

THE



Justice Votes 2020: A Presidential Town Hall



Dennis Gaddy Attended the first ever Justice Votes 2020 Presidential Candidate Town Hall on October 28th

The Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted Peoples Family Movement (FICPFM) selected Dennis Gaddy to receive a full travel and lodging scholarship to the first ever Justice Votes 2020 Presidential Candidate Town Hall.

This conversation with Democratic presidential candidates was meant to elevate the voices of those most impacted by Mass-Incarceration in the United States and remind them that we vote and therefore they are accountable to us.

As you see pictured above, Dennis is asking a question to then Presidential candidate, Kamala Harris. The event was held at Eastern State Penitentiary near Philadelphia, a museum memorializing the oldest prison in America.

We invite you to please support our work with your donations.

**I'M FOR
SECOND
CHANCES**

Mail a check to:

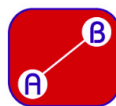
P.O. Box 61114
Raleigh, NC 27661

OR donate online at:
communitysuccess.org/donate

communitysuccess.org

HOPE LINE

DECEMBER 2019



community success initiative

HELPING INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

**HELPING MEN AND WOMEN WHO FIND THEMSELVES
ENTANGLED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**



Representatives from the Pitt County SCA Chapter.

Second Chance Alliance is formalizing chapters across North Carolina

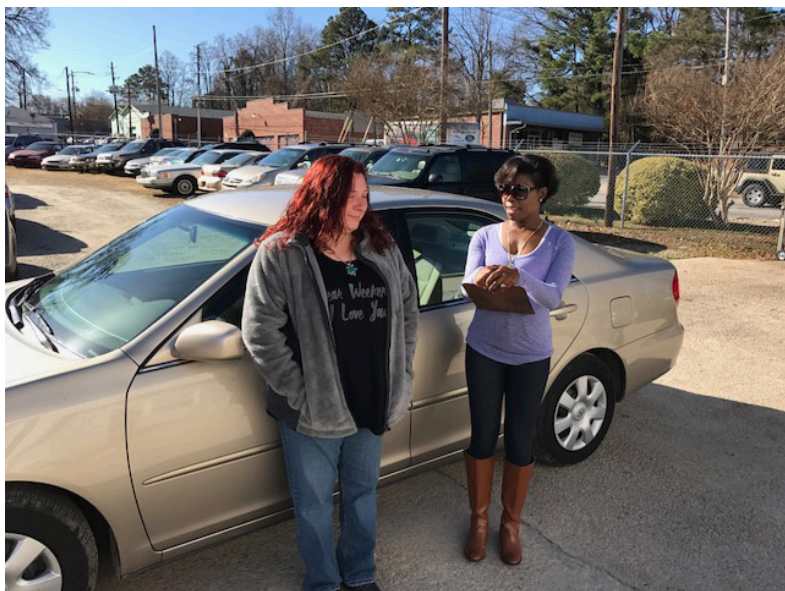
Community Success Initiative (CSI) is a member of the The North Carolina Second Chance Alliance (SCA), a statewide alliance of people with criminal records, their family members, service providers, congregations, community leaders and concerned citizens that have come together to address the causes of criminal records and the barriers they create to successful reentry.

SCA is in the process of formalizing SCA chapters across the state. We kicked off our chapters with three launches this year. The locations were Pitt County (Greenville) pictured above; New Hanover County (Wilmington), and Tyrell, Hyde, and Washington Counties as a collaborative (Little Washington)

We plan on expanding the chapter launches in 2020.



Representatives from the Wilmington SCA Chapter.



Service Partner Focus

WHEELS 4 HOPE

One of the biggest barriers to CSI clients is having reliable transportation to get to work, care for children or attend school.

We partner with Wheels4Hope, a non-profit, faith-based car donation program that turns donated cars into local blessings. Their mission is to provide affordable, reliable transportation to economically vulnerable families and individuals who are referred to them by partner organizations like CSI.

Wheels4Hope exists only through the contributions of numerous donors, volunteers, congregations and partner businesses who understand that reliable transportation is a vital component for self-sufficiency – a requirement for stable employment, the care of children, and the pursuit of education.



Jar Rally!

Use your spare
CHANGE to CHANGE
someone's life!

Contact us at:

inquiry@communitysuccess.org

**and we'll get a jar
coming your way.**

Did you know...

In 2019 (as of Nov 30th) CSI has:

- **Served** over 350 walk-in clients
- **Connected** 45 people to employment
- **Provided** 250 classes that help clients with overall information, job readiness, goal-setting, mock interviews, and much more!
- **Offered** over 400 hours of mentoring support and life coaching.
- **Gave back to the community** through over 500 volunteer hours.

CSI's client recidivism rate – the percentage of people who return to prison within three years – is at **9%**, while the national average recidivism rate is **35-40%**.



Shimona
Fletcher

Employer Partner Focus

WRIGHT CONSTRUCTION

Wright Construction has been one of our employer partners for the last two years. They specialize in managing traffic and flagging at construction sites and have employed several of our clients. One of CSI's clients, Shimona Fletcher, has gone on to become a crew leader with the company.

In the Community

SECOND CHANCE ALLIANCE AND LOBBY DAY

More than 1,000 people descended on the state Legislative Building Tuesday, May 7th to lobby for the Second Chance Act – a bill they say will profoundly change the lives of those with criminal charges or convictions on their record.

Senate Bill 562 would automatically expunge criminal charges that have been dismissed or disposed of as “not guilty” after December 1, 2019. It would also allow people to petition to have all non-violent misdemeanors dismissed after 7 years, and one felony conviction expunged after 10 years of good behavior.

That will help people with records avoid employment and housing discrimination, the bill’s supporters say, getting them back to work and making it easier for them to move on with their lives and make a contribution to society.



Local Government Involvement

BREAKING BARRIERS

A new ordinance in Wake County helps job applicants with criminal backgrounds compete fairly in hiring process

CSI was instrumental in working with Wake County Commissioners. On Monday April 18, 2016 The Wake County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously during its regular meeting to approve the Fair Chance Hiring Ordinance. The new ordinance implemented changes to the county's hiring process to ensure fairness for applicants who have been convicted of a crime in the past.

“Many men and women with criminal records have strong skills and a desire to turn their lives around. By instituting this new ordinance, we give them the opportunity to compete fairly for county jobs for which they’re qualified.”

– Commissioner Jessica Holmes



The new ordinance:

- Removes “the box” from the county’s job application form that job seekers must currently check if they have been convicted of an unlawful offense other than a minor traffic violation .
- Adds to the job application form a clear and prominent notice that states the “Position may require a background check. Unless required by state law, a record of conviction will not automatically exclude you from consideration for employment”
- Prescribes how background checks that are required by law or necessary based on the business function of the position are conducted on applicants.

CSI TEAM INVOLVEMENT



The CSI team along with some of our community partners and county officials

"We would be severely handicapped at our CSI office without the help of our team. They free me up to do things like raise money and sit at tables at which I could not ordinarily sit. They are a very talented group, and most importantly, they are dedicated to our mission. Thank you all for all that you do!"

– CSI's Dennis Gaddy

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Community Success Initiative advocates for those who have been justice-involved. We have individuals who can speak to the community about their experiences with the justice system and show how those currently and formerly in prison are worth a SECOND CHANCE. They give hope by showing how they turned their SETBACKS into COMEBACKS.

Some of our speakers have gone on to not only create their own businesses, but now come back and reach back to hire some of our current CSI clients who are looking for work



CONTACT CSI

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Service Partner Focus

PNC BANK



Since our inception in 2004, we have had the good fortune to have PNC as our banking partner. For the last 10 years, PNC has also been our partner in providing financial literacy workshops to CSI clients and also one on one mentoring at the bank when our clients are in need of having a second chance in their banking life. See the PNC team here along with CSI Director, Dennis Gaddy.



DENNIS RECEIVES THE AG'S DOGWOOD AWARD

Dennis, along with Dr. Wanda Boone, Together for Resilient Youth; Secretary Mandy Cohen, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Durham Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis; Molly Diggins, State Director of the Sierra Club; Fayetteville Police Chief Gina Hawkins; and Don Waddell, General Manager of the Carolina Hurricanes, have received Attorney General Josh Stein's Dogwood Award. These awards are given annually to honor North Carolinians who are dedicated to keeping people safe, healthy, and happy in their communities.

