

RINGING THE BELL

Spring 2015



Spotlight on Success - Doreen, Class 184



"Class 184 - We're here to give you more!"

Doreen moved from Los Angeles to San Diego in April 2014 after being released from prison. A habitual drug user who was convicted of commercial burglary, she had been incarcerated four times over the previous decade and hadn't had a solid job in eleven years.

While in jail, Doreen's mother was diagnosed with cancer. Luckily, the two were able to make amends before she eventually passed away. Doreen had promised to turn her life around, not just for her mother, but for her two grown children and six grandchildren. Shortly after her release, she made her way to Second Chance, determined to follow up on her word.

Doreen was particularly inspired by Job Trainer Tonya Rindskopf and class volunteers Ed Hidalgo and Brenda Peterson. "They embrace you, but guess what?" she says of the Job Readiness Training staff. "They'll also find the weak spots and force you to work on them."

There were a couple things in particular she needed to address over the four-week class. The first was to learn how to take directions and, in her words, "Keep my mouth shut. I always have something to say."

The second was to learn financial responsibility. Life had been taxing enough over her decade-long rough patch, but she hadn't owned a car throughout that period either, which made it extremely difficult to get around.

After graduating from Job Readiness Training in August, Doreen hit the ground running. Through her church, she found an inexpensive place to live in Lemon Grove. After working a couple of temporary jobs, she managed an interview with VersaCall Technologies, where she earned a position in marketing. However, her commute was long and arduous—two hours each way, including the trolley and two buses.

Thankfully, her hard work has paid off. With low rent and a steady job, Doreen has been able to save up enough to have a car for the first time in nearly a dozen years, which has cut her daily commute from four hours to one. "I was getting up at 3:45 a.m. every day, and was not late once."

With stable employment, transportation and a place to live, things look brighter now for Doreen than they have in a long time.

Your contributions to Second Chance have made an enormous impact on Doreen's life and many others like her. Please visit www.secondchanceprogram.org if you'd like to donate to any of our wonderful programs.

SECOND CHANCE'S ANNUAL REPORT
for fiscal year 2013/14
is available online!
www.secondchanceprogram.org/annualreport

READY TO WORK!

Last year, hundreds of San Diegans graduated from our Job Readiness Training program equipped with the skills and drive required to find and interview for jobs. We currently have grads working in industries across the board, including hospitality, construction, electrical, solar energy, food service, sales and more!



Help us get people back to work. Contact our Job Developer David Benites at (619) 839-0932 or dbenites@secondchanceprogram.org if your company is hiring!

If you're looking for an employee with a big heart and a friendly smile, **Elaine** will suit your needs. Through over 10 years working in customer service, she's attained extensive experience operating point-of-sale programs and cash registers, and learning how to train, stock and take inventory.

A young, can-do military veteran with over two years of restaurant experience, **Levi** makes for a great server and busser. His efficiency in cleaning tables, restocking stations and getting orders out in a timely manner means he's always up for any challenge thrown his way, and his polite demeanor makes him a hit with customers.



Sergio has seven years of experience in the food industry and another 11 as a handyman, landscaper and construction worker. He's fluent in English and Spanish, maintains accurate inventory records, knows his way around stock inventory and always maintains a safe work environment whether he's in the kitchen or on the worksite.

FEEL THE POWER OF SECOND CHANCE ATTEND A GRADUATION OR AN ORIENTATION

UPCOMING ORIENTATION DATES IN 2015: (ALL BEGIN FRIDAYS AT 9 A.M.)
May 1 | June 12 | July 24 | September 4

UPCOMING GRADUATION DATES IN 2015: (ALL BEGIN FRIDAYS AT 11 A.M.)
May 29 | July 10 | August 21 | October 2



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Robert Coleman Receives Honors and Title Change

On Tuesday, March 3, the Second Chance Board of Directors voted to change Robert's title from Executive Director to President and Chief Executive Officer. In just under five years, Robert has managed to move Second Chance forward into fiscal health and cutting-edge programmatic growth following the exit of founder Scott Silverman in 2011. It has not always been easy, but Robert's achievements continue to grow, and the Board's recognition of his accomplishments is further proof that Second Chance has a bright future on the horizon.

Coincidentally, Robert also recently received notification from the Fieldstone Foundation that he has been chosen as the 2015 PEERS Fellow! As a result of this honor, he'll be traveling to Harvard University for one week this summer to participate in the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program and receive executive coaching for the entire year. Additionally, Robert will work monthly with a small, specifically selected group of PEERS members to advance his vision and work on behalf of Second Chance.

We're incredibly proud of Robert for these honors and are confident they signal much prosperity and growth for Second Chance in 2015!



Give Every Month (GEM)!

Want to make your charitable giving easier? Become a Second Chance GEM!
Sign up to Give Every Month (GEM) and your gift will:

- Help fund a seat in our Job Readiness Training program
- Help one of our youth attain a high school diploma/GED, or
- Keep the doors open to our Transitional Sober Living homes

If you'd like to make a monthly commitment to support our programs and services, please call or email Maureen for more information: mpolimadei@secondchanceprogram.org or 619-839-0953.



Participants in nonprofit college prep program Reality Changers show off the free suits they found in Second Chance's professional closet.



Our six-person work crew beautifies the area outside the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation in Chollas Creek. Second Chance was awarded a work contract in mid-March to help unemployed local residents find short-term work and earn a paycheck.



Wendy M. Behan, partner at CaseyGerry, and Frank Francavilla, investigator.

LAWSUITS is Underway!

Our annual cash and clothing competition for local law firms supports our Job Readiness Training program. The campaign has been extended to April 16 if your firm would like to participate!

Youth Garden Updates

- Our Youth Garden will launch its Spring 2015 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program starting on April 4th. The program delivers a box of fresh produce from the garden once a week for 10 weeks. Cost for membership is \$300, or \$250 for residents of City Heights and Southeast. Pick-up locations are at Kensington Community Church, La Jolla Presbyterian Church and Canyon Spring Church in Scripps Ranch. See www.urbanlifefarms.org/csa/signup or contact Garden Manager Kristin Kvernland (KK) at kkvernland@secondchanceprogram.org for more info.
- The Youth Garden has expanded! We're now leasing the Peace Garden site in City Heights, which can be seen from the 805 Freeway. This essentially doubles the size of our current plot and also includes an orchard. Volunteer clean-up efforts are still in the works, but get in touch with KK at kkvernland@secondchanceprogram.org if you're interested in donating your time to help out at the Peace Garden.
- Youth Garden participants have also begun selling produce at the San Diego County Office of Education (6401 Linda Vista Road) on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, as well as Bayview Baptist Church (6134 Benson Ave.) on 2nd and 4th Sundays. The Youth Garden team is always looking for new places to offer our goods, so please get in touch if you have the inside scoop on any potential sites for pop-up shops!



A view from the new Peace Garden site overlooks the 805 freeway.



Youth present garden baskets to County Supervisors Dave Roberts (l) and Ron Roberts (r) for their support of the Youth Garden program.



Second Chance Job Fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Tuesday April 14th, 2015
The Joe & Vi Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

Our annual Job Fair is just around the corner! Back for its 9th year, we're expecting more than 30 employers and 1,500 job seekers to attend.

***NOTE: The location has been changed!** The job fair will now take place at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, 404 Euclid Ave. next to Market Creek Plaza. Industries represented include:

- Administrative • Hospitality • Communications • Shipbuilding
- Market Research • Maintenance • Food Service • Retail
- Customer Service • Staffing • Security • Government

Admission is free and all job seekers are welcome! If you're an employer and are interested in hosting a booth, contact Job Developer David Benites at (619) 839-0932 or dbenites@secondchanceprogram.org.

SECOND CHANCE CONNECTS WITH STRIVE NATIONAL


Second Chance STRIVE for the Future (SFF) Case Manager Joshlyn Turner visited Harlem, NY for STRIVE National's NCE Summit on Thursday, March 12th and Friday, March 13th to discuss current issues concerning youth served over the past two years by STRIVE's DOL-funded youth pilot programs. Second Chance has been the leading site in progressing through the initial grant cycle thanks to the tenacity and dedication of the San Diego SFF team Joshlyn represents. STRIVE National is currently in the process of creating a manual for youth development that is replicable in sites all over the U.S., and Second Chance continues to play a key role in the process of permanently adding youth services to the STRIVE repertoire.

Thursday brought out keynote presenter Sabrina Evans-Ellis from New York's Youth Development Institute to discuss motivating factors behind Positive Youth Development and how that theory informs future iterations of the program. Employees from STRIVE affiliates throughout the country offered insight on the pros and cons of the current contract, as well as how it can be optimized to offer success to our young clients. Discussions on Friday included wrap up of the current SFF contract and what to expect if the contract is renewed.



Second Chance SFF Case Manager Joshlyn Turner (far right) hangs with STRIVE affiliates at the NCE Summit in Harlem.

Second Chance would like to thank the following corporations, foundations, local government programs and family funds for their generous contributions (received 1/1/15 - 3/18/15):

Barona Band of Mission Indians
 Beyster Family Fund 
 City of San Diego, Community Projects, Programs & Services
 Cubic Corporation
 Pottery Barn
 Derek Quackenbush Family Fund 
 WD-40
 Wells Fargo Foundation



MEET THE "NEW GUYS"

Brian Thammavong now serves as the Transitional Advocate for the Transitional Youth Housing (TYH) Program. Born to refugee parents, Brian was privileged with a bilingual and bicultural upbringing amidst the diversity of City Heights. He became a case manager in both the Juvenile Probation and Child Welfare Systems, but eventually left social work to earn his teaching credentials in 2010. Prior to Second Chance, Brian has worked in both public and private education and has been retained as a Special Investigator to the Federal Office of Personnel Management.



Accounting & Operations Assistant Maria Subido.

Meanwhile, Maria Subido joins Second Chance as our Accounting & Operations Assistant. With more than 25 years of experience in accounting support—payroll, billing, account reconciliation, accounts payable, refunds and deposits—she is a great addition to our team. Maria graduated with a B.A. in Communications from Philippine Women's University and is fluent in English, Tagalog and Cebuano.



Transitional Youth Housing Advocate Brian Thammavong.

We are incredibly pleased to bring these two on board and look forward to getting to know them both!