

REWRITING LIVES



January 2012

Changed Choices in Action

CHANGED CHOICES INC.

Second Helping is Launched!

In 2011, Second Helping transformed from a dream of providing jobs for our clients into reality. Our clients want to work and be productive but they are often denied jobs because of their criminal records. The ones who do land jobs frequently have to work two jobs to pay the bills, don't have health benefits and need additional support to make ends meet. We decided that we needed to respond to this reality by **creating jobs for our clients.**

After much research and planning by our largely volunteer team, we determined that we wanted to open a coffee cart in an uptown office building. In the meantime, clients Monique Maddox and Candice Ikard enrolled in and completed Community Culinary School. They would be ready to

prepare quality food for the cart.

On November 30th, the first Second Helping coffee cart opened at the Children and Family Services Building in uptown Charlotte. Changed Choices' clients Monique Maddox, Candice Ikard and Dorothy Daniels serve coffee, espresso drinks, muffins as well as lunches to workers in a building that houses ten different non-profit agencies. Everyone in the Children and Family Services building has enthusiastically welcomed Second Helping and has been a wonderfully supportive "audience" for our initial effort. We aspire to open more carts in other locations, providing opportunities to all of our clients who wish to take part in the venture.



Monique, Candice and Dorothy work the cart on opening day.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Chef Ron Ahlert and everyone at Community Culinary School whose expertise and support have been critically important to us. We are proud to

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Christmas Joy for Changed Choices Kids



On December 17, 2011, about 25 children of Changed Choices and their caregivers or mothers arrived to share a Christmas party. There was food, caroling, the Christmas Story and of course, Santa – complete with gifts and a special stocking for each child! Thank you to some very special groups and individuals who made this an exciting event for the children. Norma and Mark Ricci provided the food, Toni Grove played the guitar, Mr. Emery gave a Christmas mes-

sage, Greg Lemmonds and daughter were Santa and Elf, John Snyder was the photographer. There were stockings from Church at Charlotte, gifts from Grace Covenant – Cornelius,



coats from Blanket America and Grace Covenant-Charlotte provided the space. Volunteers helped with set up and clean up. Thank you to each group and person! It is only through your

generosity that we are able to provide these services. The message of Christ's birth was shared with client and children!

The mission of Changed Choices is to provide mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually for our clients. There is no better time than the Christmas Season to see this demonstrated through you, our partners. Lives are being changed because of your faithful service. Thank you!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Changed Choices Inc.
P.O. Box 78614
Charlotte, NC 28271
Phone: 704.332.6388
info@ChangedChoices.org
www.ChangedChoices.org

Clients Speak!

Client #1; Please thank all of the wonderful ladies that filled the Christmas bags with so many wonderful, needed and useful things. I was so delighted with each item. So much thought went into their selections as to our needs. Note cards with stamps, an umbrella, scarf, mittens, jewelry, etc. These were all items I needed in January but had not even thought about. I am so thankful and grateful for their thoughtfulness and gift of love. I pray God will bless them and keep them in His Perfect Peace.

Client #2: Thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards! Each one came just when I needed it. I decorated my little space with the cards and loved looking at each one.

Client #3: Being a part of Changed Choices is truly one of the greatest gifts God has blessed me with. I want all of you to know that my past is truly behind me. I look at prison as another chance to get it right and I thank God for His grace and mercy. I pray every day that God would be glorified in my life. Thank all of you for loving me (I needed to know that someone cared); thank you for loving my boys but most of all thank you for loving Jesus. His love shows through you as you love others. I truly love each of you and I'm so thankful you are a part of my life. Pray that God

will use me while I am here... .. Thanks for all the beautiful Christmas cards.

Client #4: I spoke with my children after the party you had for them. They were so excited! They said they felt so welcomed. And the gifts let me tell you, my baby actually cried! (*she is 7*) She received a gift that she has been wanting for a very long time! It's like God went out and picked each gift individually Himself! I didn't even know what they wanted and for you all to get them exactly what they wanted

was amazing! Praise God! She (my baby daughter) was crying, I was crying, my mother was crying – all tears of joy. They just kept thanking me for giving them just what they wanted. That really made my day! My heart is filled! I would like to thank each and every one of you at Changed Choices for making this Christmas such a magical one! My kids are happy, I am happy and I know God is smiling down on each of you and saying, "Well done my good and faithful servants". Thank you!



Second Helping continued



Melissa, Candice and Monique at the cart

serve Climb's Roast coffee, a fair trade and locally roasted coffee created by Chip & Cheery Furr's ministry, The Climb. All proceeds from Climb's Roast sales goes to ministries around the world, an exciting concept!

We have been blessed in amazing ways by volunteers without whose efforts Second Helping would not exist. Tommy George, Ginny and Craig Summerall, Dave Damone, Jennifer Calloway, Anna Cusack and especially Kathy Blake and Claire Wilson have invested countless hours in support of Second Helping.

It has not been easy and there have been real obstacles along the way, but we are excited to see the real fruits of our labors now in the form of a reunited family. Candice, as a result of her Second Helping position, was recently able to move into a home, joined by her two young daughters who have not been able to live with her since she

went to prison five years ago. This is what it's all about and makes all of our effort very worthwhile.

Only a week after we opened our pilot coffee cart, we were invited to set up another cart, this time in the lobby of a huge corporate office building with 20 times more foot traffic than our current location. We are eager to open this new cart, as it will provide a steady revenue stream and more jobs. We need \$20,000 to build and equip this new cart and look forward to connecting with individuals and foundations who will want to provide the financial support we need to further our mission of providing living wage jobs for our clients. Please seriously consider supporting Second Helping today.

By Melissa Mummert