



SECOND CHANCE

2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

6145 Imperial Avenue
San Diego, CA 92114-4213

*STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.
INSPIRING LIVES.*

The History of Second Chance

Founded in 1993, Second Chance has established a distinguished track record and national reputation for supporting the “hardest-to-serve” in their quest to attain sustainable employment and self-sufficiency. Second Chance achieves extraordinary employment outcomes with those we serve, at a highly efficient cost per client. Our agency’s results are unmatched by any other employment preparation program in the San Diego region.

VISION: Empower people to open doors, change lives and strengthen community.

MISSION: Create opportunities for self-sufficiency by providing job readiness training, job placements, and affordable housing for homeless and long-term unemployed men, women and youth through public and private community partnerships.

Since its formation in 1993, Second Chance has experienced dramatic growth, offering new tools and expanded resources for those who have made a personal commitment to self-sufficiency. In 1993 Second Chance had a budget of approximately \$65,000 and served 130 clients. This year our operating budget is \$2.5 million and we project we will serve over 10,000 low-income, homeless and economically disadvantaged individuals in 2005. Over our 12-year history our agency has built three nonprofit enterprises, acquired and operated six sober living facilities, launched new initiatives focused on at-risk youth, prisoner reentry and mental health counseling, and referred thousands of clients to affordable housing opportunities in the region.

In 1998 Second Chance brought the nationally-recognized STRIVE job readiness program to San Diego and in 1999 STRIVE San Diego was featured on a special report on *60 Minutes*. Since its start in San Diego, STRIVE has graduated over 1,500 program participants. 80% of our program graduates found employment and 80% of those graduates retained their employment after two years. These rates of program success remain unprecedented in San Diego and are extraordinary given the populations served by our agency.

Led by founding Executive Director Scott H. Silverman, Second Chance has a diverse and highly committed staff, including several staff members who are graduates of our programs. The agency is overseen and guided by a diverse volunteer Board of Directors, composed of 15 men and women (including a STRIVE graduate and the warden of R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility) who represent all aspects of the San Diego community.

Our Accomplishments in 2004

2004 was a record year for Second Chance, in which we served over 8,500 clients, successfully managed the largest operating budget in our organization's history, celebrated our 10th annual 'Adopt-A-Block' community clean-up event, and pursued new initiatives designed to address the special needs of ex-offenders and at-risk youth.

Among our most significant accomplishments in 2004 were the following:

The STRIVE Program

- ✓ In 2004 Second Chance continued the extraordinary employment outcomes of our STRIVE program, placing 212 STRIVE graduates into jobs. 288 new program participants successfully graduated from STRIVE in 2004.
- ✓ 80% of STRIVE graduates continue to secure employment after graduation and 80% of those graduates are still employed two years after their completion of the program. With the support of our philanthropic investors, we succeeded in serving more STRIVE clients than ever before, and sustained our success rates for STRIVE while serving more challenging populations, including at-risk youth and former prisoners.

Prisoner Re-entry Employment Program (PREP)

In 2004 Second Chance expanded and intensified our Prisoner Reentry Employment Program (PREP), a new initiative of our agency that assists former prisoners to reintegrate into the San Diego community:

- During 2004 Second Chance provided an orientation on the PREP opportunity to 1,300 prisoners who were on the verge of being released from incarceration. Nearly 700 persons applied for the PREP program and 186 former prisoners were admitted into the program last year.
- 81 former prisoners graduated from our Prisoner Reentry Employment Program and are now being successfully reintegrated into the San Diego community.
- During the period of July 2003 through January 2005, over 1,400 inmates attended pre-release Second Chance PREP presentations resulting in 232 PREP enrollments and 127 program graduates. 101 of these graduates are currently employed.
- A preliminary report on an independent evaluation of PREP, which is being conducted by California State San Marcos, documented the impact of the program. The percentage of program participants reporting that they "felt very or extremely prepared to find a good job" more than doubled from the evaluation's baseline test to its post-program assessment.

At-Risk Youth Initiative

- ✓ Second Chance successfully served 334 young people through our initiative for disadvantaged youth in 2004. We graduated 65 youth from our STRIVE job readiness program – 47 young people were placed in employment by our agency in 2004 and 12 of these youth STRIVE graduates attained employment in our own Ben and Jerry's PartnerShop® enterprise.
- ✓ In April 2004 Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield – the Co-Founders of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream - came to San Diego to help Second Chance celebrate the official opening of the new Ben & Jerry's Second Chance PartnerShop®. Over the course of this two day period Mayor Dick Murphy, Supervisor Ron Roberts, Senator Dede Alpert, and City Councilmembers Brian Maienschien and Toni Atkins joined Second Chance friends and the community of Hillcrest for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration. Given its prominent location in Central San Diego, the Ben & Jerry's PartnerShop® is acting as a tangible symbol of how the San Diego community extends opportunity to its young people.

Other Significant Accomplishments

- ✓ Second Chance added its sixth sober living facility – our 'Bancroft' house – in 2004, raising the total number of bed spaces available in our sober living homes to 115.
- ✓ We held the 10th annual 'Adopt-A-Block' community clean-up and fundraiser, raising \$150,000 and mobilizing 1,000 volunteers to restore and renew neglected communities adjacent to downtown San Diego. In recognition of this accomplishment, Mayor Dick Murphy proclaimed the 10-year anniversary date as "Second Chance Adopt-A-Block Day."
- ✓ In 2004 Second Chance served over 1,700 clients through its affordable housing referral program, assisting low-income and unemployed persons to respond to San Diego's housing crisis by helping to connect them to affordable housing opportunities.
- ✓ Second Chance successfully managed a \$2.3 million operating budget, the largest annual budget in our organization's history.

Our New Headquarters

2004 was capped by our relocation to our new 18,000 square foot headquarters in Southeastern San Diego. Our new facility, located on Imperial Avenue, offers expanded classrooms, computer labs and training rooms for our clients. In our new space we are closer to those we serve and able to offer more training and job placement coaching on site than ever before. As a result, we are positioned to bring an expanded and more robust set of services to those in need, including residents from the surrounding communities who possess barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.

Our 79th STRIVE class, the first class held in our new building in January, had a record-breaking 59 graduates! This was the largest graduating class ever attained by a STRIVE program anywhere in the country. This success offered tangible evidence of how our new building has expanded our ability to serve those in need.

An Ambitious Work Program for 2005

Second Chance has entered 2005 with expanded capacities and a renewed commitment to serving those in need in San Diego. We expect our agency to serve an anticipated 10,000 clients this year, through the nationally-recognized STRIVE job readiness program, affordable housing placement, sober living opportunities, work experience enterprises, mental health counseling and case management services.

Even as we expand and refine our program services, we are faced with a growing need for the training and support services offered by Second Chance. San Diego's affordable housing crisis is causing more and more individuals and families to live paycheck to paycheck, with almost no cushion for dealing with emergencies and crises. As a result, San Diego faces a swelling homeless population, a fact that is plainly obvious to any citizen driving around the city. In addition, San Diego continues to have more than 50,000 structurally unemployed individuals who, despite our strong regional economy, remain locked out of the mainstream workforce. Moreover, 10,000+ former prisoners are released back into the San Diego community each year. Statistics indicate that two-thirds of these released parolees will commit new crimes and face re-incarceration, unless they obtain a positive alternative: employment, good housing and integration into community institutions. Our experience suggests that jobs and opportunities are waiting for these persons, provided they receive the training, "soft skills" and support necessary to become self-sufficient.

Second Chance's major goals for 2005 are:

- Maximizing the capacities of our new agency headquarters – this new facility offers expanded classroom and meeting room space, computer labs and training facilities for use by our clients.
- Creating new services that focus on literacy promotion and continuing education, to further boost our high levels of employment placement and retention.
- Developing strong, community-based connections to the residents of the high-need neighborhoods that surround our new headquarters in Southeastern San Diego.
- Expanding our Prisoner Reentry Employment Program (PREP) to serve more of the 10,000+ former prisoners who are released into San Diego County each year.
- Boosting the participation, graduation and employment placement outcomes of our STRIVE program by nearly 33% over 2004's record numbers.
- Hold the 11th Annual Adopt-A-Block in the Encanto community- home to our new Second Chance headquarters.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!