

## Winning Nomination [Washingtonian of the Year](#)

Mary, a stay-at-home mom, found herself the victim of domestic violence. She wanted to escape, but with two children, no income or career history, and visible scars on her face left by her violent husband, how could she?

Dr. Ludy Green had the answer: by finding a career-track job, no matter what her background or circumstance.

A life-long advocate of the financial empowerment of women, Dr. Green saw an unfilled need in victims' services—the need for an agency that could provide an inside track to employment for women who are too often ignored by traditional placement agencies and employers. So, in 2002 Dr. Green left her lucrative career in human resources to found Second Chance Employment Services, *the nation's only non-profit placement agency devoted to at-risk women*.

A Peruvian immigrant with a PhD in Industrial Organization Psychology, Dr. Green began Second Chance by forging dozens of partnerships with companies like AOL, AT&T, Citibank, and XEROX, single-handedly convincing them to give priority consideration and job training to the clients of Second Chance. In the process, she brought the issues of domestic violence and women's re-entry into the workforce to light among some of the country's largest companies, making them re-think their prejudices.

For her tireless efforts, her expertise in the fields of employment and domestic violence, and especially for her innovative organization, Dr. Green has been recognized time and again. She has been named a *Woman of Substance and Style* by *Washington Life*, given the DOJ/OVC Award for Professional Innovation in Victims' Services, and was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, to name just a few. Though deserve them she does, such accolades aren't what keep her going.

What keeps Dr. Green working around the clock—for no pay whatsoever—is her staunch belief that domestic violence can and must be eradicated, one family at a time, through the financial empowerment and meaningful employment of women.

To date, Second Chance has secured career-track employment with full health benefits for over 400 women in the Washington Metropolitan Area. "There's no

way a woman can rebuild her life and support her children by herself without a good job, and *good jobs* are all we do,” says Dr. Green.

So how did Second Chance help Mary? How did they make it possible for her to land a *good job* when her face was so badly scarred that it was uncomfortable to interview her? Dr. Green took it upon herself to personally secure the donation of facial reconstructive surgery, at no cost to Mary.

The results? The scars—a reminder of terror and pain—are gone. Her self-esteem is back. And, she has a well-paying job that allows her to support her children. Like Mary, not one of “Ludy’s ladies” have ever returned to their abusers out of financial necessity.

On a personal note, as the Vice President of Finance and Administration for the Association of American Medical Colleges—a job partner of Second Chance—I have had the opportunity to witness the miraculous results of Dr. Green’s work first-hand.

I consider it a privilege to help her clients to re-enter the workforce. I have watched these hires as they rapidly gain skills and self-confidence, ever eager to perform beyond expectations, learn new things, and rise up the career ladder. Thrilled at their new-found ability to support their families, the jobs we give these women are more than an opportunity to empower themselves (though that they are), they are a guarantee that these women won’t have to go back to their violent homes because they can’t support themselves and their children.

The AAMC is proud to be a job partner of Second Chance. We are proud to be a part of a one-of-a-kind program that literally saves lives and betters the futures of many generations to come. In my experience, Ludy’s ladies really do need a second chance, but when they get it, they won’t be needing a third. Determined to do the best they can for themselves and their children, the hires we have from Second Chance are some of the hardest-working, most motivated people we’ve ever had the good fortune to employ.

There’s no doubt in my mind, Dr. Green’s innovative approach to wiping out domestic violence through meaningful employment and financial empowerment really works. Bottom line, there’s no other Washingtonian quite like her.