# HOPEWORKS 2022

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Leadership Message / Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Story: Xavier and Subaru / Elise and Cooper Health / Corey Finds His Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Story: Highest Paid Alumni / Diginuiti Hires at HopeWorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Story: Henry’s Passion for Data / Starr Joins Capital One / First Ever ABS Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Business and Community Features: Black Enterprise Website Winner / Subaru Town Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Outcomes and Financials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Honors and Achievements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Donors and Supporters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Donors and Supporters (Cont’d)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Friends,

Now is the time.

The global pandemic has brought incredible hardship to communities in both Camden and Philadelphia. Supply chain problems, worker shortages – so many things have happened in the past year, much less the past few years!

However, this moment has also brought a moment of tremendous opportunity. With the rise of remote work, a corporate recommitment to racial equity, and growing technology needs in every sector of the economy, now is the time for Hopeworks and the young adults we serve to seize the moment and dramatically change the trajectory of their careers, and the economic situation of themselves and their families.

Now is the time, and our young adults are rising to the challenge. Hopeworks is placing more young adults, with higher wages, than ever before.

Look inside these pages. Read the stories of young adults who – in the face of unprecedented challenges – are not just changing their lives, but changing the face of success in our region, and our world.

We at Hopeworks are proud to be a small part of their journey, now more than ever.

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Xavier Lands A Job With Subaru

Xavier Padilla walked into Hopeworks in January 2022, feeling lost and stuck in his life and career path. A previous U.S. Marine and graduate of Camden’s LEAP Academy, he had reached a crossroads in his journey.

Though skeptical at first, he eventually grew to love the warm and inviting environment at Hopeworks. Not only did he learn professional and soft skills during his time here, he learned the value of true authenticity.

“Hopeworks taught me to be yourself anywhere you go, I don't have to conform and I stay true to myself.”

That authenticity, dedication and hard work led Xavier to becoming a Full Time Quality Assurance Analyst at Fortune 500 automobile manufacturing company, Subaru!

“Hopeworks has changed my life in a big way. I have a full time job, made connections, and resources that I never had before.”

Elise’s Road To A Better Future

A high school student and expecting mom in the midst of her junior year, Elise Vogues found herself in need of guidance, direction, and a job. A social media post from her sister, led her to Hopeworks where her life immediately took a turn for the better. During her time here, Elise successfully balanced motherhood, studying for her diploma, and a demanding GIS internship.

Upon completion of her internship, Elise now has her High School Diploma and a full time position with Cooper Health Systems as a Support Service Associate. Her current position is a result of a promotion she earned after only 6 months!

“Hopeworks has helped me open my eyes to the possibilities I didn’t know I could achieve. Now I can go higher and higher.”

Corey Finds His Way

Corey Denlinger has always had a bright, inviting energy that people have noticed. He also has strong leadership qualities that he’s always wanted to cultivate. Until now, he has never had anyone empower those strengths.

Previously spending time in a group home, working in unfulfilling jobs, and facing personal challenges, Corey always knew he was meant for something more.

“Hopeworks gives you a hand up, not a hand out. They will help you find resources, but you have to do the work.”

By doing that work, Corey is now a Benefits Outreach Specialist with Benefits Data Trust, helping customers apply for public assistance and other government assisted benefits. With his new job, he’s even been able to help out his family, and has goals to go back to school for business.
**STORY:**

**HIGHEST PAID ALUMNI / DIGINUITI HIRES AT HOPWORKS**

**Willem Becomes Hopeworks Highest Paid Alumni**

Willem Schrieks started his graphic design journey at 15 years old with a dream to one day become the founder of his own company. While working in a printshop, a supervisor noticed one of his illustrations and took an interest in his natural talent - taking the initiative to teach him Photoshop and other design programs. A few years later, Willem was at Camden County College studying Graphic Design when he met a Hopeworks staff member.

“She told me that we can teach you everything you need to know about design, and we’ll pay you.”

He went in for a tour and started the Hopeworks training the next day. Willem has taken a number of twists and turns during his time here, but always kept the bigger picture in the back of his mind. After interning in the Web Department, he moved on to the Communications department and then served a year with Americorps managing IT infrastructure at Camden schools.

In 2018, through connections and perseverance he landed his first huge tech job placement. A few years later, he is the lead UX designer for Compt, an employee focused HR benefits software company. Not only that, but he’s now the highest paid alumni in Hopeworks history!

“Hopeworks helped me drastically improve my soft skills. I learned how to advocate for myself, be more organized, hustle the right way, and use my network to get to where I want to go. I could always do the work but I needed an opportunity, Hopeworks gave me that.”

**Diginuiti Hires At Hopeworks**

A recently formed partnership with a growing digital marketing agency, has turned into a success! Riscee Langhorne, our Assistant Director of Workforce Solutions met Diginuiti CEO Tom Rodgers in January and discussed his need for Digital Marketing Interns.

This conversation was the launchpad to THREE young professionals joining their team. Ollie was the first to become an intern there and is now a full time web developer and UX designer. In June, Jason and Tati were also brought on for 3 month internships!

Tom Rodgers recently checked in with Riscee with updates, and had this to say about our young professionals.

“Jason and Tati fit perfectly with our team at Diginuiti! Jason is currently developing an eCommerce website while helping us launch multiple paid advertising campaigns on Facebook and Google. Tati is designing multiple websites with Hopeworks Alum, Ollie, and is creating awesome additions to our own Diginuiti website. We love having them as a part of the team!”

With the success of Ollie, Jason and Tati, Diginuiti is also ready to create a pipeline of cohorts every 6 months to continue building up their team.
Henry’s Passion for Data Leads to Success

After graduating high school and one year of college, Henry found himself in an endless cycle of food service jobs and life roadblocks. With a slight interest in coding, but a lack of confidence he decided to look into a recommendation from his therapist about a job training program.

Finding himself confused during his initial tour, he still decided to show up the next day and begin training. In less than a month, Henry had already progressed to an internship with the GIS Department, and found himself finally flourishing in life.

“I had no confidence in myself and thought I wasn’t smart enough to code or build a website in the . Without Hopeworks believing in me, I wouldn’t have been able to make things happen”.

Henry’s work ethic and passion for technology and data has led to him securing a role as a Software Engineering Intern with Beigene Pharmaceutical Company. He works under a team who uses Artificial Intelligence to treat and detect cancers.

Starr Joins Capital One

When Starr first found Hopeworks, she was a recent college graduate looking for opportunities in tech. She was struggling with being overwhelmed and anxious on a regular basis along with having imposter syndrome. As a web team intern she worked directly with clients on large projects, learned to work independently and was introduced to the general workflow of a day in tech. But the biggest skills she gained was asking for help and advocating for herself.

“Advocate for yourself, support is always available. It’s like using your safety plan; you need to let your manager know what you need in order to be your best self at work.”

Starr initially joined Capital One through their developer bootcamp program and is now an Associate Software Engineer. She says going with the flow and reminding herself of positive qualities has helped her recover from imposter syndrome.

First Ever ABS Graduation
A Success!

On July 21st, several Hopeworks young professionals marched across the stage at the Camden Kroc Center to commemorate and celebrate earning their high school diplomas! Dozens of friends, family, and staff were all in attendance to hear keynote speeches and to support their loved ones.

The Adult Basic Skills program allows individuals who haven’t received their high school diploma, to complete testing that allows them to do so while being in the training room and respective internships. Shawneeq Pettiford and Carol Dann were the catalysts behind the ceremony coming together!

“From our perspective, as educators, the graduation represents the hard work and dedication that each of the graduates put into seeing their goals come to fruition. We get a chance to celebrate each of their accomplishments along with their family and friends who have also supported them along the way.” - Shawneeq Pettiey-Ford
Youth Healing Team Subaru Town Hall Presentation

Hopeworks Trauma Informed Training is developed and delivered by the Youth Healing Team, a specially trained group of young professionals coming from Camden, Philadelphia, and other traditionally underrepresented communities. Recently, the team created a customized training program for our long-term partner, Subaru of America, about toxic stress, brain behaviors, and trauma’s impact on an organization.

Kate Daugherty, our Community Impact Director and Jase Elam, our Youth Healing Team Lead organized the training team that specializes in trauma-informed care training and professional development. Dr. Monica Curry and Subaru’s leadership were highly informed and impressed with the interactive training, best practices, strategies, and resources provided by the Youth Healing Team.

BFLYS

Building Future Legacies for Young Scholars (BFLYS) is a Higher Ed and Culture-IN-Tech consultancy that helps high school students, undergraduate, graduate, and academic professionals navigate higher education and non-academic career paths by providing strategies to deal with issues surrounding race, racism, gender, sexuality and class using a trauma-informed praxis.

The founder, Dr. Christine A. Pinnock was the winner of our first ever Black Enterprise Initiative. We built a functional, professional Wordpress website for one qualified Black Owned Business in the Northeast Region at no cost. The young professionals working on the website are highly trained and use their technical skills to build viable business solutions for the business community.

“I am really passionate about my work as a Higher Ed and Culture-IN-Tech Consultant. Being a Black woman CEO is both rewarding and overwhelming, and winning this opportunity to have young people help me build my website alleviates anxiety, and takes one more load off my shoulders.”
OUTCOMES AND FINANCIALS

Revenue
- Grants - 42.5%
- Donations - 43.2%
- Special Events - 0.93%
- Business Revenue - 13.3%

Expenses
- Youth Development Programming - 44.5%
- Business Operations and Social Enterprise - 25%
- Participant Wages and Stipends - 19.3%
- Administration - 5.6%
- Fundraising - 5.5%

Outcomes
- WAGES AND STIPENDS PAID TO YOUTH - $970,197.36
- JOBS EARNED - 88
- AVERAGE STARTING WAGE - $41,464.06
- 12 MONTH JOB RETENTION - 90.7%
- COLLEGE CLASS PASS RATE - 88.54%
HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

01 HOPEWORKS RECEIVES GRANTS FROM NBA FOUNDATION

02 ONNA JONES NAMED ONE OF GENEROCITY’S 45 LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE REGION

03 JAY JACKSON RECEIVES NSDTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN TRAINING AWARD

04 JASE ELAM NAMED ONE OF KYW NEWS RADIO’S 2022 GAME CHANGERS

05 2022 FACES OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD RECOGNITION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER AND HOPEWORKS

06 GIS TEAM HONORED WITH ESRI SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

07 RECOGNIZED AS FINALIST IN PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL SOCIAL MEDIA STARS AWARDS

08 KATE DAUGHERTY RECEIVES LIVED EQUITY AWARD FROM GARDEN STATE EQUALITY
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- Patricia Renzulli
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