

SPRING 2025 UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE WORKS



Dear Friends of PAR-Recycle Works -

On February 2nd, PAR-Recycle Works marked the 9th anniversary of its operations, providing transitional employment for justice-impacted individuals. We began that day in 2016 with just two program participants and no permanent staff, with the founding board members handling all of the logistics and operations. I remember working with this hardy group to load the rental truck with our first load of deconstructed electronics for the trip to the scrap dealer. Since that time, we have served more than 200 individuals and responsibly recycled over 3 million pounds of waste electronics. Many of our program participants have gone on to full-time mainstream employment, and collectively have experienced a recidivism rate that is 90% below the rate for all returning citizens. We are in the midst of an exciting year, having expanded our operations and added staff (more on this below), now operating a “fleet” of two trucks and continuing to provide digital literacy, forklift certification and much more to our program participants. We are grateful for the support of our many supply partners and generous donors who have made all this possible. Read on to see the impact your support has had.

With gratitude and good wishes,

George Limbach
Board President



Earth Day – What a Month it Was!

For PAR-Recycle Works, Earth Day provides an opportunity for many organizations to offer a convenient way to recycle their personal electronics, as well as those of the entity. For PAR, Earth “Day” has evolved into a month of activities, including collection events at numerous



business locations, as well as providing drop boxes at others where individuals can leave their items over the course of a week or so. This has evolved into almost a month of activity for PAR, with 13 separate collection events and 20 drop box locations. Thanks to all for helping keep our environment cleaner and driving employment at PAR-Recycle Works.

PAR-Recycle Works receives DA Grant



The District Attorney of Philadelphia has granted PAR-Recycle Works a grant of \$50,000 through their Anti-Violence Initiative. This recognizes the positive impact that PAR has on our community by providing economic footing and job skills training to individuals returning from incarceration.

Updated Website

We are pleased to share with you our updated website www.par-recycleworks.org. This represents Phase I of our upgrade. Please take the time to visit it and let us know what you think. You can now contact us through Info@par-recycleworks.org. We have also rejuvenated our social media presence on LinkedIn and Facebook. Follow and friend us. More to come!

New Team Members

We are pleased to welcome Barry “Doc” Corbin and Chris Waters to our PAR-Recycle Works team. Doc is our Relationship Manager and has responsibility for developing and maintaining relationships with businesses, educational institutions and municipalities who provide PAR with their end-of-life electronics. This supply is the lifeblood of PAR, and as we increase this supply, we are able to increase the number of justice-impacted individuals we serve. Chris is our Training, Development and Job Placement Specialist. In addition to a full curriculum of job skills and life skills training, Chris also works with our Program Participants to prepare for and obtain permanent, mainstream employment. Both Doc and Chris are graduates of PAR’s program.

R2v3 Certification Renewed

PAR-Recycle Works was certified as an R2v3 Electronics Recycler by SERI, Sustainable Electronics Recycling International in January 2024. This international industry designation recognizes the highest level of compliance with environmental, safety and data security standards for employees, clients and community. PAR is the only not-for-profit electronics recycler on the east coast with the R2v3 designation. Each year we are required to complete an exhaustive third-party audit to maintain our certification. We are pleased that once again we have been recertified by SERI. We are proud of our staff for their ability to adhere to these rigorous standards.

“Despite Hardships, I Have Lived a Charmed Life”

Barry “Doc” Corbin understands what it means to cope and adapt. Doc was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison in 2009 for wire fraud. Doc surmised that his sentence was so long because the federal system is draconian with rigid guidelines, and during his trial he was not very cooperative with them. He was released after 13 ½ years due to his exemplary behavior and lack of infractions.

When asked where he served his sentence, he explained that because it was the Federal Prison system, he was moved around quite a bit – but his good conduct had something to do with this. While in prison he maintained an optimistic outlook and always availed himself of different employment and education opportunities that were available. Consequently, he was relocated to facilities that could better support his educational needs.

While in Leavenworth, Kansas, Doc spent 18 months in a Life Connections Faith-Based Program and he noted, “That allowed me to connect with my faith in a meaningful way.” He received his Doctorate in Christian Counselling and Divinity and Theology from the International Christian College and Seminary (ICCS) in 2013. He noted that educational opportunities are not free while in prison and he was grateful to his family who paid for his education. He added that ICCS is a great school for prisoners.



Upon his release from prison in 2023, Doc transitioned to a halfway house. He is now planning to purchase a home following his departure, scheduled for November 2025. When asked what his next steps were after he left prison he said, “I looked up Andre Davis because I knew him from a long time ago and did not know if he was still in prison. As it turned out, he was working at PAR-Recycle Works and suggested I check it out as an employment opportunity. I started at PAR in July 2023 as an electronic recycling technician until November 2023. I left PAR to become a Program Facilitator at the Black Male Community Council. In November 2024, I rejoined PAR in a staff capacity as Customer Relationship Manager.

Doc explained what his position entails. “This is an outward facing position, and I am constantly reaching out to new partners and past partners to get donations of electronics ready for recycling. As it is, most past partners are continuing partners and there are over 400 businesses and individuals who are donating electronics to us.”

“In addition to our pick-ups, I organize the community collection events and have to keep our two trucks moving for all of these activities. We currently have enough space for all of our inventory, but we can always use more supply.”

“The business has improved its efficiency compared to a year ago. I credit Robert, our Director of Operations, for building a more organized structure. We have been able to hire key positions from within which has really improved the stream of electronic recycling. Doc continued. “Four of our five full-time employees are returning citizens and three of them, including me, proved our capabilities while working as recycling technicians at PAR! Robert took the risk of proving that we were all able to move the ball forward. I have been working with the Training, Development and Job Placement Manager and we have been cross-referencing our efforts to identify companies that can serve as employers of PAR graduates and identify employers who would be supply partners. We really all help each other.”

Doc is clearly a bright, dedicated, hardworking person and his role is pivotal to the operation. He shared that many positive developments are occurring at PAR, and he has promoted them as both a member and presenter at the Chestnut Hill Rotary and in an NBC10 interview. He mentioned that PAR’s recidivism rate for the past year has been “0”, which is a stunning statistic compared to the national rate of 66%.

In addition to Doc's critical role at PAR, he is a trained chef and graduate of two culinary schools, most recently (May 2024), Philabundance Community Kitchen, and a life-long performing musician. He briefly attended Settlement Music School in his youth, where he started playing percussion instruments; everything from timpani in orchestral settings to jazz and rock drums in live bands.

Not only are good things happening at PAR, but good things are happening for Doc as well. He said, "Despite all of my hardships, I have lived a charmed life. I am fortunate to have a wonderful and supportive family and nothing in my life has given me more pride or pleasure than my children."

Doc's oldest son has a degree in applied mathematics from Harvard Business School, another son is a lieutenant in the Philadelphia Police Department and his 19-year-old daughter is a marvelous scholar.

For Doc, he loves PAR's dual mission of its support for returning citizens and helping to sustain the environment.

Doc's interview with NBC10 can be accessed on the following links:

<http://on.nbc10.com/78Zl60R> or **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/wUBqSz7sJHI>

To Make a Donation to PAR-Recycle Works, you can use the secure link to PayPal on our website, or send a check to our office location, 2024 W. Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19140.. We can also accept gifts of appreciated securities. Contact us by phone at 267-335-5455 or email at: Info@pay-rcycleworks.org

*PAR-Recycle Works is a social enterprise of People Advancing Reintegration,
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