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PRESS RELEASE

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Second Chance STRIVE Graduates Largest Class in Program History

Taking people off the streets and helping them find work

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – Second Chance STRIVE class #115 is the largest graduating STRIVE class in the history of the international program's network. The record-breaking group of 68 graduates will top the previous record of 61 graduates. That record, set in July of 2007, was also accomplished by the San Diego affiliate of the international STRIVE program, Second Chance.

STRIVE is a job readiness program originally pioneered in Harlem in the 1980's. Since then, STRIVE has graduated more than 33,000 individuals across 22 United States cities and five countries. Second Chance is one of the largest and most successful STRIVE affiliates.

The graduation ceremony of Second Chance's 115th STRIVE class takes place on Friday, January 25, 2008 at 11 AM at Second Chance's Headquarters located at 6145 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, California 92114. The community is invited to attend. The 63 graduates will receive certificates of completion for their hard work during the three-week job readiness course. Agency statistics predict that more than 70% of them will have jobs within a short time and more than 80% of those who get jobs will be employed two years from now. Second Chance will follow each graduate to provide mental health services and case management, as well as affordable housing and job placement assistance over the next two years.

Second Chance is a non-profit agency in San Diego established in 1993 to help the homeless and chronically unemployed with jobs, housing and life skills. The agency has developed a national reputation in the field of workforce development, with a focus on the hardest-to-serve unemployed/underemployed population.

Second Chance programs have many community benefits including direct government cost savings and hard dollar returns to the community. One way of calculating the economic benefits of the program is to determine how much money Second Chance graduates

contribute to the community through the taxes they pay. In addition, many Second Chance graduates have recently been released from prison. Recidivism prevention has been found to be of real benefit to the community. The estimated income and payroll taxes paid over one year by Second Chance graduates and the avoided costs of imprisonment combined equals approximately \$8.5 million. The annual cost of the Second Chance STRIVE program is \$1.9 million. This represents a “Return on Investment” showing that **Second Chance returns to the community five times what it spends in a year of operation.**

For more information on Second Chance, please visit www.secondchanceprogram.org or call 619-234-8888.

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