

REWRITING LIVES



July 2012

Changed Choices in Action

CHANGED CHOICES INC.

TRUE GROWTH! HOME, COOL and SECOND HELPING! At the Changed Choices HOME

Not all true growth is measured by numbers. The goal of Changed Choices is *changed lives* and the ability to provide the tools needed for our clients to reach that goal. So many partners work together to help this become a reality for many women. The new Changed Choices HOME is indeed beautiful, restful and well equipped with the needed tools. On May 12th, over a dozen volunteers helped to move



everything into the new HOME. What a beautiful sight to see everyone holding hands in the parking lot for a word of prayer before leaving the old HOME. Nancy worked hard along with those who moved everything over a week's time. God is at work and you have been a part of it! Here are just some of the ways we have seen Him at work!

The new HOME was made possible through a wonderful supporter who purchased a house that would then be "leased to own" to Changed Choices. We were blessed with a realtor who prayed for us and a contractor who understood our mission. There were volunteers from Church at Charlotte who had stained the privacy fence and built the perfect storage shed; a



The back yard with our new shed!

donor who helped provide the creation of a computer room; Norma Ricci (who we could not have done without), who worked so hard to get a flat screen TV, new furniture for office, bedrooms, library and all the linen to go with it; volunteers to build the raised garden the women love;

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Growth in the COOL Program She is "making it"!

One of the COOL mentors is very excited because she has seen the difference she is able to make in a young lady's life. Here is her story:

I met one 16 year old who had such great potential, that I knew I wanted to be a part of her life. We focused on her education, seeking employment for the summer and continuing with her goals and passions in life. This young lady wrote poetry and had started writing a book. She was very afraid that she would not make her grade because she had been locked up. When she was released, I continued to pray for her and was able to continue

walking along side this young girl.

Her parents were very happy when I called because she had already told them about me. She was permitted to return to school to see if she could catch up, and she did. She called me the same day and told me the exciting news that she had passed!! She also stated that many people didn't think she would, even her parents. We both were very happy and continued working on other goals.

I have connected her with other programs and talk with her about daily, monthly and yearly goals.

Her parents are also very involved and call me when she is straying away or having difficulties with something. I am very happy to have met this young lady through the Changed Choices COOL Program, and hope to be able to continue meeting other young girls who just need someone to talk with, keep them motivated and give them answers to their questions as they face many obstacles in life.

We now have been asked to provide a mentoring program for young ladies up to age 24.

The opportunity is great and YOU can make a difference.

Contact us for information.

Building new lives beyond prison walls

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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A beautiful quiet place—complete with garden and patio

At the Changed Choices HOME continued

volunteers from Home Depot and Wells Fargo on “Caring Day” who built a patio cover and extended the garden; Justin from Carmel Baptist, who even killed a copperhead while removing ivy from our trees; a donor (who has since gone to be with the Lord) who gave a new Maytag washer and dryer; New Beginnings Community Church who provided a gift for household items; donors who do not know us but who gave towards furniture.

All the clients love the new HOME! We hear, “I have never lived anywhere new before”, “It is all so quiet and peaceful”, “We are truly blessed to be able to be here”, “It is all so beautiful”. As we move forward, this will be a place where women will heal, grow and become established. We need our volunteers to continue to mentor, guide and assist in so many ways.

Contact us if you are interested in learning more.



Removing ivy is tough!

Growth in Second Helping—more carts!

Second Helping is on the way to a real explosion! As an LLC of Changed Choices, Second Helping is a small business/jobs program designed to provide employment for our clients. Melissa, Tim, Monique and Candice have worked endlessly to accomplish what will be at least two new coffee carts before the end of the summer! The fare offered at the cart, extended hours, small catering efforts and hard work have led to opportunities in a number of exciting areas.

From specialty coffee offerings to iced coffee and smoothies, along with breakfast pastries and lunch sandwiches, the food remains great. The best part is that more carts will mean more jobs for

clients who need the work. For every cart, we will be able to hire at least two employees. This also helps to cover overhead and training costs that have been quite challenging.

As a benefit for Second Helping, The Evening Muse (<http://theeveningmuse.com/>) will present Justin Taylor and Melissa Mummert on Tuesday, July 24th at 7:30. Justin is a South-African born singer-songwriter whose poignant songs and soulful acoustic guitar arrangements have earned him record deals, radio play and hundreds of thousands of [YouTube views](#). Melissa Mummert, Second Helping's founder and budding singer-songwriter opens the show with

original songs inspired by her work with prisoners and stories about the women of Changed Choices and Second Helping.

Purchase your advance ticket and plan to attend!

Without good jobs, our women cannot move ahead to create the new life they desire. This is a very important part of our Changed Choices program. Consider becoming a Second Helping supporter!

