

# HELP MAKE SUCCESS *Elementary*



*Empowering Educational Environments*



MANCHESTER BIDWELL  
CORPORATION

**S**tephanie Wilkerson has never stopped trying to improve life for herself and her daughter. In 2012, Manchester Bidwell Corporation's Bidwell Training Center (BTC) gave her the means to secure not just a job, but a career—and a lifeline.

Wilkerson grew up in Pittsburgh's Hill District and went to college directly after high school, but the tuition forced her to drop out after 18 months.

She worked a series of jobs, including as document specialist at a major law firm, but was forced to quit when her firm merged with another and the new health insurance didn't cover costs associated with her daughter's diabetes. After securing her welder's certification, Stephanie worked next for a structural steel fabrication company—until it closed. She then began working as a waitress.

"It was rough," she recalls. "Each time a company changed hands, I lost my job and had to take a lesser-paying job.

"I applied for public assistance, but I really didn't want it," she says. Instead, the public-assistance office informed her about BTC and its success with career-training and job placement for local residents who are not being served through traditional trade schools and educational institutions.

Wilkerson entered BTC's Chemical Laboratory Technician program in 2011. She appreciated the manageable length of BTC majors and that tuition and supplies were available at no cost to eligible students.

"The training I received was impeccable," she says. Her externship at RJ Lee Group in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, immediately turned into a full-time chemical laboratory technician job. "Because of the hands-on training I received at Bidwell, I came to my job able to do the work rather easily," she says.

Today, at the age of 38, Stephanie lives in the North Hills. She and her daughter have full medical coverage through her job. "And," she says, "we are completely free of the welfare system."



**We are completely free  
of the welfare system.**

*— Stephanie Wilkerson*

Helping people like Stephanie Wilkerson achieve financial independence and a more dependable future represents just a few ways BTC is benefiting our region. *Your support today will assist Manchester Bidwell Corporation continue to create a better tomorrow.*

## I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL:

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## PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Manchester Bidwell Corporation  
ATTN: Development Department  
1815 Metropolitan St., Pittsburgh, PA 15233

## IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:

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## MAKE A SECURE DONATION ONLINE!

[www.manchesterbidwell.org](http://www.manchesterbidwell.org)

# THANK YOU

*for your support!*

\$50

ENTHUSIAST

- Manchester Bidwell Corporation decal
- Personalized thank-you letter from Bill Strickland, President/CEO
- Recognition in spring edition of *A Better Way Forward* bi-annual newsletter

\$100

APPRENTICE

**All items at the Enthusiast level plus...**

- Orchid Notebook

\$250

MENTOR

**All items at the Apprentice level plus...**

- MCG Jazz CD chosen from a collection of classic MCG Jazz recordings

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MASTER

**All items at the Mentor level plus...**

- Framed photograph by a MCG Youth & Arts student

\$1,000

PATRON

**All items at the Master level plus...**

- *Phalaenopsis* orchid from The Drew Mathieson Center
- Private tour of MBC's facilities with lunch prepared by BTC Culinary students

For more information on supporting our mission of empowering educational environments, please call 412-323-4000 Ext. 261.

**M**ANCHESTER BIDWELL CORPORATION's supportive atmosphere of art, light and music empowers our students to become productive society members. We do this through a number of initiatives:

#### BIDWELL TRAINING CENTER

Our accredited and state-licensed career training for adults in transition is focused on job placement.

#### MCG YOUTH & ARTS

Our out-of-school-time courses — based in four art studios — are primarily for high-school-age students.

#### MCG JAZZ

We preserve, promote and present jazz music through live concerts, archival recordings and educational programming.

#### THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

We create similar educational environments across the United States!



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