



COMMUNITY WORKS WEST

The Power of Trust

2026 Support and Program Stories

The Power of Trust

Owens has been connected to Community Works since he was 14 years old. Today, at 21, he is a college student, a peer mentor in ProjectWHAT!, and a participant in the Restorative Resiliency Fund (RRF), Community Works' guaranteed income program.

As a peer mentor, Owens helps guide younger participants in ProjectWHAT!, our youth-led leadership development program for children of incarcerated parents. Between school, work, and mentoring, his schedule is full. The Restorative Resiliency Fund has helped him manage it.

When asked what he appreciates most about the program, Owens said, *"I appreciate getting the funds with no strings attached. No hoops to jump through, no catch."*

While he would have completed additional requirements if asked, Owens values the trust and dignity built into the program. The unconditional support allows him to focus on the things that matter most: school, work, family, and giving back to younger youth.

One of the biggest changes has been transportation. Before joining the program, Owens relied on public transportation to get to school, work, and other commitments. With support from the Restorative Resiliency Fund, he was able to purchase a car.

Instead of worrying about how he will get from place to place, Owens can focus on balancing the many demands of young adulthood. The additional income has also helped him develop important financial skills. Owens has become more intentional about budgeting, saving, and making thoughtful decisions about what his family needs versus what can wait.

His story reflects what Community Works has seen throughout multiple guaranteed income initiatives: even a modest amount of flexible financial support can create meaningful opportunities for growth. Participants consistently report using funds for essentials such as housing, transportation, healthy food, savings, education, and long-term planning. The support helps people move beyond day-to-day survival and invest in their futures.



When asked what Community Works has meant to him over the years, Owens reflected:

"It's just a very good experience to be around a place where it's more than a job. Through grants like RRF, or college scholarships that other participants have received through ProjectWHAT!, Community Works helps you be better."

For seven years, Community Works has invested in Owens' growth as a young leader. Today, he is investing in others.

How You Can Make a Difference

During Community Works' \$25K in 25 Days campaign, we invite you to support programs like the Restorative Resiliency Fund and ProjectWHAT! that provide young people with the stability, opportunities, and support they need to thrive.

Your donation helps create pathways to leadership, education, economic stability, and a future filled with possibility.





CONTACT US
110 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607

e) info@communityworkswest.org
p) 510.268.8116
w) www.communityworkswest.org