

SECOND CHANCES



The newsletter of Second Chance Employment Services

BUILDING STRONGER GENERATIONS FOR AT-RISK WOMEN

From the Depths of Despair to the Heights of Hope - One Second Chance Client Shares Her Story *by Philomene Koya*

Years ago I came to this country as the wife of a foreign diplomat. At the time, it appeared I was living a wonderful life - my husband was powerful and successful, we moved in all the right circles, and we lived in a beautiful house. But my "perfect life" wasn't perfect at all, for in the privacy of our home, my husband was abusing me.

The abuse began when I enrolled in ESL and computer classes. My husband didn't want me going to school, he said that I belonged at home and didn't need an education or to learn English. But I wanted to learn the language of the country I was living in, and I wanted to improve myself by furthering my education, so I attended classes despite his objections and abuse.

During this time I became pregnant. I thought my husband would stop beating me because I was carrying his child. Instead, the abuse worsened, and my husband started to withhold money from me. I had no income of my own, and when he did this I began to realize how vulnerable I was, and how important it was for me to speak good English and to develop some marketable skills.

Unfortunately, before I had the chance to fully accomplish my educational goals-and after my daughter was born-my husband went too far. He



Philomene Koya

tried to kill me by poisoning my food. As I lay in the hospital bed, clinging to life but not knowing what life had in store for me, I finally decided I had to take my children and escape... despite having nowhere to go.

I didn't return to my homeland because of threats my husband made about getting to me when I returned to Africa. So for three years my children and I wandered from shelter to shelter. When we had literally run out of places to go, and I had run out of hope, a miracle happened... someone put me in touch with Second Chance. **continued on Page 2**

How Second Chance Utilizes Your Contributions *by Regina Varolli*

When Second Chance takes on a client, they promise to provide not only a new job, but all the means necessary to prepare a client to get that job, keep it, and to turn it into a lasting career. While the majority of those who work at Second Chance are able and eager volunteers, and despite the many donated services coordinated through our offices, the expenses incurred in serving our clients nevertheless add up, making the ability to fulfill our promise a growing challenge.

Fortunately for you—our supporters—the fact that we are an all volunteer organization combined with the fact that our office space is donated and our President still refuses to take a salary, your dollars go far at Second Chance. In fact, 100% of every dollar goes straight into programs and services, not perks and salaries.

Sometimes your contributions will pay for temporary housing for women and children who can no longer utilize shelters. At times your contribution

will buy food for a client and her family until that first paycheck arrives. Or perhaps it will fill the gas-tanks of cars driven by Second Chance volunteers shuttling our clients to and from job interviews or picking up donated clothing to wear to those interviews.

Transforming a broken life into a rewarding and productive life can require a laundry list of services: hospitalization, psychiatric care, food, shelter, clothing, small Christmas gifts for the children that **continued on Page 3**

Second Chance Employment Services is honored to be a part of the **Combined Federal Campaign** for the fourth consecutive year. By designating Second Chance as your CFC charity, you will be helping us to provide all that is necessary for at-risk women to begin their lives anew. Thank you! **CFC Designation # 7557**

“The **greatness** of a **community** is most accurately measured

Second Chance would like to thank all of those whose attendance made the 2005 “Last Kiss of Summer” benefit a great success, with very special thanks to the following for their generous sponsorship...

Association of American Medical Colleges

Atkinson, Koven, Feinber, LLP

Bernstein Investment Research & Management

Capitol File Magazine

DC Style Magazine

Evensong Best, LLC

Fannie Mae Foundation

Hecht's Department Stores

Kevin Ryan, M.D.

KPB Corporation

National Policy Research Center

Pentagon Federal Credit Union

PriceWaterHouseCoopers

Ronald S. Perlman, M.D.

State Street Global Advisors

The Dorothy G. Bender Foundation, Inc.

Thornton Associates, Inc.

Tokay Salon

Trammel Crow

Washington Life Magazine

Community Impact of *Second Chance* Gains National Recognition *by Regina Varolli*

Over the past year, the community impact of Second Chance has been honored both locally and nationally. As the public face and the embodiment of our work, our Founder and President, Dr. Ludy Green, accepted numerous awards on behalf of the volunteers, job partners, and clients of Second Chance.

In 2005, Dr. Green was given the “Tribute to Working Women Award” from Toyota and ABC News. She was also a recipient the “Men and Women of Style and Substance” award from Washington Life Magazine, as well as the “Award for Excellence in Community Service” from the Society of Human Resource Managers. In addition, Dr. Green was nominated for the 2006 “Volvo for Life Award” and her compelling story was chosen to be highlighted on their “Heroes” website.

In 2006, Dr. Green’s work with victims of domestic violence was recognized through her recent appointment



Dr. Ludy Green accepts the Tribute to Working Women Award from ABC's Kathleen Matthews

by the U.S. Attorney General to serve as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. In this capacity, Dr. Green will “provide policy advice” concerning raising national awareness of the issue of violence against women; the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act; and improving the cooperation of government agencies, law enforcement, victim service providers, social service providers and all those who work in some capacity with the victims of domestic violence. Her knowledge and experience in this field will no doubt be a valuable addition to the Advisory Committee.

mentation of the Violence Against Women Act; and improving the cooperation of government agencies, law enforcement, victim service providers, social service providers and all those who work in some capacity with the victims of domestic violence. Her knowledge and experience in this field will no doubt be a valuable addition to the Advisory Committee.

Keep up the good work Dr. Green!

Your clients, and your community, are grateful for your tireless efforts toward the eradication of domestic violence. ■

Don't Sweep Domestic Violence Under the Rug...

Buy one for charity instead! **J&J Oriental Rug Gallery will donate 5% of your purchase to *Second Chance* when you mention this ad!** J&J sells fine antique and modern rugs and their showroom is located at 1200 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. **703-548-0000**

Koya cover story continued...

It's hard to explain how I felt at that time. I had no hope, no confidence, no money, and no home. The people at Second Chance had an understanding of how women like me feel, and what we need. They did so much along the way to finding a good job for me—they found me an apartment, daycare for my children, work clothing, and they paid our expenses until my first paycheck arrived from my new job at The World Bank. But besides all of this that

can be seen and measured, Second Chance helped me to rebuild my hope and self-confidence, they gave me the moral support I needed to believe in my future and to never again be a victim of abuse.

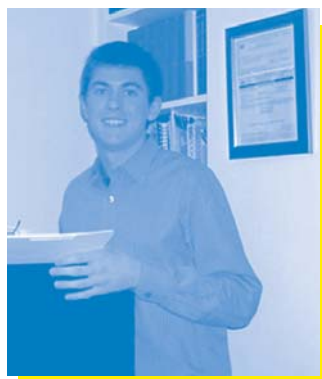
I want to thank all of you who are reading this! YOU are the supporters that make the work of *Second Chance* possible. Without your contributions, I really don't know where my children and I would be today. ■

by the **compassionate acts** of its members.” - Coretta Scott King

Vivacious Volunteerism *by Andrew Brady*

Last fall, an elderly client came in for her résumé workshop on a day I happened to be in the Second Chance office. I put aside my clerical duties to assist the client in creating her first ever résumé. Out of the workforce for twenty years, this woman felt out of touch with the working world and, like many of our clients, lacked confidence in her abilities. In less than an hour, I witnessed our client bloom into a very different person. The sad, withdrawn woman who had walked into our office was glowing and smiling proudly as she read aloud her impressive skills that had been buried for so long under self-doubt and an ignorance of her own talents.

Experiences like these are what make volunteering at Second Chance such a unique and fulfilling opportunity.



Andrew pauses for a pose in the Second Chance office.

Whether a specialist donating pro-bono services to a client, or a jack-of-all-trades helping out in the office, you can be assured that every moment you dedicate to Second Chance brings at-risk women in our community—our neighbors—one step closer to full financial independence from their abusers.

Whatever your specialty, I urge you to serve as a volunteer for Second Chance. Come experience for yourself how important and rewarding it is to provide women with the tools they need to attain financial independence so they and their children may never again feel trapped in an abusive situation. ■

Second Chance Needs Your Support

As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations made to Second Chance are 100% tax deductible. As an all volunteer organization, 100% of your donation goes straight into programs and services that rebuild the shattered lives of women and children who have suffered domestic violence.

Please consider making a contribution to Second Chance today!

Varolli cover story continued...

time of year, program coordinators who manage volunteers, service providers and job partners, and finally, that tank of gas for our volunteer driving our clients around (and sometimes their kids too!).

What your contribution to Second Chance won't pay for is high-priced offices or glossy advertising campaigns. We are a bare-bones organization of volunteers and job partners who make

it all happen, and we pay only for services when absolutely necessary. It may cost up to \$21,000 to facilitate the transition of just one client, but once they get that job, their lives and their faith renewed, our clients remain financially independent women contributing to society and able to provide brighter futures for their children. You can feel good knowing that at Second Chance 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly towards that goal. ■

THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Nearly **5.3 million** intimate partner victimizations (IPV) occur among U.S. women ages 18 and older each year. This violence results in nearly **2 million injuries** and nearly **1,300 deaths**.

Women who were assaulted by an intimate partner in the previous twelve months experienced an average of **3.4 separate assaults**. Using these data, an estimated **4.5 million** intimate partner victimization (IPV) physical assaults occur annually, a victimization rate of **44.2 per 1,000**.

Of IPV injuries, more than **555,000** require medical attention, and more than **145,000** are serious enough to warrant hospitalization for one or more nights.

IPV results in more than **18.5 million mental health care visits** each year.

IPV results in **13.6 million days of lost productivity** from paid work and household chores.

Intimate partner violence against women places a significant burden on society.

All of the above figures were drawn from *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. Atlanta, GA: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. *Second Chance* would like to express our appreciation to the above organizations and to the US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES for their support in the undertaking of this study.

“Thank You Dr. Perlman!” by Sherri
From a Grateful Client, Generous Praise for our Chairman

Dear Mrs. Green,

Hello! How have you and Second Chance been doing? You'll be happy to hear that I have been doing very well! As you know, I was a victim (now a VICTOR!) of physical abuse, which had left me with scars on my face. I was very self-conscious and humiliated because of my scars, and every time I would look into the mirror, I was reminded of the “episode.” Moreover, I felt that everyone was staring at that scar, and found it very hard to maintain eye contact with me.

Then I met you and my life changed! You got the ball rolling and before I knew it I was talking with Dr. Perlman, that absolutely wonderful angel in Northwest, D.C. He made me feel, even before the surgery, well, beautiful! Dr. Perlman behaved as if I was his neighbor, his friend, his family. I promise on my heart, as I have tears in my eyes, that that man is truly an extension of God. He took such good care of me, and not because he had

anything to gain. After all, he donated my surgery to Second Chance because I couldn't afford it myself.

Well, I have had my surgery and I am feeling tremendous... and I look pretty darn good too, if I do say so myself! Most importantly though, is that not only is my physical reminder of that violent “episode” gone, but because of the newly found love and trust that has been shown to me unconditionally, I was able to let go of my psychological baggage and rediscover my self-esteem.

Thank you Mrs. Green, and thank you Dr. Perlman, for making this possible! ■

Visit our website.
www.scesnet.org

Contact us by phone.
202-331-7451
1-888-331-7451

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Financial contributions** are welcome and greatly appreciated. All donations are **tax-deductible** to the full extent of the law.
- We are now accepting donations of **stocks and bonds** through Smith Barney (Citigroup Account #179-15025-19018); please contact Trimble Becker at 202-861-5000 for information.
- As an **all-volunteer organization**, we value people who give their time! Currently, we have a special need for the following:
Human Resource professionals to help with training programs and job placement; volunteers to **provide transportation** for clients; and women who want to **be a mentor** to one (or more) of our clients. Please contact us to inquire about ways you can **help with your time**.
- Companies can help by providing all-important **employment opportunities** to our pre-screened and trained clients. Please contact us for details on how to become a **Job Partner**.
- Designate Second Chance as your charity: **CFC #7557**

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