



Second Chance Homes

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Keeping Busy

Last newsletter, we discussed that schedules of our residents. The purpose was to illustrate how busy our residents

are with life. The busy schedule is due, in part, by necessity, and part by our design. It's just part of life with children to be busy. However, we are also working toward helping our families access all resources available to them.

Treatment tends to be the largest part of our resident's schedules. It is absolutely fundamental that our residents receive the therapy they need for their addiction. It is why they are in need of SCH services. It is important for their future with their children to have this foundation.

In addition to treatment for chemical dependency, we also connect our residents and their children to mental health, physical health and dental health services. We hope to give our families the best possible start to their new lives.

We encourage our residents to complete their GED if they have not completed it. We encourage our residents to pursue any and all

educational goals they desire. Many of our residents attend classes at the Lincoln Center, or attend college. Education for our residents improves their chances of being self sufficient upon graduation from SCH.

Our residents are also connected with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or TANF. This allows our residents to be able to support themselves and their children while they are acquiring their new skills for a better future. We also have our residents get onto Section 8 housing lists; apply for food stamps and Medicaid. These resources will follow the residents when they graduate.

Aside from all the reasons already listed, being busy is a helpful for people in early recovery. It allows them to keep their minds focused on all these different tasks, not on using behaviors. By the time our residents' lives slow down, we hope that with the push to attend self help meetings, free time and an idol mind are met with good social support.

More to SCH Life than Treatment

Several of Second Chance Homes' residents participated in, and graduated from Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The program included seven classes. Each participant received a crock pot and a roast upon graduating from EFNEP. One of our residents did not know the cooking basics when she moved into SCH. She used the crock pot this last weekend to cook the roast and was excited to tell me that it turned out beautifully. She said that she had never used a crock pot before this weekend and was really proud of herself. She went on to say that she was planning on sharing this positive experience during check-in at her next Chemical Dependency group.

A Second Chance to Succeed

Second Chance Homes celebrated the graduation of one of our families from our program. The event was held at a community center on Billings' south side. Many current residents attended the event with their children to partake in the festivities.

We sang songs, danced to some Village People and even threw the chicken dance into the mix. Our families also showed off their creativity at the craft table.

The food was delicious and in great abundance! Everyone had a wonderful time rejoicing with our amazing graduate and her beautiful daughter.



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