

UNION-TRIBUNE

March 22, 2008



Recovery program founder is CNN Hero of the week

Scott Silverman can add a new credit to his resumé – hero.

For 15 years he has been helping San Diego people get off the streets and return to productive lives through his Second Chance program. Now the Cable News Network, through its talk show host Larry King, has anointed him this week's CNN Hero.

Silverman founded Second Chance in 1993 after bucking his own addiction, which sent him down a path to near self-destruction. Recovered and sober for 23 years, he aids others in crisis through his education and tough-love training program for those ready and willing to turn around their lives. A few years ago he added an outreach effort for prison parolees.

Silverman says he was excited when informed by CNN that he'd made the cut to 100 out of about 7,000 hero nominees. Then he was notified he was one of three finalists, only to get a call later saying he wasn't the winner. So, no one was more shocked than Silverman, about 10 days later, when CNN called back to say he had been selected, after all. When could they videotape?

Larry King made the news official Thursday on his show.

There is more online at cnn.com/SPECIALS/2008/cnn.heroes/.