



## Towards Employment

Towards Employment is a Cleveland nonprofit that champions the potential of every person to succeed in a rewarding career today, while working to create a more equitable and inclusive workforce for tomorrow. Using a proven WorkAdvance model, we increase Clevelanders' chances to advance by providing skill development for in-demand jobs, comprehensive supports that address the social determinants of work, extended career coaching, and direct connections to employers. Founded in 1976, Towards Employment has helped over 208,000 people prepare for jobs, navigate employment obstacles and secure long-term careers.

### LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT

and their work in Cleveland workforce by scanning the QR code or by visiting [TowardsEmployment.org/donate](https://TowardsEmployment.org/donate)



## MODERN WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

Dominick Farinacci and US Army Veteran Jaymes Poling created the national touring production Modern Warrior LIVE, an immersive music and narrative experience that chronicles Jaymes' journey through three deployments in Afghanistan and subsequent transition back home. As the production provided a catalyst for meaningful conversation about stigma, mental health, post-traumatic growth, and resiliency, Farinacci and Poling began to see many through lines that connected veteran stories to those of returning citizens or people with involvement in the criminal justice system. Stigma can create barriers to communication that leave many feeling isolated and unable to share their struggles. The Modern Warrior EXPERIENCE, a collaborative program that uses the model for storytelling Farinacci created in their Modern Warrior LIVE production, strives to tear down those barriers to communication, allowing individuals to share the unfiltered reality of their journey, and in doing so carve a path for others, hoping for a better tomorrow.

### SUPPORT THE MODERN WARRIOR EXPERIENCE



## Special Thanks To

Carlos Latimer, Executive Director, East Cleveland Public Library

Greg L. Reese, Artistic Director, The Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center

On November 12, 1913, the Board of the East Cleveland Public Library met in the office of the East Cleveland Board of Education where plans for a new Library were underway. The Carnegie Corporation of New York contributed \$35,000 towards the cost of a new building. John D. Rockefeller contributed \$3,600 to buy land for future expansion of the Library. National Electric Lamp Association, now GE Lighting, donated 129 light bulbs for fixtures in the building. The East Cleveland Public Library (ECPL), at 14101 Euclid Avenue, stands as an original Carnegie Library dedicated in 1916. The Library officially opened on May 29, 1916. The main library has been renovated and expanded a number of times in its 100+ year history, but most notably in 2005, when the Library included the Debra Ann November Learning Center and the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center. , ECPL is a single facility library system that continues to serve the East Cleveland School District, residents of East Cleveland, and beyond.

## MODERN WARRIOR EXPERIENCE



Towards Employment

PRESENTS

# WORK & REENTRY EXPERIENCE

## WATCH PARTY

Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center  
East Cleveland Public Library



# THE STORYTELLERS

TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI

## LINDA BUTTS

Linda grew up in the foster care system and raised her children as a single Mom. She faced obstacles and found resources, and her performance is a chance to share how she got it done. Her life experience proves that things can get better, that you have choices. She remembers certain key things from her career readiness classes so well – “A TE staff member always said, ‘Dress for the job ahead.’ And I always have.”



TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI

## GREG REAVES

When Greg first came home after a period of incarceration, he worked in a shelter. During this time working at the shelter, he learned a lot about how homelessness affects people and about the resources offered by nonprofits in Cleveland. He feels this gives him a special connection to people and a knowledge of when and where resources are needed. He has made a career out of connecting people and is currently the Alumni Coordinator at Towards Employment. He says: “Everybody can feel that they go through things by themselves. That no one knows what they are facing. That is where lived experience comes in - and why stories matter.”



TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI

## DARYL ROGERS

comes from generational incarceration - father, cousins, sister, brother. He believed he was mentally incarcerated from 4 years old. He is on a mission to end this cycle. His daughters visited him in 2008 when I was incarcerated for the last time. His oldest daughter said, “Dad, we are in prison too. - When you are not there for all the things a child needs a father for because you are in here, then we are in prison too.” He and his daughters currently run a program – Dad We Are In Prison Too - to give children a chance to talk about family scars and hurt. This gives children of incarceration an opportunity for healing and reconciliation.



TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI

## LATORIA DAVIS

says “we don’t often look like what we’ve been through.” She started off as a Housekeeper at University Hospitals, and knew she wanted to grow. She got turned down 60 times for other opportunities, but when she got accepted to be a community health worker – she knew she finally had a foothold on a true career pathway. She often shares with mothers of young children: “You have to commit to your career growth. You have to be tenacious.”



# ABOUT



**Made possible by the The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation.**

The Char & Chuck Fowler Foundation is committed to helping create an equitable Northeast Ohio by funding and partnering with organizations that elevate community assets, dismantle barriers to opportunity, and create a vibrant environment.

## DOMINICK FARINACCI

Dominick Farinacci served as ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln from 2013-2015 in Doha, Qatar, working to further integrate music into communities around the world in culturally collaborative ways. He is a 2022 recipient of the Cleveland Arts Prize, an honor previously awarded to author Toni Morrison, and Cleveland Orchestra conductors George Szell and Franz Welser-Möst. Dominick graduated from The Juilliard School in 2005 launching his career in Japan with a prolific run of twelve albums, later releasing four more globally. He has performed around the world and has been recognized by The New York Times as “a trumpeter of abundant poise.” He was a featured guest on ABC’s Good Morning America and is a TED Speaker. Dominick has been profiled in Vanity Fair, and music icon Quincy Jones says of Dominick’s accomplishments in performance, recording, education & advocacy, “This kid is 360 degrees!”



## MODERN WARRIOR EXPERIENCE TEAM MEMBERS

Dominick Farinacci, trumpet & MWL creator  
Jaymes Poling, narrator & MWL creator  
Emmett Murphy, director  
Jonathan Thomas, piano

Akua Allrich, vocal  
Jordan McBride, bass  
Gabe Jones, drums  
Patrick Graney, percussion

## TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT COLLECTIVE

**The TE Alumni Advancement Collective is a chance for Towards Employment graduates to keep Growing, Connecting, Learning, Sharing and Advancing.**

**Grow Your Voice:** First – vote! Then ... explore how your voice enriches our community. Find out about local policy priorities and match your voice to the things you want to change. Strengthen communication skills and build your personal toolbox for effective storytelling.

**Connect to Community:** Volunteer for a service-based organization – see how these organizations provide no cost resources and support for the betterment of our community.

**Learn About Leadership:** Discover what service on a board, advisory council, or committee means. Become a catalyst for change in your community.

**Share your voice with TE:** join a Board committee or advisory session to provide feedback and insights to enhance TE programs and services.

**Advance with Professional Memberships:** Research and find membership and involvement within a professional network – an organization that supports your continual professional development and achievement of career goals.