



**May 14, 2008**



**Second Chance**

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SECOND CHANCE GEARS UP FOR GRADUATION CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL CHECK**

**San Diego, CA.....** On Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> Second Chance Program will celebrate the graduation of class #119 with keynote speaker Senator Christine Kehoe offering congratulatory remarks to the graduates of class #119. 60 people are expected to graduate in total.

Councilmember Brian Maienschein will also be on-hand to present Second Chance Program with a ceremonial check for \$208,000. These funds, along with additional funds awarded to the Second Chance Program by the City of San Diego over the past four years will allow Second Chance to build a second classroom in order to better serve the needs of their students.

Second Chance will also be hosting its Job & Community Resource Fair on Friday with members of the community present to provide community resources and conduct interviews with interested job candidates. Cox Communications, UPS, San Diego Zoo, MTS, and SeaWorld are among some of the employers who will be present to accept job applications and conduct interviews. Community service agencies will also be available to provide information on their services, including: Family Health Centers, Goodwill, and St. Vincent de Paul Village. Second Chance anticipates that more than 500 will turn out for this event. The community is invited to attend the graduation ceremony as well as the community Job & Resource Fair.

**Second Chance** is a non-profit agency 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 offer 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 equal approximately \$8.5 million. The annual cost of the Second Chance STRIVE program is \$1.9 million. This represents a "Return on Investment" of 500%, showing that **Second Chance returns to the community five times what it spends in one year of operation.**