



Thank You to Our 2024 MVP Sponsors

MND would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our 6th annual MVP Event sponsors. The support of these organizations contributed to a wonderful celebration for our deserving honorees and guests.



Our 2024 MVP Event was Our Biggest Yet!

Our MVP event just keeps getting bigger and better! On September 26, for the sixth consecutive year, staff, board members, clients, volunteers, supporters, and friends gathered at Mt. Washington Tavern to celebrate the achievements and contributions of a few individuals who best represent Maryland New Directions' (MND) mission to change lives through employment.

Every day we meet clients who inspire us with their ability to persevere over adversity, and their desire to work towards a better future for themselves and their families. Our 2024 Client MVP winners, Anton and Torchia, are no exception.

Anton came to MND just after completing high school. Like most recent graduates, Anton was ready to further his education and enter the workforce, but he carried more responsibility than most 18-year-olds. Following their grandmother's death, Anton was now the guardian and sole provider for his younger sister, and he was determined to secure a stable job and ensure they could stay together in their family home.



Pictured above: Anton and his sister

He excelled in our Professional Skills Training (PST) and Maritime, Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (MTDL) programs. Anton actively engaged in job coaching, and took advantage of every opportunity presented to him, including resume support and mock interviews. He passed all his MTDL exams, earning his Certified Guest Service Professional (CGSP) & forklift certifications. He is now working two jobs, including a full-time job with Amazon, and with some assistance from supportive resources, he and his sister are thriving. Continued on page 2

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“I want to thank everyone in the room tonight for supporting MND, and helping to make sure that me, and so many others, benefit from free training, certification and other support to take big steps to have a brighter future.” —Anton

Our second client MVP, Torchia, says her motto has always been “Live, learn, and move on.” After losing her brother to murder when she was just 13, Torchia dreamed of becoming a police officer. But more unexpected life events, including becoming a mother at 14 and sustaining serious injuries from a car accident at 21, prevented her from pursuing this path. Along the way, she also found herself in an abusive relationship. She came to MND determined to create a safer life for herself and her daughter.



Pictured above: Torchia

Despite having to take extra precautions out of fear for her safety, Torchia completed our Commercial Transportation Careers (CTC) program and earned her CDL-B learner’s permit. One year later, she is a fully licensed bus driver for the Maryland Transit Administrator (MTA) and she loves her job. She is working with a counselor to purchase her first home and recently flew with her daughter to Florida for their first family vacation. Torchia has also set her sights on a new dream—becoming an MTA police officer. “My story started with so much struggle and fear, but this chapter right here is called stability and joy,” she said.

“Thank you to all of you who support MND and make it possible for me and many others to take the next step in our journey. Without opportunity, there would be no success.” —Torchia

Client success stories like Anton and Torchia would not be possible without the support of our volunteers and hiring partners. Our 2024 Volunteer MVP is Linda Ciotti, who has worked with our clients since May 2023. While her primary efforts have been providing mock interviews to our graduates to prepare them for securing employment, she also has supported staff by identifying quality improvements in our processes and helping to develop potential new volunteer programs.

Our 2024 MVP Employer Partner is CHEP, a company that manages, maintains, transports and supplies pallets and containers for global supply chains. Led by Chuck Gholston, plant manager and Adrienne Norman-Gladden, talent acquisition partner, CHEP has a consistent presence at MND, offering in-person information, on-site interviews, and insights into career paths. Many of our MND clients have gained quality employment with CHEP, and Chuck and Adrienne credit MND with helping to stabilize their workforce.

Beyond hearing these inspiring stories, MVP guests also enjoyed food and drink, raffle prizes, a silent auction, and many smiles and laughs. Thank you to everyone who helped us sell out this year’s event, making it our biggest and most successful MVP event to date!



Donate to MND and Help Change Someone's Life

As we approach the holiday season, please consider making an end-of-year donation to MND. Regardless of the amount, your gift directly supports our programs, helping us to serve more motivated job seekers. Every person who walks through our door is given access to a comprehensive array of services to support their job search—including individual coaching, industry-specific training, help with resume development and interview skills, computer literacy, barrier management and more—all at no cost. When you give to MND, you make a direct impact on someone’s journey to change their life.



To donate, please visit mdnewdirections.org/donate or contact Barbara Reed-DiGia at breed@mdnewdirections.org.

Join An Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting



To ensure our programs and services are meeting the needs of our community, we are inviting former clients and volunteers to participate in a series of virtual stakeholder meetings this fall. Your insight and feedback is valuable to us.



If you are interested in joining a meeting, please contact Barbara Reed-DiGia at breed@mdnewdirections.org or call [410-230-0630](tel:410-230-0630).

Introducing Career Focused Services: *Sign Up Now For Our Free Coaching Sessions*

At MND, we are committed to helping anyone who is ready and motivated to find their next career path. We now offer individual coaching sessions for anyone seeking immediate support through our new career-focused services. Appointments are available from 8 – 9 a.m. or 3 – 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also take appointments during our No One Waits (N.O.W.) hours on Wednesdays from 1 – 4 p.m.

During a career-focused session, candidates work with an MND volunteer or staff member to receive one-on-one help with:

- Accessing our No One Waits (N.O.W) computer lab and improving computer skills
- Identifying a career path that best aligns with your interests, skills, and experience—plus career assessments using O*Net Career Exploration tools
- Developing a resume and writing cover letters
- Preparing for interviews
- Connecting with resources to address barriers
- Understanding job search strategies and completing applications
- Enhancing financial literacy – we now offer opportunities to earn a certificate of completion from NorthStar’s Financial Literacy Program
- ...and so much more!

If you’ve decided our industry-specific training programs aren’t for you, or if you are unsure which program is best, or if our next class is still weeks away, our career-focused services offer a great opportunity to begin your training now. Signing up is free and easy.



To request a career-focus appointment, please call us at [410-230-0630](tel:410-230-0630) or visit bit.ly/2lQ5HTo.



New Fall Hours for N.O.W. Computer Lab

Our No One Waits (N.O.W.) computer lab is open with new hours for fall and winter. Appointments are available on Wednesdays between 1 – 4 p.m. Staff and volunteers will be present to assist with learning how to use the computers, resume and cover letter writing, searching and applying for jobs, and more! Don’t miss this opportunity to gain free professional guidance for all your online employment needs.



To request a N.O.W. appointment, visit mdnewdirections.org/our-programs/now or call us at [410-230-0630](tel:410-230-0630).

Congratulations To Our Recent Training Graduates!

These are just a few of the cohorts who have completed our training programs in the past few months. Congratulations to these individuals on taking this important first step towards their new careers!



CTC, August '24



PST, August '24



Youth, August '24



CTC, September '24



CTC, September '24



CTC, October '24



MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

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Maryland New Directions is proud to have held the highest rankings from both Candid and Great Nonprofits for the past two decades!



Special Thanks to our Recent Financial Supporters



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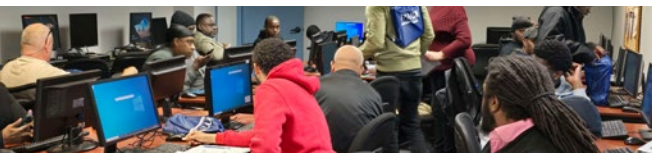


Enterprise Mobility

In 2025, MND Will Offer More Training Opportunities Than Ever Before

This has been a year of tremendous growth for MND and as we look to 2025, we aren't slowing down. Attendance at our free information sessions is at an all-time high, consistently drawing 35 or more people each week. To meet this demand, we will offer both daytime and evening classes in our training programs next year. We are planning to host 18 cohorts in 2025—the most we have ever held in one year. We are also preparing to introduce a new industry program soon—stay tuned!

Here is our 2025 training schedule. To learn more about these opportunities, please make plans to join us for a free information session.



To join us for a free information session, contact us at [410-230-0630](tel:410-230-0630) or email info@mdnewdirections.org to register.

MND 2025 Training Program Schedule

Maritime, Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (MTDL)

- January 13 – January 31 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- March 3 – March 21 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- April 28 – May 16 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- June 9 – June 27 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- August 11 – August 29 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- September 22 – October 10 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)

Commercial Transportation Careers (CTC)

- January 13 – February 1 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Mon. – Thu.; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sat.)
- February 20 – February 28 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- March 24 – April 11 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- June 2 – June 21 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Mon. – Thu.; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sat.)
- July 14 – August 1 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- September 8 – September 27 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Mon. – Thu.; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sat.)
- October 13 – November 1 (6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Mon. – Thu.; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sat.)

Professional Skills Training (PST)

- February 18 – February 28 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- May 5 – May 16 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- August 18 – August 29 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)
- November 3 – November 14 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)