

# LENDING HANDS

Inspiration | Resources | Connections

## Who We Are

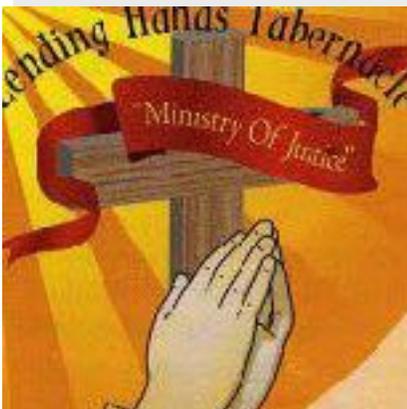
Lending Hands provides support for the ex-offender community in Charlottesville. In addition to job referrals and transportation assistance, Lending Hands acts as a liaison with support agencies in Charlottesville to help ex-offenders and their families rebuild their lives and community.

## Contact Us

Lending Hands

434.409.2932

[clhenley3457@gmail.com](mailto:clhenley3457@gmail.com)



## The Road to Lending Hands

The director of Lending Hands, Cherry Henley, knows the uphill battle that every former inmates faces. She also understands the effect of community and family backlash on the incarcerated. After her incarceration, she juggled multiple low paying jobs and struggled to rebuild her life. From learning life skills to healing emotional wounds she admits there was a lot of hard work.

Cherry credits her success on taking the advice offered through her recovery program. Being accountable for her actions and changing negative behavioral patterns was key. She says, “doing the same things and expecting different results will just take you down the same negative path.” She also advises that it’s important to become economically self-reliant – “You alone are responsible for taking care of yourself. Most of all, believe in yourself and your goals -your uniqueness is who you were created to be.” Cherry hopes that her work through Lending Hands will help ease the transition for others formerly incarcerated, just as so many helped her during her recovery.



## What's in the News

### Jobs:

- Charlie Burton Cleaning Services. Contact us for information.

**TJ ACE** offers GED and job training classes on 2nd St. in Charlottesville. Call (434) 245-2817 to get assistance in finding the right class for you.

**GO Job Training** The City offers **G**rowing **O**ppportunity (**GO**) training programs in a variety of field including GO-Driver, GO-Electrical and Go-CNA.. Visit the City of Charlottesville Job Center for more information (see below).

**City of Charlottesville Job Center** on the lower level of Central Library offers free assistance with job searches and helps connect people with workforce resources. Call 434-970-3933.

**Community Resilience Fund -** Connects inmates with the resources needed to cover court fees, including bail . Contact us for more information.

**Participatory Defense -** Collaborates with the Community Resilience Fund to provide arrested persons with the training they need for a successful and positive court appearance. Contact us for more information.

**Transportation -** Lending Hands provides van transportation to job sites in and around Charlottesville. Contact us for more info.

### Congratulations Nikuyah Walker

On January 2, 2018, Nikuyah Walker was elected the first female African-American mayor of Charlottesville after a historic City Council victory back in November. Thanks to the entire community for coming out to support her. To get involved, City Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public. Make your voice heard!

*Get Ready: Now is the time to register for the June 12th Primary. Contact the Board of Elections at (434) 970-3250.*

### Advocating for Change

There are many agencies and resources that offer help to the ex-offender community. Are they serving our needs? More importantly, how can we be more involved to create positive change? Being your own advocate takes courage and patience but is time well spent. Here are a few agencies to inspect more closely.

Fountain Fund - This organization provides loans to help pay off any fees/ fines that are required to obtain DMV licenses. However, it is not fulfilling its obligations. Loan-takers are finding that all of their licensing fees/fines have not been paid as promised and they are not able to get their license.

Region10 - Many families are served by Region10 but not all receive adequate care. There are issues with basic care services (like bathing) that are in the handbook but not being performed. How can we hold them accountable to provide full care?

City Schools - A mother told us about her child who struggled with behavior and reading in the City school system. Upon moving to Fluvanna County he is now thriving and on-grade level. . How can we support our children's so they all thrive?

### Question of the Month

#### How can services for the ex-offender community be improved?

*Region10 should improve the level of basic care given to the people they serve. - Cherry, 38*

*Schools should stop labeling our children as "difficult".- Tiffany, 27*

#### Next Month:How can YOU make positive changes in the community?

*We'd love to hear your concerns and ideas. Please visit our website or e-mail us to add your voice.*