



Ringling the Bell

October 2023 Newsletter

Cultivating Growth: Isla's Journey in the Youth Garden Program

Isla is a Peer Supervisor for the Second Chance Youth Garden Program. Isla's introduction to our youth garden marked the beginning of a truly transformative journey. Fueled by a lifelong fascination with gardening—nurtured through her involvement in her home garden alongside her mother—joining our program presented an exciting opportunity for Isla to deepen her passion, accentuated by the prospect of earning while learning.

Youth Garden program participants earn a \$50 weekly stipend and in this way, starting at Second Chance became her first formal job experience! Through this journey, she not only cultivated flourishing garden beds but also essential life skills.

Isla's repertoire expanded significantly, encompassing customer service, time management, resume building, and leadership. The cooking and nutrition lessons prompted introspection on her relationship with food, fostering a commitment to healthier choices using the garden's bountiful produce. A delightful surprise awaited her—a first encounter with the flavors of a fig, an experience she savored.

Isla's impact transcended individual growth; she evolved into an integral member of her cohort. We at Second Chance were proud and grateful to see her return as a Peer Supervisor, embracing the role of mentor and leader.

Her story stands as a testament to the positive impact happening in our garden, made possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Your contributions empower young individuals, such as Isla, fostering not only the cultivation of gardens but also the cultivation of essential life skills and a profound connection with the world around them.





Congratulations to Second Chance Youth Garden Cohort #20! This incredible group of students, part of our largest cohort ever, has proudly started the design for a section of the upcoming garden fence. Stay tuned for the grand unveiling!

Together We Can Do Great Things!

Thank you to the following recent supporters:

- **GRID Alternatives**
- **The Willis & Jane Fletcher Family Fund II**
- **The City of San Diego- Community Projects Programs and Services (CPPS)**
- **County of San Diego - Health and Human Services**
- **Target Circle** Thank you for voting for us! We received over 100,000 votes and were awarded a nice grant from Target
- **The City of San Diego- Arts Culture and Community Festivals (ACCF)**
- Thank you to all of our **GEM (Give Every Month)** supporters. Your ongoing support helps us accomplish our mission. To find out how you can become a GEM please click [here](#)

Donate Now



San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe, matching the

class in their attire, delivered a powerful keynote for class #268, inspiring graduates with words of determination and embracing new beginnings.



Donate Now



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