

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

703 Concord Avenue

434.409.2932

lendinghandscville@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon. Wed. Fri.
10 a.m - 12 pm



Spotlight on Lending Hands

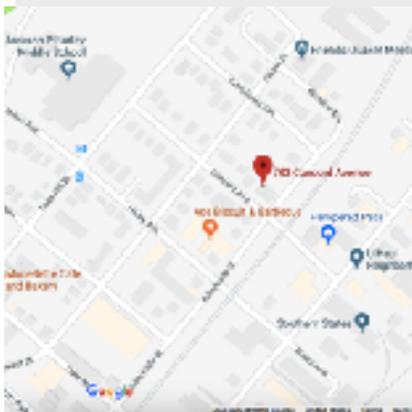
Lending Hands aims to empower the ex-offender community in Charlottesville, VA. Founded by Cherry Henley, herself formerly incarcerated, the organization provides services to support ex-offenders and their families while they clear the many hurdles facing reentry.

“Regaining your footing and rebuilding trust and confidence in yourself is the key to success,” Cherry says, “...that and a lot of hard work.” To that end, Lending Hands partners with many organizations in an effort to strengthen the social network for the ex-offender community. Recently, Lending Hands has been working with SONG (Southerners on New Ground) to support women for the first ninety days home after their incarceration. Lending Hands also partners closely with the Community Resilience Fund and Participatory Defense to help with legal issues. Please contact us if you have an upcoming court case

In addition to these partnerships, Lending Hands provides job referrals, transportation assistance, a weekly women’s support group and an open door. Stop by the new office space to chat with Cherry. [703 Carlton Avenue.](#)

Women’s Support Group: every Tuesday 6 pm.

Office Hours : Monday, Wednesday, Friday -10am-12pm.





GO Job Training The City offers **Growing Opportunity (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.

What's in the News

Region 10 - An Issue of Family Rights

There has been a growing chorus of critics within the community that are calling for change within Region 10. The services can be especially difficult to navigate for families dealing with incarceration. Here is the founder of Lending Hands, Cherry Henley's, personal account of her struggle with the organization and its care of her sister Andrea.

Regretfully, Andrea was turned over to the state after my mother passed away. At that time, I was still incarcerated and Charlottesville city courts wouldn't allow my brother custody. When I returned in 2010, Andrea had changed dramatically. I was so sad when I first laid eyes on her – I barely recognized her. She was in a wheelchair all the time and had lost most of her mobility. She had lost a tremendous amount of weight and all her bottom teeth had been extracted. She looked so fragile and alone. It was very painful to see her looking so solemn and sad. I'm sure it was the fact that her mother, the only caretaker she had ever known, was gone.

My mother had done well caring for Andrea alone. When she was alive, Andrea could feed herself, go to the bathroom with assistance; had acquired some basic skills, and could communicate with those around her. After my release, I began visiting Andrea and trying to advocate for her. I wanted to care for her as we always had. Unfortunately, she is in the care of a rotating cast of guardians and my rights are very limited. She has continued to have medical problems, emotional distress, and even hospitalizations. Nobody at Region 10 is willing to discuss these issues with me.

It is very difficult to come against an organization as big as Region 10 but I am demanding simple answers. Why are loving family members being purposefully left out of a patient's care plan? Where are the rights for these patient advocates? Who, if not these families, is holding Region 10 accountable for the care they provide? I'm asking for accountability, transparency, and basic human decency.

If you have a story to share about your family's dealings with Region 10, please contact us or stop by the office to share. We would like to build a groundswell movement to fix the system.

Question of the Month

What should be included in a Family's Bill of Rights for Region 10?

We'd love to hear your ideas. Please visit our [website](#), [e-mail us](#), or stop by the [office](#) to add your voice.