

# Community Service Association Newsletter

Published by the Community Service Association (CSA) of San Diego Unified School District

Website: [https://staff.sandiegounified.org/a-z/community\\_service\\_association](https://staff.sandiegounified.org/a-z/community_service_association)

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## Fall 2021

### Message from the CSA Board of Directors

Thank you, CSA members, for your generous contributions which support fellow San Diegans in need!

Our fall membership drive runs from October 18 – December 13. We ask that you tell a few co-workers about CSA and/or consider increasing your monthly CSA donation, even if by as little as \$1, so that CSA continues to thrive in its mission of supporting local nonprofits.

This Fall issue of the CSA newsletter highlights a CSA grant recipient that is making a difference in our community: San Diego Second Chance.

### San Diego Second Chance

Each year, San Diego County spends over \$305 million on incarceration. Once released, more than half will return to custody within four years. The sooner a person is employed following release, the less likely they are to reoffend; however, studies show that justice-involved individuals are nearly five times more likely to be unemployed than those without a criminal record.

Operating on the ground floor and undeterred by the complex problems formerly incarcerated citizens face, Second Chance's mission and singular focus is **to disrupt the cycles of incarceration and poverty by helping people find their way to self-sufficiency.**

For 27 years, Second Chance has equipped participants with the knowledge, opportunities, and resources needed to achieve their goals toward a value-driven, self-sufficient life.

The agency operates six programs, five sober living homes and provides wrap around services for youth and adults. Programs include (not limited to):

- **Job Readiness Training** An intensive four-week program which helps formerly incarcerated adults secure and retain meaningful livable-wage employment. Participants learn basic job-readiness skills (resume writing, interviewing) and receive assistance to overcoming barriers to employment (expungement, tattoo removal, dental, etc).
- **Sober Living Housing** Offers a safe, supervised and substance-free home with case management that supports recovery and fosters personal growth.
- **Youth Garden** An eight-week job training program for low-moderate income, at-risk youth (14-21). Through paid transitional employment, youth receive job readiness preparation, learn positive communication skills, and engage in leadership training and development. Program components include healthy cooking classes, youth development workshops, and job readiness/development.



From bed linens for the sober living homes, assistance with a wash station in the Youth Garden, and providing funds for stipends for youth, CSA's support has been an integral part of successful programming and as such, successful graduates!

### CSA Mission Statement

***The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.***