



SUMMER 2016

RINGING THE BELL

JOB CENTER HELPS FORMER INMATE LAND JOB ONE WEEK AFTER RELEASE

When Desiman Miller first entered the East Mesa Reentry Facility (EMRF), he promised himself he'd make the most of his time there. He enrolled in over 25 classes and spent his free time reading books focused on learning new skills and bettering himself.

A month before going home, Mr. Miller was introduced to EMRF's brand new job center, which is staffed by Second Chance and the result of a collaboration between the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the San Diego County Sheriff's and Probation departments. There he began searching for jobs, building a résumé and creating an email address – all before his release.



"To have that professional help is a big step," says Miller. "I know it helped me – to be confident, to know I wasn't all on my own...to have all the things that I needed before I even left."

Miller went directly from EMRF into Second Chance's Sober Living program, where he was provided with the essentials for his reentry transition, from a living space and hygiene products to food vouchers and change to do laundry.

"When I got out, I got a running start. I knew I needed to do the right thing." While at EMRF, Miller says he learned money isn't everything and being patient is a key to being successful and keeping to your morals and values.

A week later, Miller landed a job. With a full schedule of classes and meetings during the week and 12-hour catering shifts on the weekends, he was a busy man. But even with a schedule as packed as his, he was already looking toward the future. Miller plans to enter an apprenticeship program, where he'll learn a skill that leads to more job security and better pay. He's already picked out four programs he intends to learn more about at his upcoming Associated General Contractors orientation.

Was the new job center a force in getting Miller hired so quickly? He adamantly says "yes." "It could have went either way," he says. "I know for sure I wouldn't have got a job so fast. I probably wouldn't be as confident as I was in my job search and just trying to find a job and knowing that I can get a job because I've already got these skills...[the Career Center staff] helped me out a lot."

Often for inmates leaving a correctional facility, the first thing to gravitate toward is doing what you know. Without support and resources, it's easy to fall back into negative behavior just to get by.

"A person that takes these resources seriously, [the Job Center] is going to get them exactly what they need," says Miller, mentioning that you leave with a plan for housing and getting a job that interests you. "If a person takes advantage of the Job Center, they will be successful."

(reprinted and lightly edited with permission from San Diego Workforce Partnership)

READY TO WORK



Rashad P. has experience in customer service, delivery and construction. He has operated heavy machinery, has experience in automotive repair and has a clean driving record. He always follows safety guidelines.



Lisa Q. has excellent clerical and customer service skills with experience in the nonprofit, legal, labor and hospitality industries. She is a positive thinker, motivated, and capable of resolving customer complaints in a friendly and timely manner. Lisa is also volunteering at Second Chance, using her phone skills at our Front Desk. She's not just ready to work—she's ready for a career!

If your company is hiring and you'd like to interview a graduate featured here, or you'd like us to refer another graduate, please contact our Business Services team, 619-234-8888.



Second Chance

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Summer is here and I hope you will be as excited about the new projects and programs we are launching as I am! Here are a few innovations we have already set in motion:

As our nation becomes more focused on criminal justice reform—and especially on expanding and improving reentry services to reduce recidivism—Second Chance has revised its Mission Statement to better reflect our overarching goal: “To disrupt the cycles of incarceration and poverty by helping people find their way to self-sufficiency.” As a leader in reentry services, this new statement gives us a stronger focus on self-sufficiency as the desired outcome for all our programs and services.

In partnership with San Diego Continuing Education, we are now offering Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency classes to our program participants. With the goal of employment in mind, we want our participants to be confident in reading, writing and math, and have the proper vocabulary to construct a cover letter and résumé, or to pass any pre-assessment tests an employer may require.

Also, the core job training portion of our STRIVE Forward youth program has gotten off to a great start. Our staff is using the Home Builders Institute Pre-Apprentice Certificate Training (PACT) as its curriculum. Through hands-on training, PACT provides youth an opportunity to learn building trades such as carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

Meanwhile, our sober living homes will be undergoing major renovations to provide more comfortable living spaces for residents. Providing a safe and supportive environment, especially for individuals in early stages of sobriety, is important. Our program holds each individual accountable while serving as an intermediate phase between the controlled environment of a treatment center and the challenge of being on their own in a world that is not often conducive to recovery.

Finally, mark your calendars for our first Donor Appreciation Reception slated for September 21. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate you, our donors, and your many contributions to Second Chance. It would be my absolute pleasure to thank you in person for your support, which enables us to carry out our mission and is vital to the success of our participants! More information will be forthcoming regarding time and location.

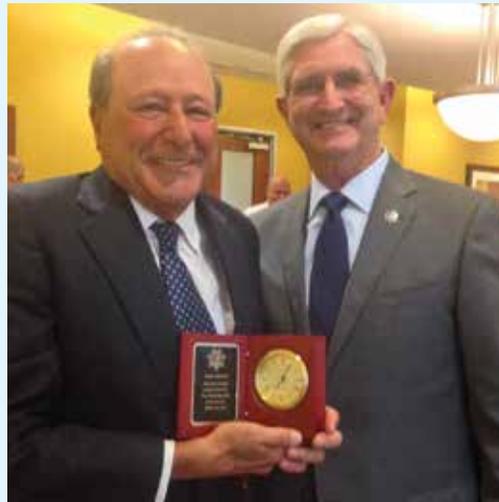
I hope you are as proud of our efforts as I am. We work hard to ensure your investment in our mission helps people find their way to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for being part of the Second Chance family.

Sincerely,

Robert Coleman

President & CEO



Our Board of Directors had fun thanking Bennet Greenwald (l) for serving as Chair of the Second Chance Board of Directors for six years. Fellow SC Board Member Sheriff William Gore (r) joined in the festivities.



Our new Chair, Dan Schwimmer (l), will have some big shoes to fill! Bennet (r) will continue to serve the organization as a member of the Executive Committee.

SECOND CHANCE IN THE COMMUNITY



Second Chance was a proud recipient of 25 refurbished bikes, delivered by San Diego County Probation and courtesy of CIVICS Bicycle Program. Bike recipients pictured with representatives from San Diego Sheriff Department and San Diego Probation Department. The bikes in the picture were donated by Supervisor Dianne Jacob's office.



Residents of Alumni House, one of our nine sober living residences, taking a break from their weekly community clean up activity. All residents in our homes are asked to contribute to being a "friendly neighbor" to their community.

Morgan Justice-Black, Community Relations Manager at SDGE, (middle), stopped by for a tour of our bountiful Youth Garden. Many thanks to the 40 volunteers who, earlier this summer, helped prepare the garden for summer planting! To learn more about our garden program or how to volunteer for the next clean up, please contact KK, our Youth Garden Manager at 619-839-0952 or kkvernland@secondchanceprogram.org.



Second Chance took home the big prize in the 2nd annual San Diego Unity Games, a single-elimination softball tournament for community groups and law enforcement. Reggie Washington, left, and Joshlyn Turner, second from right, accepted the first place trophy. The team beat the District Attorney's office, New Harvest and Lighthouse for the championship!

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Second Chance employees closed out the fiscal year with a fun employee giving campaign. 75% of our employees participated raising close to \$1,000!



Second Chance

FROM DARK TIMES TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

Maclovio Marquez, known to most as “Mac,” grew up in the Southeast San Diego and City Heights communities. In his early teens, Mac suffered a tragic loss when his older sister Teresa was killed in a car accident. Mac was only in the 7th grade at the time and fell into a very dark and troubled place in his young life. The loss of his sister caused him great pain; to alleviate that pain, he turned to drugs and alcohol.

Mac fell quickly and heavily into addiction and found himself in and out of the juvenile justice system over the next few years. Mac soon became sick and tired of being sick and tired, so the last time he got out of juvenile hall he checked into an inpatient rehabilitation center which he completed in four months. In addition to treatment, Mac enrolled in the Juvenile Court and Community School (JCCS) operating at Second Chance where he learned about the services we offer to justice-involved youth. After talking with case managers about the program, he began to engage in the youth groups twice a week and eventually enrolled in the first cycle of our STRIVE Forward program.



To date, Mac has earned his high school diploma, graduated the STRIVE Future Leaders Workshop, participated in ACE Mentoring, completed a service learning project and is now working toward his Occupational Skills Training (OST) certificate in Building Construction. Mac expressed his interest in the plumbing industry and was offered an internship with a local plumbing company. If he completes the OST and his internship hours, the company is willing to offer him a full-time position!

“I have a start to a career,” says Mac. “To be able to say that is a great accomplishment for me.”

Without Second Chance, Mac says he would probably be “lost in addiction.”

“I wasn’t quite ready to be on my own in my sobriety. Second Chance gave me the support and motivation to help me progress. (The staff) saw my potential and truly gave me a second chance at life.”

You can support more youth like Mac by making an online donation at www.secondchanceprogram.org/support/

Second Chance would like to thank the following corporations, foundations, local government programs and family funds for their generous contributions (received 4/1/16 – 6/30/16):

Anonymous Foundation
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Second Chance celebrated its 200th graduation of our Job Readiness Training program June 17. (top photo) Celebrating with us were S.D. Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who served as guest speaker, California State Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-79), middle, and S.D. Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman. At graduation, City of San Diego Councilmembers Myrtle Cole, District 4 (r), and Chris Cate, District 6 (l), presented Second Chance with a City of San Diego Proclamation.