



Everyone Needs a Second Chance!

Summer 2007

Second Chance Society®, Inc.

## SECOND CHANCE HELPS ITS 750<sup>th</sup> CLIENT

Late in June, a Second Chance Society milestone was reached. From among the many homeless and struggling in our community, SCS was privileged to help its 750<sup>th</sup> client since SCS was formed just six short years ago. Client #750 was working at a gas station earlier this year when she was held up at gun point while her two young sons looked on. Shortly thereafter her husband became ill and was hospitalized. They lost their jobs, ending up evicted and in a homeless shelter. She could get a job as a security guard contingent upon her taking the necessary two-day course and paying the fee for her license. SCS was there to supply what she needed, thus empowering this individual to begin to work productively and gain a toehold on the road to self-sufficiency.

## NEW OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



L/R New Board Members Doreen Koenig & Marta Prado

At The Second Chance Society Annual Meeting on June 18, 2007, two new Board members were inducted to two year terms as Directors. Both are well known and respected in Broward County for their dedicated non-profit and community involvement. Doreen Koenig and Marta Prado were welcomed aboard by their fellow Board members.

Three other Board members whose terms were set to expire, were re-elected to new two year terms. These included Pat Owen, Lee Burt and Kim Saiswick, EdD. Declining re-election, long standing Board Member Paul Panagos, CPA, was confirmed to serve on Second Chance Society's much valued Advisory Council.

Second Chance founder Pat Owen chose not to stand for re-election as the Board Chair, preferring to continue as a Board Member, and most importantly to her, as the Program Director. Having developed great confidence in the Board of Directors to carefully oversee the operation of the Second Chance Society, Pat will thus be enabled to spend more time and focus on her real passion of directly working with the homeless and struggling in our community, and helping them to return to self-sufficiency through the services of Second Chance's Hand Up and Careers 4 Success programs. Having helped 176 clients on the path to self-sufficiency in the past year, and with continued community financial support for the Second Chance Society programs, Pat has expressed her determination that SCS will see more than 200 clients helped in this fiscal year, which started on June 1st.



L to R: New Board Officers Sheri Whittington, Jean Ready, Lee Burt and David Mercer

The Board held elections and the following Officers were elected for one year terms:

*Board Chair/President* Lee Burt  
*Vice-Chair* Sheri Whittington

*Secretary (re-election)* Jean Ready, RN  
*Treasurer* David Mercer

The new Board got right to work, joined by Executive Director Tai Vaz, and commenced planning of committees, reviewed ever important finances and began to set a calendar for a very busy period of growth and service to the homeless and struggling in our community in the year ahead.

When no one else cares, we care.

When no other hope exists, we exist.

When the future seems dark, we hold up the light.

## SECOND CHANCE HOUSE IS NOW A REALITY

A cherished dream for Second Chance became reality late in 2006, when through the generosity and assistance of an anonymous benefactor, the Second Chance Society was able to move to a permanent home, now affectionately called Second Chance House. Located at 1835 SE 4th AV in SE Fort Lauderdale, Second Chance House provides the space and facilities needed to grow the SCS programs which are so beneficial to the struggling clients they serve. From Second Chance House volunteers and staff are able to work with other agencies, and to fulfill Second Chance Society's role in the continuum of care for the homeless in our community.

### A note from the President

Dear Friends of Second Chance:

None of us can fill the shoes of Second Chance's dedicated founder, Pat Owen. But, we can pledge ourselves to help fulfill her vision of providing an integral cog in the wheel of the continuum of care for the homeless in our community by helping our clients overcome material obstacles to employment, so that they may achieve self-sufficiency. It's with that thought in mind, that I accept my place in the plan as President of Second Chance for the year ahead.

With the continued support from those who know and love the work of Second Chance, and those who come to know it in the fiscal year ahead, we hope to assist over 200 clients. We have real energy at work on our Board, and in our cadre of dedicated volunteers. Referring agencies have an overload of clients for us to consider as potential clients. We know the need is there and growing, and that we are obliged to raise and carefully marshal our limited resources to assist those who are making their own earnest effort to pull themselves up from poverty and homelessness. Over and over we see that the targeted help provided by Second Chance makes the difference between people being able to work and support themselves, or for them to continue on the margins; consuming the expensive community assets of homeless shelters, rehabilitation programs, food banks and other assistance, and lacking in that personal sense of self esteem that is so important to us all. When nobody else cares, we care.

We know that the success of our mission is dependent upon God's grace, and we ask you always to keep us and those we serve in your prayers. With His help and yours, we will surely succeed!

Sincerely,



Lee Burt

### A recent client story (name changed for confidentiality)

He had been clean and sober for a time following his completion of a rehab program in 2005, but "went out" following hurricane Wilma. He ended up with a probation violation in a matter of months. Homeless and in trouble, he entered a Court sanctioned program last summer, and has been clean & sober now, for almost a year. When Ryan was referred to Second Chance for help by his case manager, we learned that he attended 12 Step meetings regularly, and was an active participant in his group counseling program. A military veteran, he was also getting some care through the VA. A divorced father of three, this client had lost his way, and was unable to help support his dependents and to meet his other obligations.

Ryan was an experienced roofer, and when he came to Second Chance he had just obtained a job in his trade, contingent on him having his own tools. Following his interview, and confirmations with his case manager and prospective employer, Second Chance stepped in and purchased the minimum set of tools he needed to work. Soon after, Ryan volunteered for one of Second Chance's Habitat for Humanity workdays so that he might give back to the community. Seeing that Habitat needed more skilled roofing assistance on the project, we later learned that Ryan independently showed up, traveling by bicycle to the site with his tools on a couple of subsequent week-ends to pitch in as a construction volunteer.

Just last week, Ryan reported to the Second Chance volunteer who handled his case, that he was doing well. He stated that he had satisfied all his legal issues, and had finished his probation. Following completion of his Court sanctioned drug program, Ryan opted to live in a ¾ recovery house setting, and is just now planning to move to his own apartment. He has been able to recommence the payment of child support, and while he has changed employers once, he has been able to maintain consistent employment since SCS provided his tools. Ryan is so grateful to Second Chance and to it's supporters for the help he received. We wish him good life.

**DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE**

The work of the Second Chance Society is absolutely contingent upon the generosity of our donors. We honor the individuals, corporations and grantors who have supported us so far in 2007. We can only hope that they continue their generous spirit and are soon joined by many more as the year progresses.

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nwsitr 2007-02

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1835 SE 4th AV  
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A copy of the official registration financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 Toll-Free within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement. Our Florida Registration Number is Ch14445.

Online donations may be made at [www.secondchancesociety.org](http://www.secondchancesociety.org)

Ask us about Planned Giving.

Thank-you for your donation! A receipt will be sent. Second Chance is a 501(c)-3 tax exempt organization.

TEL: 954-763-5999 E-mail: [help@secondchancesociety.org](mailto:help@secondchancesociety.org)

## The Second Chance Society Mission Statement

*To give a second chance to homeless and other struggling men and women by providing moral encouragement and removing material barriers to self-sufficiency.*



In 2001, Fort Lauderdale business woman Pat Owen sought to find an area of need that was not otherwise fulfilled in the continuum of care for the homeless and struggling in Broward County. Her strong personal work ethic and the discovery that homeless and struggling persons who attempt to enter the workforce often face an insurmountable obstacle with the prerequisite that they have certain tools, equipment, certificates, uniforms or safety equipment before they can work, or for those enrolled in vocational training, text books and school supplies in order to learn, led to her founding the Second Chance Society, which provides those needed items for qualified applicants. Clients are generally referred to Second Chance by other agencies, such as Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Broward Outreach Center, Faith Farm Ministries, Hispanic Unity, House of Hope, Salvation Army, Shepherd's Way and Women in Distress just to name a few of many. Second Chance interviews and screens clients carefully, and works to help those clients who are motivated to help themselves through employment, and who have become homeless or on the edge for one of the myriad of causes, whether because of tragic events, health issues, mental illness, alcoholism or addiction, abusive relationships, veterans issues and x-offenders upon release from prison. After they receive help, Second Chance endeavors to remain in contact with clients; encourages and applauds, as their difficult circumstances are overcome.



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## Upcoming Events

Call to RSVP  
954-763-5999

### Second Chance Society Fellowship Dinner July 31, 2007

Speaker Florida State Rep Elaine Schwartz

Fort Lauderdale United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
101 SE 3rd Avenue in downtown Ft. Lauderdale

Second Chance Society  
1st Annual Golf Tournament  
in partnership with Shepherd's Way  
Coral Ridge Country Club  
September 14, 2007



Sign-up Early!  
954-763-5999

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