

WHY DONATE?

- Your contribution serves as a catalyst for personal and professional development, providing individuals a second chance at success.
- By supporting the academy, you contribute to essential skill development in the Hartford community.
- Your generous donation facilitates job placement support and networking opportunities.



ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS



AIDAN GALVIN

Aidan, a veteran of the United States Navy, served as a carpenter in the Seabees, gaining extensive hands-on experience in multiple construction-based trades. Afterwards, he managed remediation of fire-and water-damaged homes, later earning a degree in construction management. He then became a commercial construction project manager. With his deep knowledge of the construction trades and his commitment to serve his community, he was delighted to join the Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy as an instructor.



COLIN GREEN

Colin, a certified maker of stringed instruments, is a graduate of the Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery, who has worked for the Fender Musical Corporation. Additionally, he has studied and honed various fine construction skills, including rough and finish carpentry, woodcarving, pyrography, marquetry and joinery, as well as antique furniture restoration. With these skills, as well as his commitment to teaching and community, Colin knew that the Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy was where he needed to be.

MORE INFORMATION



SCAN TO DONATE

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RICHARD P. GARMANY FRESH START ACADEMY

Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy stands as a beacon of opportunity, providing a transformative experience for individuals seeking to improve their lives. This innovative program serves as an educational hub, where participants learn essential carpentry and building skills, personal development, and the value of teamwork.

Founded in 2021, Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy expanded and formalized the training that Fresh Start was offering to its employees since its inception in 2015. Each semester targets critical skills and certifications important to employers in the construction and carpentry industries. With a small class size and the opportunity to learn in a classroom and shop floor simultaneously, the program provides real-world experience, with projects similar to the workplace. The Academy hosts multiple cohorts each calendar year, with graduation ceremonies to celebrate the students' success.

Today, the Academy seeks to train individuals from the following communities:

- Those who are formerly incarcerated;
- Individuals living in transitional housing;
- People overcoming the challenges of addiction; and
- Those who have recently immigrated to the United States.

We welcome individuals who are looking to obtain new skills that will help them enter the workforce.



TESTIMONIALS FROM RECENT GRADUATES



ERICA PEREZ

Erica, prides herself on being a strong leader who cares deeply about her community. She says that the Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy has given her “the opportunity to learn a trade with skills I can use for a lifetime.” Now that she has completed the certification, she sees herself employed and rebuilding her community, one structure at a time. When asked if she would recommend the program to others in search of job training, she was emphatic: “Go for it. Today could be the beginning of your ‘fresh start’.”



MALCOLM HAYNES

Malcolm, who considers himself both eager and ambitious, says that the Richard P. Garmany Fresh Start Academy has helped him learn the skills for success. “Being a part of the Academy means that I have a bright future as a carpenter, building and creating— if I apply myself,” he says. To anyone considering applying to the Academy, he says, “Go! They have the help for you, if a career in construction is your goal.”

OUR COMMITMENT



Classes



Hands-on learning



Graduation



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