

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER INC



What does it take to turn a dream into a business?

For 13 residents across communities supported by Communities Together, it took nine workshops, months of dedication, and a willingness to invest in themselves.

On June 13th, we celebrated a milestone moment—the graduation of our third Entrepreneurship Program cohort. Funded by a generous grant from Truist Bank, participants built real skills for launching and sustaining a business: business planning, marketing, personal and business banking, loans, networking, business registration, and licensing. For residents interested in the food industry, the program also offered free Food Manager certification training, removing barriers that often stand between entrepreneurs and opportunity.

The results speak for themselves:

- **5 residents completed their Food Manager Certification**
- **7 residents have officially registered their businesses**
- **All graduates were connected to resources to help their businesses grow and thrive**

The graduation ceremony was a celebration of hard work, perseverance, and possibility. Families, staff and board members, community partners, and supporters came together to recognize residents who committed themselves to building a stronger future for themselves and their communities.



The energy in the room reflected exactly what this program is all about: residents showing up for themselves and their futures.

The program was led by one of Communities Together's Community Team Managers, Bryana Solano, whose dedication helped participants navigate every step of the process. From recruitment to graduation day, she worked tirelessly to ensure residents had the tools, information, and support they needed to succeed.

Most importantly, the program demonstrated what happens when opportunity meets determination. Residents didn't just complete a course—they took meaningful steps toward becoming business owners, creating economic opportunity for themselves and their families.

Many thanks to Truist Bank for making this program possible and to the many team members, partners, and supporters who helped celebrate this milestone. **We can't wait to see what these new entrepreneurs accomplish next!**

Team Highlight: David Scrivener

We are thrilled to celebrate David Scrivener, who was recently recognized as Residential Transportation Coordinator of the Year at goDCgo's 10th Annual Transportation All-Star Awards Ceremony!



David works full-time at The Gale Eckington, the largest community we support with 603 apartments in the heart of Washington, DC. goDCgo is a partner organization dedicated to connecting DC residents with sustainable, accessible transportation options—a resource that makes a real difference, especially for residents with disabilities or limited mobility.

Here's what goDCgo had to say about David:

"David Scrivener from The Gale Eckington has played a key role in strengthening transportation programming through consistent event presence and resident engagement. He goes above and beyond by enhancing smaller goDCgo events with additional vendors and activities, while also personally connecting with residents at outreach tables. He supported a resident transportation survey by encouraging participation and engagement, and stands out for his consistency, enthusiasm, and thoughtful, welcoming approach to improving transportation access."

This recognition is well-deserved. David's commitment to meeting residents where they are is exactly the kind of above-and-beyond dedication that makes communities stronger.

And the wins keep coming: The Gale Eckington also achieved Platinum status for its robust sustainable transportation amenities and its ongoing efforts to promote sustainable transportation options to residents.

Congratulations, David—we are so proud to have you on our team!

Partnership Spotlight: goDCgo

David's award is a testament to what's possible when our team and partners like goDCgo work together—and that partnership was on full display earlier this month in a transportation resource event at Portner Flats, our newest client community with 149 residents in Washington, DC.

Joyce from goDCgo shared information on transportation programs, Capital Bikeshare, and the nearest metro and bus stops. Residents also got to spin a

prize wheel with prizes that tied directly into goDCgo's mission, including bike safety gear and metro and bikeshare gift cards.

Residents walked away with educational flyers and a transportation map tailored specifically to the Portner Flats neighborhood.

A big thank you to Joyce and the goDCgo team for bringing this resource directly to Portner Flats residents!

By the Numbers: Youth

Communities Together shared 81 summer youth programs and opportunities with residents this month!

- 20 on-site summer youth programs will be coordinated across communities served by Communities Together. Whether led by our coordinators or brought in through trusted partners, we ensure every on-site program is organized, supported, and accessible to residents.
 - 61 off-site programs and opportunities were also shared with residents. Our team ensures residents are aware of opportunities beyond their doorstep so they can take full advantage of everything their city has to offer.
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As we close out another incredible month, we are deeply grateful for the community we've built together: our residents, our staff and board team, and our partners who show up every day.

We are also thrilled to share that United Bank Charitable Foundation has generously gifted \$5,000 to support our work. This kind of investment fuels everything you've read about in this newsletter—the programs, the partnerships, and the people. We are so grateful for their confidence in the results we achieve for residents of affordable housing.

Until next month, keep building, keep connecting, and keep showing up.

The Communities Together Team

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