

THE FRESH START **WORX** NEWSLETTER

WORX IN PROGRESS



Buzzing with Activity

As we settle into the fall season, Fresh Start Worx has been buzzing with activity. The Academy is thriving, our shop floor is producing exciting new handcrafted pieces, and we've welcomed several new team members who bring fresh energy and talent to our mission. We know the world continues to present challenges — resources are stretched, and uncertainty is real — which makes programs like ours, focused on helping people return to work and reconnect with their community, more vital than ever. This year has also been one of deep relationship-building with partners and employers, and we're grateful for the strong community support that continues to fuel our progress. We're excited to share what's new — welcome to this edition of our newsletter!

Day of Giving is Almost Here!

Mark your calendars—Day of Giving is coming up on December 2nd, and we're excited to share that Fresh Start Worx will be participating through a match campaign on GlobalGiving! This means your donation can go even further to support our mission. Keep an eye out for more details on how to maximize your impact.



On December 2–3, 2025, GlobalGiving is offering **\$500,000 in matching funds** during its GivingTuesday campaign. Donations made to Fresh Start Worx through our GlobalGiving page during this 36-hour window will be **eligible for proportional matching**, meaning the more we raise, the more match funds we receive. Each donor can have up to **\$2,500 matched**, and bonus prizes are available for top-performing projects

This is a powerful opportunity to **multiply your impact** — your gift can go even further to support workforce development and second chances. By giving during this campaign, you help us unlock additional funding and reach more individuals ready for a fresh start.

We're also thrilled to announce our new holiday product line will be coming out soon, just in time for the gift season! Our handcrafted serving trays are back, now featuring festive shapes like snowmen, ornaments, and Christmas trees. Each piece is made with care by our shop employees and is perfect for holiday gatherings or as a meaningful gift that gives back. Check our website on November 17th to see the options, follow us on social media, and keep an eye out for more information

[Support local. Give with purpose. Celebrate the season with Fresh Start Worx.](#)

Student Spotlight - Raul C.



This month, we're proud to spotlight Raul, a graduate of the Academy who completed the program in May. Since then, Raul has secured employment as a dishwasher at Parkville Market, demonstrating his commitment to building a stable and independent future.

In addition to his job, Raul serves as a mentor with Credible Messengers, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth through lived experience and guidance. He continues to stay connected with Fresh Start Worx, often stopping by the shop to share life updates and connect with current students.

Raul was also a featured speaker at our Appreciation Event on October 9th, where he shared his personal journey and his hopes to one day take over his family's business. Raul's story shows just how far someone can go with determination, growth, and a strong support system behind them.

We're proud of Raul and excited to see what's next for him!

It's our donors, volunteers, and partners support that makes these stories happen.

Richard P. Garmany Academy Graduation Recap



On October 17th, we celebrated the graduation of five students from the Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy. Each graduate received their HBI PACT certificate in front of an audience that included staff, board members, family, and partners including guests from Bank of America. We were also honored to welcome David Polk, trustee of the Richard P. Garmany Foundation, whose presence added meaning to the occasion.

The graduates spoke about their time in the shop, the skills they developed, and the confidence they've gained through the program. Some talked about how meaningful it was to contribute to the Hill-Stead fence restoration project, where their hands-on assistance was not only appreciated; it was essential. Their work made a real impact, and being part of a community effort helped them see the value of what they were learning in a new light. During the ceremony, students reflected on how much their skills improved during the program and spoke about what the next chapter holds. It was inspiring to hear them describe the support they received from Ricardo, Jenna, and the entire shop team how that encouragement created a space where students felt safe to share and proud of what they've accomplished.

Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Event



Last month, we hosted our 2nd annual Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Event, bringing together the people who help make Fresh Start Worx what it is. Volunteers, donors, partners, students, and friends joined us for an evening of good food, conversations, and updates on our organization. One of the highlights was hearing directly from our students in a live interview-style format, where they shared what they've learned, what they're working toward, and how FSW was a driving force in that. We were also proud to welcome a major first-time customer who spoke about their experience partnering with Fresh Start and the value our team brings to their business. Our Board Chair closed the evening with words of encouragement and gratitude, reminding everyone why this community matters. We recognized several individuals with awards for their ongoing support and wrapped up the night with a raffle as a final thank-you to everyone who came out. [Check out all the photos now live on our website, scroll to see Volunteer Event 2025!](#)

Project Nightmare



Over the summer, Fresh Start Worx took on an exciting large-scale project in partnership with *Decimated Designs*. Our team was contracted to build the entire external pathway for the largest haunted house featured at Lake Compounce's annual Fright Fest.

This wasn't just any haunted house; it was the biggest attraction of the season, running for three weekends and drawing thousands of visitors. From concept to construction, our crew worked hard to bring this one-of-a-kind project to life.

We're proud of the impact our work had on such a high-profile project, and even prouder of the hands that made it happen.

New Employee

We're so excited to welcome Peter Orschiedt to the team! He joined us on October 2nd as our new Salesperson. Peter jumped right in and was an absolute delight to have on board. He's genuinely



interested in getting to know everyone involved, from our volunteers to our existing partners. He's focused on building those great relationships so we can keep securing the resources needed to do our best work!

Feel free to reach out and say hi, he's looking forward to connecting with everyone who makes our mission happen! Peter@fsworx.org

Nantucket Chairs



We're thrilled to share that Fresh Start Worx completed its first successful cross-country delivery to a customer all the way in Colorado!

We recently heard from a wonderful supporter who has been a fan of our organization for a long time. After relocating, he was eager to find a meaningful way to stay connected and support our mission. To do so, he ordered two of our handcrafted Nantucket rockers. They were delivered in late October, here's what he told us:

"The Nantucket chairs arrived at our home, safe and sound, on Thursday. They are gorgeous, terrific workmanship, beautiful stain finish, and the shipping prep preserved them perfectly on their journey from CT to Colorado. I could not be more pleased and touched by all the courtesies you have shown me during this process."

"I plan to cover your chairs when not in use to preserve them from the Colorado elements. I'm already thinking about future orders for family and friends—though that will be after the New Year. In the meantime, may your nonprofit continue to bless all who work there and their families, as your handiwork has blessed us."



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