

REWRITING LIVES



November 2010

Changed Choices in Action

CHANGED CHOICES INC.

First Annual Changed Choices Retreat - a huge success!

There was not one person who left the retreat without having been changed at some level - several stating, "I will never be the same again". With a combination of clients, staff, Board Members, counselors, mentors and AA sponsors, the group quickly developed a unity, focus and rapport that was indescribable. We all shared, learned, sang, laughed, cried, played, did crafts, made long lasting friendships and were changed as we saw God at work in individual lives and in the group as a whole.

Three women shared parts of their story – focusing on how God's incredible grace and love had brought them through their challenges. Small group discussions brought reality and personal applications to the topic. The time sharing on the porch, over a meal, while hiking or "hanging out" in

the Lodge was priceless. Everyone learned from each other!

One of the highlights of the weekend was seeing the faces of 6 ladies who hiked to the top of the mountain and came back so excited to share that they made it to the top. ***This was the first mountain they had ever climbed!*** They called their mothers and their children and texted pictures of themselves from the top! It was an incredible sight to witness!

A quote from one of the Board Members has been echoed by many. "I thought it would be a fun weekend but it was far better than I ever imagined or dreamed. I was immensely blessed as I believe were all who



They made it to the top!

attended. God never ceases to amaze me! I feel humbled to have been a part of this incredible weekend. I think all who were there witnessed why Changed Choices exists!" (client comments page 2)

Grants open new doors for Changed Choices



Katie and Doris receive the Housing Grant.

Thank you to two wonderful grantors – the ABC Board as well as the Charlotte Regional Realtor Association. These grants have enabled Changed Choices to hire two part time positions and so much more can now be accomplished! Katie

Clark, our new Executive Director has guided us to these two grants in the last few months. Through the ABC Grant, we were able to hire Emily Jamison as our Transitional Manager as well as Melissa Mummert as our Client Initiatives Manager. Both Emily and Melissa have been hard at work creating substance abuse prevention training modules for both clients and mentors. This grant will do much to assist us in helping to keep our clients clean, sober and educated. Mentor training in the area of substance abuse will enhance the ability for our mentors to encourage our clients more effectively. With Emily working from the HOME to deal with Transition and Melissa at the jail, managing the COOL

Program (among other things) it has been an exciting last few months! Our goal is to at least take the Transition position to full time and to add another staff member.

A "Housing Opportunity Foundation Grant", awarded by local realtors and recommended by our own realtor, Doris Horton was granted to us to cover some housing costs for clients who have just come from prison and do not have an income. The first several months for our clients are very expensive until they are able to find employment.

We are so appreciative of the additional capability that we have to provide services because of these grants.

For more information, contact:

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Mentoring with Changed Choices

Given the fact that women need relationships and that mentoring is modeled throughout Scripture, it is a given that a major focus of our program is just that. We work in many venues to provide someone to “come alongside” of women. Mentors provide support and are positive role models. Several clients have likened the process to “re-parenting”. **Consider where you may become involved:**

- ◆ Mentoring women in Transition
- ◆ COOOL Mentors with female youthful offenders
- ◆ Community Sponsors at The Center for Women
- ◆ Mentoring with the Chaplain’s Office at the jail
- ◆ Mentoring a woman from Summit House

How would you make out?

Changed Choices expects certain qualities in our clients. How would you rate yourself in each of the following areas?

- Honesty
- Acceptance of responsibility—both past and present
- Accountability
- Teachability
- Integrity
- Be willing to work as hard as we do.



How did Retreat change your life?



What they said:

- ◆ I have learned through this to love as God does and forgive as God forgives. If it wasn’t for you speaking words of truth to me, I know that I wouldn’t be here today.
- ◆ The Retreat was awesome – being with staff was the best. We all fit together and no difference was shown.

- ◆ The love shared is still wrapped around me with an eternal warmth.
- ◆ That we still have people that care regardless what you have done in your life.
- ◆ I came out of my fears - sharing and bonding
- ◆ It helped me appreciate God as a God of second chances, both for the clients, and myself as well.
- ◆ it gave me a new appreciation for what Jesus has done and what He has saved me from - eternally and in the immediate.
- ◆ It was literally a mountain top experience!

- ◆ I want to be able to verbalize it, I can’t.
- ◆ I must admit that I didn’t feel like I “needed” the retreat but it was refreshing, encouraging....needed.

