

REWRITING LIVES

Volume 2 Issue 2

January 2007

CHANGED CHOICES IN ACTION

Joy and Gratitude at Christmas—In Their Own Words

Our clients state it best when they write to let us know what the Christmas cards, greetings and gifts for their children mean. We share their words with you:

- Happy New Year! I wanted to write to thank you and Changed Choices for all you have done during this holiday season. All the cards and encouraging words meant more than anything. I can not write everyone to thank them personally for all the joy they brought me this year. It's like having an extended family. This is also a thank you for thinking of my children for the Christmas holiday. Even though I have had no contact with my son, my daughter was so pleased with her presents. She now has the cross I wanted so much for her.

- My son loved his gift. That was the first thing he talked about when I spoke to him on Christmas. The best part of my day was being able to



talk to the kids. He loved his gift – the planetarium. Mom says he goes around the house cutting off the lights in every room so he can see the stars!

- I want to thank you for the many beautiful cards I received this Christmas! Ever since I've met Changed Choices, you have shown me nothing but love, guidance, and compassion!! I once read that compassion was "God's way" ~ a deep caring for the emotional and spiritual needs for people. You have been and will continue to be one of my greatest blessings. That comes straight from my heart! Thank you once again, for all you do for me, and the others! I also enjoyed the "Christmas Poem" and your Christmas letter, with pictures of your beautiful family. After reading the letter I cried. It really touched my heart just knowing such a wonderful lady loves me, and takes the time to share with me, means so much.

- To the ladies of Changed Choices; I would like to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for the cards. The cards were lovely, but the encouraging words in the cards were soothing to my spirit. At the



A client family—step-grandfather with his teen-aged charges.

time I received the cards I had received some bad news. With each card I read, my spirit was lifted and I was reminded of the promises of God. My frown was turned into a smile with praises. I thank God for each of you and I pray that He continues to bless each one of you in abundance. And that He would bless the organization of Changed Choices, opening new doors and taking them to greater heights in Christ Jesus.

- Thank you also for the gifts to my boys, I know they were well pleased. I was even more delighted to know that there are people who truly care, thank you. May this coming year be as blessed as the last.

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We Celebrate Our Web Designer and Webmaster

If you have not seen our new Changed Choices website (ChangedChoices.org), you have missed a treat! We owe this new site to the expertise of Chris Kiechel, who donated his time and ability. Chris is Chief Software Architect with his business, Application Craftsmen Inc. They build web and desktop ap-

plications, including e-commerce, e-business, portals, and web services.

Chris lives with his wife Susan and their three children; Christian, Joshua and Sloan. Chris and Susan are always positive and smiling, even in the face of real challenges brought about by

Susan's chronic illness and week-long monthly hospitalizations for needed medication. This family is a joy to know, full of life and enthusiasm. We extend our grateful appreciation to Chris and continued prayers for his family. Chris can be contacted at chris.kiechel@applicationcraftsmen.com

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Kudos to Director Amy Philipp for an outstanding job of planning and executing the November Silent Auction! Thank you, Amy!



Changed Choices clients pose with the Snyders at our November Silent Auction . WSOC "TV star" Missy, stands fourth from the left. Thank you Missy and Kim Brattain.

A Special "Christmas Family"

For Coca-Cola: The Stewardship Program of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated provided "Christmas" for one of our families. Armed with gifts, Christmas tree, gift cards, household items, clothing etc., Ceil Watson helped the kids set up. Here is a letter from their mother:

To Whom It May Concern; I am writing to all the responsible adults who made my children's Christmas brighter this year. I prayed for months for my children's Christmas and the blessing came through you all. I want to thank you because my family has been through a great deal last year, I am the mother to Raven and Winfield and I have been incarcerated almost 5 years My mother Harriet left this world in February, so the kids lost both moms. What you did means a great deal to me and I just want to say "Thank You," once again. It was an awesome gift and I am sure my children are as grateful as I am. God bless all who participated in this.

For a Director's Extended family: A Director's extended family chooses a project each year to give money to—rather than buying Christmas gifts for themselves. This year their donation was used for a client's family—including 5 teenagers. It was wonderful to hear the joy they experienced: using their new skates, playing games, listening to music, wearing new warm clothing and encouraged with new hope! The whole family has been overwhelmed and is very grateful!. Thank you from each of them!

In Their Own Words continued

• You ladies have no idea how much you mean to me and others. You have opened up your hearts and let us come inside. I have been connected with Changed Choices for about 3 years now and through your leaders, Birthday cards Christmas cards, and just cards and letters, you have gave me Jesus. Ruth became my link to hope and change. She has loved me more than my family and has been there when my world on the outside came down. She has led me through some dark places and has brought me into the light of our Savior. I love

Changed Choices and I love each one of you that help keep it running. I don't think I would be where I am at today with Jesus if it wasn't for your leadership and love. Jesus is awesome; He knew I needed each one of you. My pen pals are my angels with pens. I thank you for the cards this year I wish you love this season, and peace. May God shine down blessings and show favor over Changed Choices.

• Thank you for all the gifts. You all are so generous; I want to say thanks for doing what ya'll did for my family and me.

• Thank you all for what you have done for me and my kids. God knows I love you all.

• I want to thank you and the people that work with "Changed Choices" for all the beautiful Christmas cards. They were nice and did brighten up my day. I really appreciate the prayers. Please pass along my thanks.

Thank you to each of you who had a part in making Christmas more meaningful for our clients and their children. Just a little means so very much!