughout the day by leading experts in the mental health space. The event will culminate with a panel discussion featuring formerly incarcerated individuals, their family members, and friends.

Sponsorships to support the video production are available. Please contact Maureen Cislo at Maureen.Cislo@UpliftSolutions or call 484.238.8248.

New HVAC & CDL Classes Starting Soon



Uplift students training for washer/dryer repair work

Start a new career with Uplift's signature programs in HVAC or CDL Class B. Justice-impacted individuals receive FREE training, a transportation pass, daily lunch and a stipend. Uplift's caring team of case managers and instructors work with you to ensure your success!

Uplift has established relationships with several local companies that hire Uplift graduates upon program completion. Classes fill up quickly!

Our next HVAC classes will run from October 7-December 13. CDL classes run from September 9-October 12. Sign up today!

Contact Uplift Community Engagement Manager, Jeff Jones:
jeff.jones@upliftsolutions.org.

Clean Slate Pardon & Expungement Clinic

Saturday, September 21 (11am-2pm)

Meet us at the Lenfest Center at North 10 Philadelphia:
Community Room
(3890 N. 10th St, Phila, PA 19140)

Uplift will be hosting a free Pardon & Expungement Clinic and will also provide constituents with information regarding state government-related programs and services available to assist with the process of clearing criminal background records.

Requirements: Bring your case information, including a copy of your court records/minute orders. Must not be in violation, on parole or on probation.

For any questions, contact
Jeff Jones at
jeff.jones@upliftsolutions.org

[Click HERE to register!](#)



Staff Updates

We are excited to welcome four new colleagues to the Uplift family.

“As we continue to grow, it’s imperative we have the right talent, and that talent includes those from diverse backgrounds. Our latest hires accomplish just that and continue to build the strength of our organization,” says Atif Bostic, Uplift President and CEO.

Donnel Brown to Serve as Trauma-Informed Workforce Development Facilitator

Donnel Brown is the latest addition to Uplift’s Instructor’s staff. She will provide all the classroom instruction for the Professional Development portion of the CDL Class B program. Professional Development teaches essential emotional intelligence such as identifying one’s talents, healing from past mistakes, the art of forgiveness of others and oneself, and mental health awareness and coping skills. CBT and DBT and trauma therapy are also a part of the curriculum.

“My goal is to make sure I help our students to become as mentally fit as possible, so they have the stamina to go through the technical training of learning how to drive Class B vehicles,” Brown says.



Donnel Brown, Trauma-Informed Workforce Development Facilitator

Brown is enthusiastic about Uplift's work and understands the immediate need to help justice impacted individuals get the training they need to build a new life for themselves. Brown holds a Master of Science from American University and has experience in Criminology and Human Services. She is also a returning citizen who has first-hand knowledge of prison life and the challenges of integrating back into society.

"Our students must manage reunification with family members, courts, custody, child support, baby mama/daddy drama. It is so easy to give up. I want to make sure they stay on the course and find meaningful work. You can be resilient and overcome trauma. You can rise above all the barriers society puts in front of you," she says. Brown is most grateful for her new position and loves the team comradery and dignity that Uplift staff members show to each other as well as to every single student. "Uplift's leadership is amazing. Everyone works well together and is enthusiastic about their work," she says.

New College Intern to Lead Special Projects

Ethan Medal-Katz is our newest College Intern that has been added to our team. Ethan currently studies Political Science and Philosophy at the University of Michigan and looks forward to gaining tangible experience helping justice-impacted individuals. Ethan has been working with the California state government in providing social services and interacting with constituents and stakeholders which inspired him to work within the non-profit sector.

At Uplift, Ethan will leverage his experience with policy drafting, implementation, and analysis spanning both operations and external affairs. As Ethan plans on pursuing a law degree or master's degree in public policy, his work will also include documenting the impact of Uplift's programming and demonstrating our impact in the larger context of reentry in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. Ethan looks forward to applying his writing, research, and attention to detail skills to further Uplift's goals.



Ethan Medal-Katz, Intern and Special Projects Lead

Uplift Graduate, Randall Overton, Hired as Community Engagement Specialist

Please help us give a very warm welcome to our latest Uplift Family Member ... Randall Overton. As a 2024 graduate of Uplift's CDL Class B license program, we continue to create space for those closest to the problem, helping us get closer to the solution. When he heard that Uplift was hiring another Community Engagement Specialist, he decided to apply because he wanted to use his life lessons to help others from making the same mistakes he made. "I want to be an example of someone who can change their lives for the better and I have a passion for helping people," he says.

Growing up in Southwest Philadelphia, Overton graduated from Delaware Valley Charter High School and attended Lincoln University majoring in Criminal Justice. He held jobs at Social Services, Foster Care and at Youth Detention facilities. He made some mistakes he is not proud of and learned that it is easy to get into trouble and hard to get out of it.

Overton lives for helping others and his family. "I love being a father to my four children and while trying to support my family, my poor choices led me to spend a lot of time away from them. That time away taught me a hard lesson about my life, time, and the things that are important to me," he says. Overton aspires to go back to school and earn his degree in psychology and work as a psychologist for those in need of support, something he felt he never had.



Randall Overton, Community Engagement Specialist

Welcome to New Case Manager Sara Houser



Sara Houser, Case Manager

We are excited to welcome four new colleagues to the Uplift family.

“As we continue to grow, it’s imperative we have the right talent, and that talent includes those from diverse backgrounds. Our latest hires accomplish just that and continue to build the strength of our organization,” says Atif Bostic, Uplift President and CEO.

Sara Houser is our newest Case Manager here at Uplift Solutions! Sara spent her undergrad at Temple University, majoring in social work with a certificate in teaching English as a second language. During her undergrad, she interned at Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry. After graduating with her Bachelors, Sara went on to pursue her Masters in social work while interning at Temple Health and Wellness Center and North10. There, she came to connect with Uplift while working with our other case managers conducting enrollment for the HVAC and CDL programs.

“It feels really fulfilling to see people succeed and progress positively,” she said.

Going forward, Sara is eager to complete her Masters degree and dedicate herself to a promising career in social work.

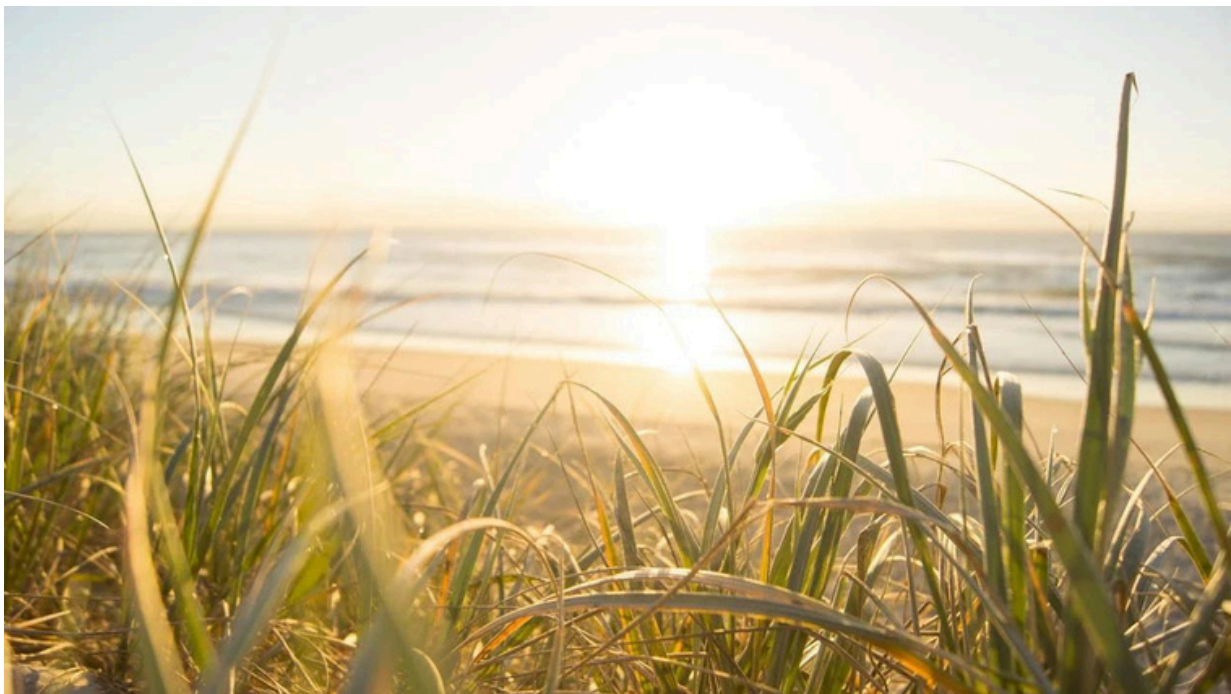
Embracing the Summer for a Little Bit Longer

Greetings, everyone! As the sun shines, I trust it brings you rays of hope as you embark on your next adventure. Hopefully, your summer months have afforded you the opportunity to go on vacations with friends and family. Even if vacations are not on your to-do list, it's okay! You can still indulge in some fun activities before the summer officially ends on September 22.

Use this link for some ideas: [**Top Free Philadelphia Attractions**](#)

Stay cool and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best wishes,
Ms. Mo



Uplift would not be what it is today without your help! Please continue to make our work possible by clicking the donate button below. THANK YOU!

[**DONATE HERE!**](#)