



A Note of Gratitude from Grace

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to our quarterly update! As I look back on the last few months, I am overwhelmed by the warmth and dedication of this community. From the spirited energy at our recent Trivia Night to the quiet, determined progress of our students in the classroom, your support makes every milestone possible.

In this edition, we are honored to share a glimpse into the journey of one of our students, Malika, whose resilience reminds us why we do what we do. We are also looking ahead to some exciting spring events and the annual Give STL Day.

Thank you for being such a vital part of the Women in Charge family. Your generosity doesn't just fund programs—it fuels the dreams and confidence of the women we serve.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Souza".

Grace Souza

Executive Director

Trivia Night Recap: A Night of Wit and Wisdom



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on April 11th at St. Rita's for our annual Trivia Night! The energy in the room was electric as teams battled it out over everything from pop culture to history, all in the spirit of supporting our mission. We are thrilled to share that through your ticket sales, silent auction bids, and sheer enthusiasm, we raised over \$7,500 for our education and support programs. Whether you were on the winning team or just there for the snacks and community, your presence reminded us that when women and their allies come together, we can achieve anything. We're already looking forward to seeing who takes home the trophy next year!

Meet Malika: Seeing Hope in the Mirror

At Women in Charge, we are constantly inspired by the resilience of our students. This quarter, we'd like to introduce you to Malika. At just 21 years old, Malika is a single mother to a vibrant one-year-old daughter. Despite currently navigating the challenges of living in a family service center, Malika is determined to build a stable, prosperous life—working tirelessly toward her HiSET and mastering financial literacy through our classes with Carrollton Bank.

Recently, Malika participated in a writing exercise where students were asked to reflect on a deeply personal question: "What do you see when you look in the mirror?" For many of our students, years of hardship can cloud their self-image with doubt. But Malika's response was different. Below is her reflection:

When I look in the mirror, what do I see?

When I look at myself in the mirror I see a young intelligent woman who is trying to better herself and achieve in life when I look at myself I see a woman who is strong, smart and beautiful I see a young adult that is moving on from past trauma and judgement I see a young woman who is trying to find strength in their journey I see a young woman who is changing their life around to be better for her and her child, every time I look in the mirror I see a different person everytime I see a woman who became the person she is today I see a young woman who never gave up on herself I believe that she is Me. I see a young woman who is still on a journey to a better life and along that journey I will continue to to grind until I'm at the point of lifestyle I wanna be I will continue to look in the mirror into I see I girl I want to be and the young woman I'm becoming to be this is what I see when I look in the mirror!

As you can see in her own hand, Malika doesn't see a victim of her circumstances. She sees a woman of worth, full of hope and the opportunity for growth. She sees someone willing to do whatever it takes to move forward for her daughter.

The fact that she can see that strength within herself after everything she has been through should give us all comfort. It is proof that the work we do here goes beyond the classroom—it's about helping women reclaim how they see themselves.

Support Students Like Malika

Mark Your Calendars: Give STL Day is May 7!



Get ready to show your St. Louis pride! Give STL Day is returning on Thursday, May 7, 2026. This 24-hour online giving event, powered by the St. Louis Community Foundation, is a day when our entire region comes together to support the nonprofits that make St. Louis a better place to live.

- **Donate:** Even a small contribution can make a big difference when we all give together.
- **Spread the Word:** Follow us on social media and share our Give STL Day posts with your friends and family.
- **Be an Advocate:** Encourage your workplace or social groups to join in the giving spirit.

Your generosity on this day helps us keep our doors open for women like Malika, providing them with the education and resources they need to take charge of their lives.

[Give STL Day Donation Page](#)

ESL Program Update



Our ESL program continues to support adult students through weekly one-on-one classes focused on building confidence and everyday communication skills.

We need more volunteers!

We currently have students on a waitlist and are looking for caring individuals to support them.

No teaching experience is required—just a willingness to help. Volunteers typically meet with a student for **one hour per week**, either in person or online.

If you—or someone you know—would like to volunteer, or know an adult who would benefit from English classes, please contact us at esl@womenincharge.org.

[Learn More About Volunteering](#)

What's Next?

We have a busy season ahead, and we want you to be a part of it! Here is a sneak peek at what we're working on:

- **Growth at the Garden:** We are thrilled to be planning another therapeutic horticulture workshop at the Missouri Botanical Gardens.
- **Fall Fundraiser & Sponsorships:** Keep a close eye on your inbox! We will be sending out a Save the Date and an official sponsorship call for our Fall Fundraiser very soon. Interested in sponsoring? Contact Grace at grace@womenincharge.org for sponsorship levels and benefits.
- **Creating Memories:** We would love to host a Day at the Ballpark or another special outing that our families otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

Make an Impact: If you are interested in earmarking a donation for a specific student activity or want to help us raise funds for a group outing, please reach out! Your targeted support helps us provide the "extras" that build community and joy for the women we serve.

Thank you for staying connected with us. To read more inspiring student success stories like Malika's and to stay updated on our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and more, please follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/wicuc) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/womeninchargestl). We are so grateful for your continued support as we work together to empower women in our community.



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