

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA'S BORDER CONGRESSMAN!

CONGRESSMAN BOB FILNER

Serving California's 51st Congressional District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 20, 2008

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MEDIA ADVISORY – 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 22, 2008

Filner Delivers Check to Second Chance

On Friday, February 22nd, Congressman Bob Filner will present a giant check for \$681,500 to Second Chance for their Prisoner Reentry Employment Program (PREP), during the graduation ceremony for the 116th STRIVE (Support and Training Result In Valuable Employees) class.

The Congressman obtained federal funding to support PREP, which has helped reduce prisoner recidivism (ex-offenders returning to prison). A recent study by California State University, San Marcos showed that PREP reduced recidivism by 70 percent. Second Chance plans to devote the funds, along with funding from City of San Diego Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), to build a second classroom, employ additional staff and significantly expand their services.

“I am extremely honored to provide Second Chance with additional funding this year. As many of you know, the United States is faced with an enormous and ever rising prison population; many of whom serve their sentences and are released only to be re-incarcerated within weeks or even days for another offense,” pointed out Congressman Filner. “Second Chance serves the vital and commendable task of giving these people hope, training and job finding skills, as well as pride and self-worth. I will continue to fight for reentry services and to support your efforts, because every single one of us deserves a second chance!”

Scott Silverman, Executive Director and Founder of Second Chance, said, "The State of California spends billions to incarcerate people. It is wonderful that the federal government is helping California reduce this amount by investing in Second Chance's programs to reduce recidivism."

Second Chance is a non-profit agency, established in 1993 to help the homeless and chronically unemployed with jobs, housing and life skills. 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 cities within the United States and five countries. Second Chance is one of the largest and most successful STRIVE affiliates.

The graduation ceremony of Second Chance's 116th STRIVE class will be the largest graduating class in the program's history. All community members are invited to attend. Over 80 graduates will receive certificates of completion for the three-week job readiness course. Agency statistics predict that more than 70 percent of the graduates will have jobs within a short time, and more than 80 percent of those who find jobs will still be employed two years from now. Second Chance will continue to support each student after graduation by providing mental health services and case management, as well as affordable housing and job placement assistance over the next two years.

Second Chance programs have many community benefits including direct government cost savings and hard dollar returns to the community. A recent study by California State University, San Marcos showed that PREP reduced recidivism by 70 percent. The estimated income and payroll taxes paid over one year by Second Chance graduates and the avoided costs of imprisonment combined equal approximately \$8.5 million. The annual cost of the Second Chance STRIVE program is only \$1.9 million. This represents a "Return on Investment" of 500 percent, showing that Second Chance returns to the community five times what it spends in one year of operation!

WHEN: 11:00 a.m.

Friday, February 22nd

WHERE: Second Chance

6145 Imperial Avenue

San Diego

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