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 biannual 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

$500 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.

Manchester 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!
After graduating from Shaler Area High School, Darlene Shannon followed her passion and entered the one-year program at a local floral academy. Following her education, Darlene decided to open her own floral shop, which stayed in business for over 20 years.

However, due to economic reasons and lack of affordable health care, Darlene began working in the flower department of a local grocery store. Later, she took a job in a coffee shop, but was unable to continue her work there when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. While taking a leave of absence to accommodate her treatment schedule, Darlene began thinking about entering into a new career.

During treatment, Darlene’s social worker recommended a job in the medical coding field. Darlene was faced with the decision of attending a two-year program at a community college or a nine-month program at Bidwell Training Center (BTC). Because of her need to start a career as soon as possible, she chose the Medical Coder major at BTC.

Darlene worked full-time while pursuing her degree. She said, “Going back to school is scary at my age. You lose a lot of confidence from not using skills learned since high school, but the instructors at BTC made me very comfortable.”

Darlene graduated with Alpha Beta Kappa honors in 2009 and was hired shortly after graduation by UPMC Emergency Resource Management Incorporated, where she had served her externship. Darlene began her medical coding career at an entry level position, but has quickly been promoted to coding and reimbursement specialist.

“I go back to Bidwell and speak with the new students about my journey and my new career. I really appreciate what Bidwell has done for me, and I hope to always be able to give something back.”

BTC gave so much to me. Now I’m inspired to give back to BTC.

— Darlene Shannon

Your support today helps adults and youth secure a more stable future through education and training at Manchester Bidwell Corporation.
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GIVE THE GIFT OF Hope!

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