

Winning Narrative Nomination
Substance and Style Award
[Washington Life Magazine](#)

Dr. Ludy Green came to the United States from Peru, where she was raised in a family of diplomats, senators, and doctors. Growing up among the privileged, Dr. Green learned that domestic violence can and does occur in every sector of a society, even among the wealthy.

After arriving in the States, Dr. Green immediately became involved in her community. Specifically, she began to dedicate her time to organizations that work for the economic self-sufficiency of women, for she believes that economic empowerment provides a powerful antidote to domestic abuse.

Dr. Green volunteered substantial amounts of her time to both the House of Ruth and the Arlington County Temporary Shelter, providing transportation and make-overs, training in computer skills, and teaching ESL. Dr. Green also volunteered to give computer training and ESL classes to residents of Arna Valley in South Arlington. In addition to these specific contributions, Dr. Green also provided hope, strength, and encouragement.

During the first few years of her marriage to Joseph Green, Dr. Green worked in human resources—a natural extension of her desire to help others attain economic independence—while she pursued a Masters Degree in Human Resources Management. Throughout this time, Dr. Green also continued her involvement in local and national organizations whose focus was the well-being of women and children. Working tirelessly and without complaint, she captured the respect and attention of others and soon rose from the status of “volunteer” to that of Vice-President, Board Member, and Commissioner of various organizations and committees.

When she became pregnant with her daughter, Meghan Green, her husband was sent to London for three years. She chose to remain in the States and to use her time outside the workforce to pursue a Ph.D. in Industrial Organization Psychology and to dedicate even more of her time to her community. *A de facto* single mother for three years, she learned the hardships facing women who must raise their children alone, and she came to further appreciate the importance of economic security in doing so.

Dr. Green successfully completed her Ph.D. and re-entered the workforce, again in human resources, and she rose to greater professional heights than she'd ever thought possible when she first came to the U.S. But her own economic success and her heavy community involvement were not enough to satisfy her altruistic nature. For underneath her eye-catching European fashions and her evident financial success there lived a woman of substance driven by a profound personal mission.

In 2002, deeply committed to the dream of ending domestic violence and the economic dependence of women, Dr. Green left her lucrative position as Vice President of Human Resources to found Second Chance Employment Services. For though she had spent many years volunteering for charitable organizations and local governmental committees, Dr. Green felt there was a need that was not being met. A go-getter and pioneer in her own right, she founded Second Chance Employment Services specifically to meet this need.

The stated mission of Second Chance is “to promote financial security for at-risk women and their dependents through comprehensive employment placement services.” In other words, Second Chance is dedicated to securing career-track positions for women who have been abused, out of the workforce for years, or on welfare. But finding meaningful employment for these women often requires a whole host of services leading up to the job interview—everything from résumé-writing, job training, interview skills training, clothing on demand, make-overs, psychological support and counseling, and on and on. In some cases, a client requires extraordinary assistance, and Second Chance provides it. This was the case with two clients whose past abuse left their faces disfigured, and only through reconstructive surgery were these women able to sit through an interview with confidence. Second Chance provided that, free of charge.

With Second Chance, Dr. Green is realizing her dream of carrying out what she strongly believes is her mission in life—to help at-risk women through meaningful employment and other life-saving services. Not one to take “no” for an answer, Dr. Green tapped into her extensive network of human resource professionals and forged agreements with them to accept résumés from Second Chance clients, despite the fact that many of these women had been declined by other employment agencies for their “ineligibility.”

To date, Second Chance has placed 179 women in career-track positions with full health benefits and annual salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$82,000, and it has provided essential services to hundreds more. Dr. Green, a true believer in the power of volunteerism, has amassed a veritable army of volunteers at Second Chance—at last count, the number stood at 81 dedicated individuals.

Moreover, thanks to her personal determination, she has solidified job partnerships with over 70 local, national, and international employers.

Shortly after joining the Board of Directors, Senator Robert J. Dole quipped that “Ludy came to see me at my office, we talked about Second Chance, and next thing I knew I was signing an agreement to join the Board.” This simple statement is quintessential “Ludy”—a persuasive woman who doesn’t accept excuses, won’t take refusals, and does whatever it takes to bring the issue of domestic violence to the fore and to secure the future of Second Chance so that it may carry out its important work long into the future.

There is no other organization like Second Chance... and there is no other woman like Dr. Ludy Green. She is an inspiration, a beacon of hope to her clients, and a role model for all women. And she is the complete package—a successful business woman with a huge heart full of compassion and love, a mother and wife, a community activist and leader, and a feminine beauty with a personal style that says “I’ve made it, and so can you.”