



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Second Chance Graduates Largest STRIVE Class in the Nation**

### *Record Setting Class Celebrates at New Headquarters*

**SAN DIEGO, CA** – Second Chance graduated the students of its 79<sup>th</sup> STRIVE job training program today. The graduation of 59 trainees, which was the largest in STRIVE’s history, took place at its new headquarters in Encanto. Seven years ago Second Chance started the STRIVE (Successful Training Results in Valuable Employees) program in San Diego. STRIVE, which was originally introduced in Harlem, is a nationally recognized three-week “tough love” course in how to obtain and hold a job. 80% of the 1,500 STRIVE San Diego graduates have found employment within 60 days of graduating the program and 80% of those individuals are still working two years later.

While the average STRIVE class graduates approximately 20 participants, this class nearly tripled the number of trainees ready to enter the workforce. The recent acquisition of the agency’s new building enabled Second Chance to enlarge its STRIVE program and more effectively help individuals create paths to self-sufficiency. Today’s graduation was a prime example of how the agency is offering more training and job placement coaching on site than ever before.

“The record size of this class clearly demonstrates the need we have in San Diego for the services Second Chance provides,” said Scott Silverman, executive director/founder of Second Chance. “Second Chance is dedicated to leading community collaborative efforts to minimize

homelessness, expand employment and affordable housing opportunities for all those seeking a “Second Chance.” We are creating taxpayers and a workforce that will contribute to our business community for years to come.”

Second Chance is a 12-year-old non-profit organization that helps the underemployed and unemployed population in San Diego with job placement, mental health counseling and housing services. The organization recently launched the Prisoner Reentry Employment Program (PREP) to help prisoners being released in San Diego each year become productive members of the community. Second Chance also owns the Ben & Jerry’s PartnerShop® in Hillcrest, which employs at-risk youth to help them lead productive lives.

Most job training programs focus on helping participants acquire job skills. STRIVE is different because many of the people who come to STRIVE have the skills they need to get a job, but their workplace behavior may keep them from staying employed. STRIVE provides intensive attitude training that focuses largely on developing and reinforcing workplace behaviors, attitudes and skills that are necessary to get and keep a good job. As a result of the effectiveness of this approach, STRIVE has been featured on "60 Minutes" three times since 1997. Elements of the model have been widely adopted throughout the employment field across United States.

### **About Second Chance**

Second Chance provides job readiness training, jobs, housing and support services for homeless and long-term unemployable adults and youth. During the year 2004, Second Chance provided employment and housing services to 8,000 clients. For more information about Second Chance call 619-234-8888 or visit [www.secondchanceprogram.com](http://www.secondchanceprogram.com).

### **About STRIVE**

STRIVE, originally introduced in Harlem, is an employment training and placement program that provides training and placement post-job placement support services designed to lead participants to permanent employment and self-sufficiency. STRIVE centers are now in 20 U.S. cities plus London. For more information please visit [www.strivenational.org](http://www.strivenational.org).