

The aim of Changed Choices is:



- **To identify** potential clients while they await sentencing in the Mecklenburg County Jail or are serving time in prison



- **To work** with our clients while they serve their terms in either state or federal prisons



- **To continue to work** with these clients as they “*build new lives beyond prison walls*” This often means working with their children as well



You Can Help:

- **Become a pen pal to a client**
- **Become a big brother/sister to a client’s child**
- **Collect needed books and publications for distribution**
- **Provide emotional support for a client during the trial process**
- **Provide monthly financial assistance for a client**
- **Assist in the office with mailing and telephone work**
- **Mentor an ex-offender**
- **Assist with furniture collection and apartment set-up**
- **Provide assistance with job searches**
- **Become a regular supporter of Changed Choices**

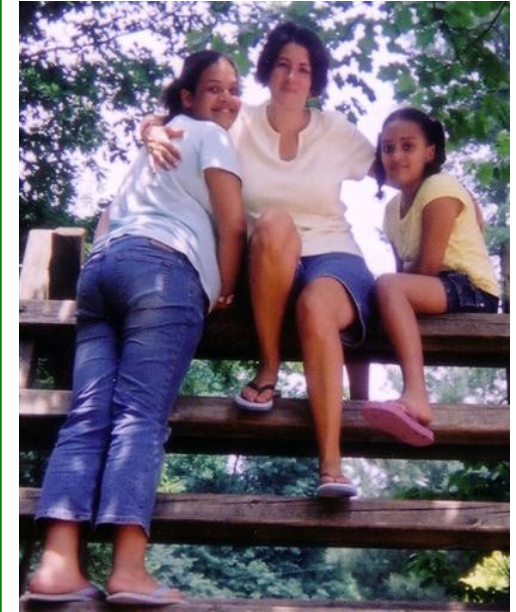
CHANGED CHOICES

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CHANGED CHOICES

**Building new lives
beyond prison walls**



Change is:
“the process of becoming different”
but
it must begin with you!



OUR MISSION

As followers of Christ, our aim is to provide mental, emotional, physical and spiritual assistance to highly motivated women during their incarceration and as they transition into society, thus enabling them to make positive changes in their lives and to achieve self-sufficiency.

Assistance and services include:

Mental Development – Through professional counseling and mentoring, we endeavor to provide guidance through new life experiences.

Emotional support – We address the issues that led to a history of poor choices and continue to provide guidance throughout their time as clients.

Economic encouragement – Through assistance in securing employment and training in financial matters (budgeting, debt reduction, obtaining good credit, establishing savings) we equip women with the tools to explore a variety of options (including further education) and to make wise choices.

Provision of physical needs – We prepare women for a future of hope and security by providing resources during their incarceration and tools upon release for safe, affordable housing, household items, clothing and transportation.

A spiritual framework – We believe that as faith is established and nurtured, it will become a critical source of strength in determining future positive choices

Our Approach

Changed Choices:

- Provides comprehensive services to female inmates throughout their incarceration and into their transition back into the community.
- Any incarcerated woman is eligible to become a client of Changed Choices, but she must have a commitment to understand the past, change destructive patterns and make the hard choices needed for a stable and fulfilling future. A strong faith along with a good support system is vital to a successful transition into a “new life beyond prison walls”. Without support, the challenges in finding jobs and adequate housing lead many ex-offenders to return to what they once knew.
- Since 75% of women are also mothers, we work with children as well.



- Our goal is to help our clients understand that they are unique and valuable individuals and to give them hope. As we work together to ensure that these deserving clients are given the opportunities they need, we see destructive cycles broken and lives and futures changed!

Our recidivism rate to date is 6.3% as compared to the national average of 58% for women and 67% overall (as stated by the Justice Department).

This astounding statistic is largely due to our approach of working with our clients during incarceration and requiring accountability, well in advance of their release.

Be a part of this great organization. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by a strong Board of Directors. Please contact us for more information.

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