

## A Letter to Our Community

Dear GCMF Family,

The past few years have tested all of us. Small business owners have faced uncertainty, communities have adapted to changing support systems, and entrepreneurs have had to make bold decisions in a constantly shifting economy. Yet what we've seen, time and again, is perseverance. It's been humbling to witness the resilience of those we serve — and that includes you.

At GCMF, we've stood on the front lines with you. Whether you've just opened your doors or are working late nights to keep them open, we're proud to be part of your story. Our work is about more than training and capital — it's about people. And people like you continue to inspire everything we do.

We'd like to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks. To our sponsors: your investment has created real change. To our partners and collaborators: your support makes this work stronger. And to the entrepreneurs and small business owners: thank you for trusting us with your dreams.

As we move into 2025, GCMF is turning the page to a new chapter, one filled with energy, clarity, and an even deeper commitment to our mission. We've experienced growing pains, but we've grown. And we're moving forward with focus.

Here's what you can expect from us:

- Business coaching that's more hands-on, more intentional, and more measurable
- Expanded access to microloans and support grants to meet you where you are
- New lending tools designed for both solopreneurs and established entrepreneurs
- Youth-focused entrepreneurship programs for the next generation of leaders
- Customized technical assistance in marketing, HR, accounting, websites, and more

We're listening more. We're responding faster. And we're building systems that are smarter, more personal, and rooted in real community needs.

This is about more than business. It's about impact. It's about legacy. And it's about making sure your journey is supported, from the first spark of an idea to sustained success.

We'll be launching a new website soon — with expanded services, tools, and opportunities to connect. Whether you're starting out or scaling up, we're here to help.

If you're a business owner, aspiring entrepreneur, or someone who believes in supporting local impact, we invite you to get involved! Now is the time to reach out, show up, and move forward together!

With respect, appreciation, and excitement for what's ahead,

Willie Hill

Executive Director

Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCEI)