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## A BRIGHT AND BUSY 2018

Inside are some of the milestones and anecdotes that stand out to our staff (at left) when we reflect on the past year at Changed Choices. You make this work possible!

### THE PRAYER OF A WOMAN INCARCERATED

Almost every weekday, our Chaplains Aides are in the jail teaching Bible studies or leading Moms in Prayer. This prayer request reflects the heart of the women we serve at Changed Choices: "Guide my heart. Lord have mercy on me. Help me through my days of trouble, Lord. Keep your protection over my family and friends. Let my kids know how much their mom loves them. Let them know how much you love them."

# JANUARY

Changed Choices began training for our first ever 5K!



# JULY

Upon Monica's release and arrival at the Ruth Snyder Re-entry home, she announced, "This smells like a home."



# FEBRUARY

We said farewell to our offices at Grace Covenant Church and moved into Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church. Extra space has allowed us to work more effectively, accommodate the supervision of our counseling interns, and create dedicated workspace for volunteers!



# AUGUST

Our team grew when we brought Terre Lucas on staff as our full-time re-entry care manager. Terre is a champion for the women and families we serve post-release, either in our re-entry home or in our community.

# MARCH

We mourned the loss of our sister Ramona Brant, a formerly incarcerated woman and dear friend who advocated tirelessly for justice reform and re-entry housing.



# SEPTEMBER

Our prayers were answered when a client secured housing that would allow her to reunite with her children.





## APRIL

Two of our clients were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society! What an honor to attend the ceremony.



## OCTOBER

The highlight of October was our annual retreat. Fifty-three women gathered at Camp Dogwood in Sherill's Ford, where we shared music, meals, speaker sessions, pontoon boat rides, a service project, and breakout sessions that encouraged us to consider who is the author of our stories.

## MAY

A group of formerly incarcerated clients and staff traveled to the women's prison in Troy, NC, to celebrate graduation. Several clients had completed community college certificate programs as well as our correspondence Adapt addiction recovery program.



## NOVEMBER

Two of our clients began their re-entry journeys!



## JUNE

We welcomed CROSS Missions for another summer, hosting their youth groups who maintain the yard at our re-entry home all summer long.

## DECEMBER

We threw a "Great, Great, Great Family Christmas Party" for families impacted by incarceration. It truly was a party for all generations! Generous partners sponsored the live jazz band, donated the barbecue, and supplied materials for crafts and cookie decorating. Children whose mothers are still incarcerated received gifts on behalf of moms. Most precious to our staff was the opportunity for volunteer penpals to meet the families of the women they have been writing.

# —2018 BY THE NUMBERS—

**\$36,219** saved by taxpayers for each client who has not returned to prison this year

**\$20,526** raised during our Giving Tuesday campaign – funds that will support **20** incarcerated mothers who participate in our CARE program in 2019

**10,381** volunteer hours served

**\$5,500** awarded at Wells Fargo's Flash Philanthropy event, where a client-graduate presented and won on behalf of Changed Choices!

**1,071** Christmas and New Year's cards mailed to women in prison

**471** hours of professional counseling touched **85** women

**387** hours of mentoring provided to **65** women and girls through our COOOL program in the Mecklenburg County Jail

An average of **237** active volunteers each month, and **194** served on one-time projects

**36** children surprised by Christmas gifts given on behalf of their incarcerated moms

**9** women housed in the Ruth Snyder Re-entry Home

**6** women completed an entrepreneurship class coordinated with Queens University

**1** donated vehicle

