



SECOND GENESIS
HELP FOR ADDICTION. HOPE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

in FOCUS

Summer 2006

INSIDE

The First Lady of Second Genesis: Joyce Seidman Shankman



Joyce Shankman, wife of Second Genesis Founder and President Sidney Shankman, M.D., was a great supporter of our organization and our mission. Her recent death has left a void within the Second Genesis family, and we would like to express our deepest appreciation of her life and her mission to help others.

Mrs. Shankman was an outstanding teacher, friend, wife and mother. Her unwavering support of her husband, Dr. Sidney Shankman, and his mission to help those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction was testimony of her love for him and for their community. Truly, as the first lady of Second Genesis, her spirit and wisdom remain as a legacy for our clients, staff and supporters.

Mrs. Shankman's life, dedicated to enhancing the lives of those around her, demonstrates to us the selflessness we should all exercise. Her familiar way of putting others before herself reminds us that we, too, must think of others and their needs. Her wisdom and characteristic way of knowing the most appropriate sentiment to share shows us that true listening is key to helping others. Her determination to live every day to its fullest without complaint exemplifies the beauty of life and the joy of living.

During her life, Mrs. Shankman was filled with purpose. She was passionate not only about education, but also about the excitement of learning. Her zeal for knowledge led her to be an outstanding English teacher, but it was her genuine love for her students and their welfare that makes her continue to stand out in their memories. The wisdom she imparted to them was so valuable, but her time and dedication were priceless.

Even after she discontinued teaching to rear her family, she continued to be active in the education of others. A vigorous supporter of her alma mater, Barnard College (today part of Columbia University), Mrs. Shankman freely dedicated many years of service to Columbia University as a Barnard Alumnae Admissions Representative where she was highly involved in the admissions

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Sidney Shankman, M.D.



Sidney Shankman, M.D.

A New Beginning

“Some people fear that life shall come to an end. I think that the greater fear should be that, for many, it should never have a beginning. To live to the fullest of one’s ability is an art that has to be learned. Over the last 37 years, Second Genesis has provided the venue in which the art of living to one’s fullest is taught.”

Celebrating new beginnings through recovery is our favorite pastime at Second Genesis. Watching our clients transform their lives from hopelessness into lives of fulfillment and optimism makes what we do more than worthwhile.

Over the 37 years since Second Genesis began, I have come to understand that people turn to drugs falsely believing that drugs will liberate them from their self-imposed demons. After treatment, our clients realize that the only demons liberated through drugs were those that destroyed them, their families, and their communities. Truly, drugs are equal opportunity destroyers. Thankfully, true healing is found through recovery.

Only when one is given the opportunity to re-examine one’s previous, irresponsible lifestyle, can one then be truly liberated—only when given the chance to modify that self-destructive behavior can one be free to live more fully—perhaps for the very first time.

To live to the fullest of one’s ability is an art that has to be learned. Through the years, Second Genesis has provided the venue in which the art of living to one’s fullest is taught. Over these 37 years, I have borne witness to thousands of Second Genesis clients learning from the mistakes of their past; and by so doing, developing wisdom for their future. Self-knowledge is, after all, the beginning of self-improvement.

I have borne witness to a despairing young mother turn to prostitution to support her deeply loved child—only to discover that in her attempt to ease the pain of prostitution she turned to drugs and lost custody of that child. An empathetic judge, realizing that the Second Genesis program for Women with Their Children would be a better alternative to prison, provided a chance for mother and child to be reunited and to begin a journey of health and independence—testimony to the belief: “There is Hope. There is Help.”

Healing is not just a matter of time—but of opportunity. Through your support, you ensure that our clients will continue to learn the beauty of a new beginning: a new life free from addiction and free to learn, grow and give. On their behalf, I express my deepest gratitude.

Dwayne Jenkins' Story:

Here for a Purpose



"I felt inadequate compared to my friends. To cover up these feelings, I did anything to be accepted."

—Dwayne Jenkins

A drug addict? Me? Never. You would never have guessed that I, nice boy Dwayne Jenkins, could have been addicted to drugs—much less, crack cocaine.

I was the kindhearted, only child from a good family. My parents were married and both were present in the home. Yes, my father had a history of drinking, but he quit when I was 15 and never drank again.

I did well in school, and was a great athlete. I played sports to make friends, and I was in the science club. In the yearbook, I was named "most likeable." Everyone thought I was a great friend. How sad that none of my peers really knew the real Dwayne. I was only a surface friend.

Since I appeared great on the outside, my parents had no idea that I had started down a path of self-destruction. My extended family lived nearby and all my aunts and uncles encouraged their kids to be more like me. They didn't know the "real" me either. They thought I was well adjusted, and did well in school. Little did they know, my cousins knew the real me, and many of them were already like me.

Though I had parents who loved me and always looked out for my best interests, I never felt that I fit in with my peers. I always felt that I wasn't good enough, cool enough or completely accepted. I was ashamed of being an only child. I didn't have the latest clothes and toys. I felt inadequate compared to my friends. To cover up these feelings, I did anything to be accepted.

I was a chameleon. I would be one person with one group of friends, a completely different person with other friends, and still another person when I was with my parents.

I started drinking when I was 15 years old—the same year that my father quit drinking. Clearly, I missed a lesson there. Instead, I drank to be accepted by my peers. So I attached myself to my "friends." I thought my friends were my fellow jocks and peers who were so cool. Little did I know then that real friends wouldn't encourage destructive behaviors.

These "friends" of mine would drink and do drugs because it was the cool thing to do. Trying to be cool, too, I tried my first joint when I was 16. That was it. I was hooked. I started smoking marijuana and drinking on the weekends in high school, but it wasn't long before I proceeded on to all other drugs.

I managed to graduate from high school and do pretty well. From there, I went on to college at Frostburg State University (Frostburg, Md.). I planned to major in sociology. During college, my life took a harsh turn. I thought of college as a big party. Mom and Dad weren't there to watch what I was doing. I didn't have anyone looking over my shoulder, making sure I was doing the right thing. I had chosen a school, on purpose, that was as far away from home as possible while still being in the state of Maryland.

Instead of taking my studies seriously, I wanted to be cool and liked by my peers. I started getting high every day. I tried all different types of drugs: pills, hallucinogens, cocaine, etc. And, I kept doing them even if I didn't like them. If my friends thought a drug was cool, so did I—at least on the surface.

As you can imagine, it was tough to keep up my studies while getting high every day. My grades slipped and I eventually failed out of school in my third year. Instead of admitting my failure, I lied to my friends and family and told them all I was going home to help my mom. My dad had had two heart attacks, and the last one left him needing to retire. He did, and Mom was left to provide for the household.

I went home and got a job at a warehouse in the shipping and receiving department. I quickly befriended a woman whose husband I had been friends with. They had the best of everything (so I thought), and I wanted it. We started hanging out and they introduced me to intravenous Methamphetamine. We got high together regularly—often during work.

Soon that wasn't enough, so I progressed to shooting heroin. Who would have ever thought that a guy like me could do something so dangerous and dirty? My job at the warehouse didn't last, and I moved onto another job as a caseworker for the welfare system for the state of Maryland. Here I was working for the state to help others in need, and I was abusing my body daily. I was closing my eyes to my habit and living a lie.

It was at this time that I met a woman that I wanted to share my life with. She was a friend of some of my friends and we started hanging out. I hid my habit from her, and we started to build a relationship

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Celebrating Second Beginnings

At Second Genesis, celebrating recovery through graduation is a testimony to the more than 37-year history of our organization and our mission to touching lives—one at a time. Through the years, we have supported tens of thousands of men, women, and young people.

Celebrating recovery and the lives changed by sobriety is a meaningful moment for everyone involved. The emotional intensity of treatment, and the miracle of recovery are experienced by all at graduation. Truly, the joy of recovery is shared not only by our graduates, but also by their families, friends, employers and members of our community.

It was our great honor to recognize those who successfully completed our program and transformed their lives from hopelessness into lives of fulfillment. On October 29, 2005 at Faith Temple #2 (Capitol Heights, Md.), Second Genesis celebrated the recovery of more than 100 of our successfully graduated clients. The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, congressman from Maryland, delivered the keynote message of hope and community support.

Second Genesis graduates, staff and friends enjoyed hearing from one graduate speaker from each facility including residential, co-occurring, and women and children programs. A current client, James P., provided a beautiful performance of the song "Loving You." Truly, the message of self-respect and self-love were felt by all.

After the ceremony, guests were invited to a reception for food, good conversation and fun. Graduates enjoyed the opportunity to visit with their families and friends, update fellow graduates and

Second Genesis staff on their progress outside the program, and celebrate their great accomplishment in staying clean and returning to society as a good citizen.

To celebrate our next group of graduates, we are already planning our 2006 graduation. The event will take place on September 16th at Walt Whitman High School (Bethesda, Md.) where our highly effective High School Education Program began in 2002. We are pleased to welcome as our keynote speaker The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, congressman from Maryland. This year, our celebration will take place during the 17th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. We are pleased to join the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as it "celebrate[s] people and families in recovery from substance use disorders who have overcome stigma, discrimination, and other barriers to treatment and recovery support services." We look forward to welcoming past and present Second Genesis graduates, staff, family, friends and supporters.



Above: Second Genesis graduates receive their Certificates of Accomplishment after the ceremony.



Second Genesis Executive Director Cathy Martens (far left) and Founder and President Sidney Shankman, M.D. (far right) smile before the graduation ceremony with Congressman Benjamin Cardin and his wife, Myrna.

Below: Congressman Cardin delivers a message of hope to Second Genesis graduates, staff and friends.



Second Lady of Second Genesis... *continued from page 1*

process. As president of the Barnard-in-Washington Club, Mrs. Shankman increased scholarship funding, expanded social and internship activities, and facilitated career placement and job networking programs. In 2005, she received Columbia University's most prestigious award, The Alumni Federation 2005 Alumni Medal. This recognition paid tribute to the local, national and international influence of her scholastic work and its impact upon her former students and fellow educators.

While her educational impact was monumental, her work did not stop there. Mrs. Shankman was extremely active in her synagogue, and the Jewish community. She was a dear friend to all who knew her, and was most respected for her wisdom. It seemed that she could always find just the right thing to say, knew who was in need and how to help, and could always identify the perfect gift for anyone. She was simply in touch with those around her, and always had her heart open to help.

Mrs. Shankman truly loved others—especially her family. She enjoyed steadfast relationships with her children, and found

exceeding joy in her twelve grandchildren. She took great pleasure during holidays when the home and table were bursting with happiness and surprises. And, she loved just spending time together.

We are blessed to be a part of her extended family. Through her life, Joyce Shankman taught her family and community compassion, determination and selflessness. At Second Genesis, we are deeply saddened by her passing; however, we honor her and appreciate the lessons she taught. As a special and personal commemoration of her life, Second Genesis will create a memorial garden at our Mellwood facility where our past, present and future clients can remember her example and reflect upon their purpose in this life.

The Shankman family has kindly established the Joyce Shankman Memorial Fund at Second Genesis as a tribute to her life and her constant work to help those in need.

Second Genesis is grateful for the support of all of our patrons and sponsors. We would like to recognize the following supporters from our 2006 Gala Benefit:

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Gala 2006

Second Genesis recently celebrated **"A New Beginning"** at an Evening with Aaron Neville at our highly successful gala benefit at the JW Marriott Hotel (Washington, DC). Gala Co-chairmen Julie Bender Silver and David C. Silver produced a memorable evening for our guests while raising much needed funds to support the life-changing work of Second Genesis. The evening featured an outstanding performance by four-time Grammy award winner Aaron Neville. Mr. Neville, personally familiar with addiction and recovery, took time to entertain guests with specially chosen songs, solicited requests and spent extra time performing and visiting with guests.

Mr. Barry F. Scher, vice president of public affairs for Giant Food LLC and Ahold USA, was honored for his more than two decades of dedicated support to Second Genesis. A longtime supporter of the organization, Mr. Scher has chaired our Corporate Advisory Board numerous times, aided in community outreach initiatives, and has been instrumental in raising funds for treatment programs.



The Honorable John B. Breaux and his wife, Mrs. Lois Breaux served as our Honorary Patrons.



Giant Food LLC Consumer Advisor Andrea Astrachan visits with former Giant Food CEO Pete Manos.



Mr. Neville takes time to visit with Second Genesis guests Rick Davis and Jo-Ella Brooks of Child and Family Services.



Honoree Barry F. Scher with his wife, Olga Scher



Emcee Paul Berry with Honoree Barry F. Scher



Corporate Advisory Board Co-chairman Joe LeMense of United Bank is recognized for his support of Second Genesis by Gerardo Luna, Second Genesis senior vice president of finance & administration, along with Mr. Luke Lawal of United Bank.



Gala Corporate Advisory Board Co-chairman Gregory Lubar of Staubach Company is recognized for his continued support of Second Genesis by Ashawnda Fleming, Second Genesis vice president of intake, special projects & quality assurance.



Darryl Boone and his sister, Debi Boone Meisel, examine the live and silent auction items.



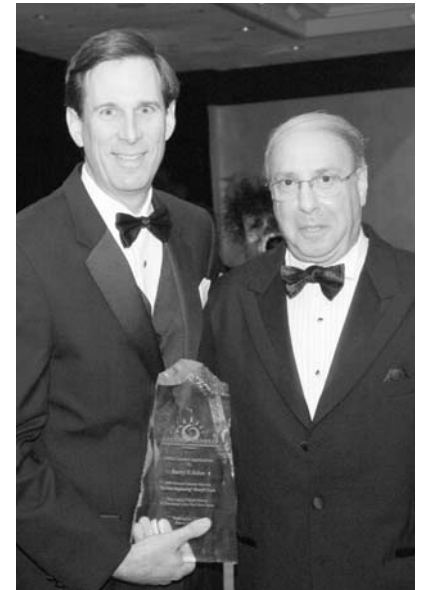
The Bender family gathers together during dinner.



Gala Co-chairmen Julie Bender Silver and David C. Silver enjoy the beautiful evening they produced.



The Avissar family enjoys the silent auction.



Alan Rifkin recognizes Barry Scher for his support of Second Genesis.



Jason Belinkie and his grandfather, Howard Bender, enjoy a moment together.



Honoree Barry F. Scher with Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam



Alan Rifkin, Delegate Veronica Turner, Olga Scher, Barry Scher, Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Delegate Joanne Benson, and Delegate Herman Taylor stand together after the event.

A New Partnership with the State of Maryland



It is a proven fact that crime and substance abuse run hand-in-hand. For years we have partnered with the state of Maryland to treat inmates for substance abuse disorders. Recently, thanks to Second Genesis Vice President of Intake, Special Projects & Quality Assurance Ashawnda Fleming and her work in writing the winning grant, Second Genesis entered into a new partnership with the State of Maryland Division of Corrections to facilitate and complete inmate assessments directly in the prisons.

For Second Genesis, this means we will now work within nine local prisons in the Jessup and Hagerstown, MD regions to thoroughly and efficiently assess inmates who are within 48 months of release—much earlier than prior programs. Our dedicated staff will use three assessment tools to determine the level of care needed for services.

It is predicted that Second Genesis will assess 5,000 inmates this year, requiring a minimum of three full-time certified staff members.

To spearhead this program and support Ms. Fleming, Second Genesis recently welcomed Jennifer Tucker-John as our lead inmate assessment coordinator. Ms. Tucker-John has a five-year history with the department of corrections in Maryland and will handle all scheduling and priority needs for the assessments.

“We are most pleased to welcome Jennifer to lead our newest program,” said Second Genesis Vice President of Intake, Special Projects & Quality Assurance Ashawnda Fleming. “With her knowledge of the overall process, her previous work in assessments within the prisons, and her positive business relationships with the

prison staff and wardens, we are confident Jennifer will be a strategic and effective leader.”

As the program itself is a new initiative, Second Genesis is working with the State to lay the foundation for success. The partnership is a multi-year contract designed to earlier identify those who need treatment for alcohol or drug abuse, to conduct timely assessments within 45 days, and to efficiently assess more inmates who might be appropriate for treatment. With new procedures in place, there is now less chance of releasing an inmate who may be appropriate for treatment without conducting an assessment. And, with this faster timeline, inmates have an earlier opportunity to get on waiting lists for treatment if they are found appropriate to receive it.

A key component of the program is quality assurance. Second Genesis’ staff is already actively working within the prisons and is committed to providing the highest level of service.

“We are pleased to be invited to partner with the state of Maryland, and we look forward to building an effective and successful program for treatment assessment,” said Second Genesis Executive Director Catherine C. Martens. “With a more timely process and a strict review procedure in place, we anticipate maintaining the highest accuracy in the assessments and providing superior service to the state and inmates. This is a win-win partnership.”

For additional information about the program and Second Genesis’ services, please contact our Community Relations and Development office at 301.563.1545, ext. 317.

Serving the District of Columbia

The Addiction Prevention & Recovery Administration (APRA), a single-state agency located in the District of Columbia, recently began referring clients to Second Genesis for alcohol and drug treatment in both our residential and outpatient programs. We are delighted to partner with APRA and serve the needs of the District directly.

Drug use in America is at epidemic levels and is responsible for much of the crime in the area. According to the D.C. Department of Health, "it is estimated that more than 60,000 individuals in the District of Columbia [nearly one in ten] have a substance abuse problem. This figure represents nearly 12 percent of the general population. In addition, forty percent of the 1.2 million annual emergency room visits in the District of Columbia are related to alcohol and drug abuse."

The current crime wave in D.C. further promotes the desperate need for effective treatment programs to break the cycle of addiction. It is not enough to temporarily remove offenders from society. Instead, we must work to prevent future crimes by changing behaviors that lead to those crimes.

Under the leadership of Robert Johnson, Senior Deputy Director for Substance Abuse Services, a division of the DC Department of Health led by Gregg A. Pane, M.D., APRA is responding to the overwhelming need to combat addiction and the scourge of this disease. We are pleased to partner with APRA in "Project

Threshold," an outreach and early intervention remote intake program designed to increase community awareness of, and access to, public substance abuse treatment services as a part of the District-wide crime emergency. Second Genesis and APRA, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Department, Child and Family Services, the Gang Intervention Task Force, and the Office of Neighborhood Services, will conduct community outreach initiatives, on-site assessments and referrals to appropriate levels of treatment.

We are pleased to have the support of DC Deputy Mayor for Children Families and Youth Brenda Donald-Walker. Her work in connecting multiple agencies to work together for a common goal of halting the sudden increase in crime has brought life to "Project Threshold." As a longtime supporter of substance abuse treatment and recovery, Councilmember Jim Graham of Ward 1 has also been a driving force behind this initiative.

Second Genesis is pleased to work with APRA staff and other city agencies to ensure the highest quality of treatment possible and the most effective results for citizens of the District of Columbia.

In addition, Second Genesis is pleased to continue participating in Mayor Anthony A. William's Interagency Taskforce on Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Control to create a comprehensive and mindful program to combat addiction.

Second Genesis Wish List

Just like any family, Second Genesis is constantly in need of various household items. Making a donation is a great way to get involved and support our programs. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so any donation you make is tax-deductible. Second Genesis accepts items that are in like-new condition and is able to pick up items in the greater Washington-Metro area. If you can donate any of the items listed below, please contact our Community Relations and Development Office at (301)563-1545, ext. 317.

- Sofas/couches (no "sleeper-sofas" or sofa beds, please)
 - Patio furniture
 - Sport and recreational equipment
 - Bikes/riding toys
 - Commercial kitchen and laundry appliances
 - Diapers
 - Craft materials
 - Interactive games
 - Educational toys and games
 - Commercial ice machine
 - Video game systems and "kid-friendly" video games
 - Recovery literature and videotapes
 - Tickets to local events for our children and/or adults
 - Exercise equipment
 - Clothing
- Second Genesis maintains six facilities in Maryland, Virginia and DC. We are often in need of in-kind services including:
- Landscaping
 - Painting
 - HVAC
 - Bus transportation
 - 12-Step meetings

CFC/United Way

Second Genesis invites and encourages you to get involved in the 2006 United Way Campaign. Members of our staff are available to speak at your company or organization's campaign events about Second Genesis and how the United Way supports local non-profits and enables them to continue their important work.



**Our 2006 CFC/United Way number is 8342.
Please remember us when making your pledge.**

Dwayne Jenkins' Story... *continued from page 3*

together. A relationship built on lies is not built on a strong foundation. However, I worked hard to hide my addiction to stay with her.

Our relationship lasted for 11 years, during which time we had two sons. At the beginning, when our boys were young, I abandoned the harder drugs and stuck with alcohol and marijuana. That didn't last either, and a few years later one of my co-workers at the state introduced me to crack cocaine. Once again, I was hooked.

Getting high was all that mattered to me. My girlfriend would give me money to buy diapers, and instead I would buy drugs. I'd get high and place our son on the toilet so he wouldn't make a mess. My girlfriend was a healthcare worker with daytime hours, so she wasn't home to witness my behavior. I was running the household high. I was lying to my family, lying to my bosses at work, and ultimately lying to myself. I had a serious problem, but I didn't want to face it. I didn't want to face myself.

One day I walked off my job and never went back. I moved my girlfriend and kids in with her mother, and then with my parents. We wore out our welcome quickly, and I was not helping the situation. I was wearing out my welcome with my girlfriend, too.

Eventually, I got a job at a convenience store as an assistant manager, which afforded us the opportunity to live in our own place. By this time, the family had come to realize that I was an addict. My girlfriend lost all trust in me; she knew I was blowing money on drugs. Worse than that, she knew I was unfaithful to her and to our boys. Finally, she asked me to leave.

I left and moved in with friends, feeling I was free to live my own life again. However, my bad decisions only continued, including my drug use. Soon I was arrested for writing bad checks. I served 30 days in jail because I thought I was above the law and didn't do my community service. When I got out and went back to my convenience store job, I stole money from the store's safe. At this job, I was responsible for keeping the books. I was so devious, that I actually pretended to "help" my boss uncover the culprit behind the theft. Eventually, another employee mentioned that I had been in the office on my day off—the same day the money was taken. After failing a lie-detector test, I was fired and went to jail for 60 days.

I continued to aimlessly wander through life, switching jobs regularly because I couldn't keep them and maintain my drug habit. I was living with my parents and using them. My boys were growing up, and I was not being a father to them. I broke promises, missed important events, and lied about why. Crack cocaine had me using drugs against my will. I couldn't stop, and I couldn't go a day without getting high.

My "bottom" occurred one day when my oldest son was 11 years old. He was playing baseball and I had promised to go and watch his end-of-season game. The day of the game, I was at my cousin's crack house getting high and blew off the game.

My son was so disappointed and heartbroken. His mother was so angry that she brought him down to the crack house to see me: his "father." He wanted to know why I hadn't gone to his game. Instead of an answer, he saw what a broken man I had become. And, he saw the shame in my eyes. He knew what I had truly become.

My parents threw me out of the house immediately. They knew it was time for tough love. I had a friend who worked at Second Genesis—he was a graduate of the program—and he brought me an application for treatment. I filled it out. At the same time, I was waiting to hear about a job working with kindergarten parents to encourage education. Thank God, the bed in treatment came first.

Of course, treatment wasn't my idea of a life-changing event. I went into treatment to get my parents off my back and to continue running from my responsibilities. Little did I know that I would never be the same deviant Dwayne again.

My first lesson at Second Genesis was learning that I needed to grow up. I needed to take responsibility and stop my manipulating ways. I had an entire network of family and friends who enabled me. It was time for me to be accountable for Dwayne. But to do that, I had to learn who he really was.

I couldn't keep being the person that others wanted me to be. I had spent 30 years hiding the "real" me. I always thought that if you got to know the real me, you wouldn't like me. I needed to be liked by everyone. I now know that isn't possible. Instead of hiding, I now had to look in the mirror and find myself. Then I had to let others meet and get to know the "real" me.

In treatment, something clicked. I realized how bad life had become, and that I still had the potential to do something with my life. I plugged into the program with all my energy. The Second Genesis staff ran groups, monitored the house, made sure change was occurring, and intervened whenever necessary. It was clear that those who cared, really cared. On a daily basis, though, my peers confronted me when I was wrong and held me strictly accountable for my actions. My treatment came from my peers—my new family—and they showed me tough love. In return, I did the same.

When I graduated from the program, I worked hard to stay clean. It wasn't easy though. But I stayed connected, and the program saved me again and again. One person who gets help can light the way for another. Those who had been in recovery longer than me helped me to look to the future with hope.

For me, I now know what recovery brings. It brings renewed bonds with family members; a bright outlook on life; and a positive, productive future. I see where I am able to be more honest with myself and with others. I no longer have to live behind the mask.

About a year after I graduated from Second Genesis, I knew I wanted to give back to the community that had saved my life. I came back to my director, Brian Ballard, and asked him for a job. He gave me one as an addictions counselor. The rest is history. I found my calling.

In the ten years I've been a counselor at Second Genesis, I've had the opportunity to work with our residential women and children, our male and female residential, and our co-occurring clients. Every day holds the possibility of change.

Today, I feel strongly about what I do. Treatment needs a committed staff to make it effective. Working to change lives through behaviors goes beyond just being a job. It is a purpose. I'm here to stop clients from using drugs and alcohol, and to change their lives. I care about what I do. I provide hope. I am a light for their future.

Children...The Window to Our Future

At Second Genesis, we realize that recovery means different things to different people. At our Mellwood House for Women & Women with their Children, we understand that our mothers in treatment often need to learn how to be parents. To help these clients, our program offers relevant instruction and educational classes on parenting, nurturing, communication, developmental stages of children, potty training, behavioral challenges, discipline, and safety concerns.

Second Genesis' Mellwood House recently hosted its First Annual Parenting Awards Ceremony where several of our mothers were recognized for successfully completing their parenting classes, and honored those mothers who took the initiative to develop and improve their parenting skills. This meaningful ceremony featured songs performed by the mothers, skits performed by the children, a guest speaker, special awards presentations and a poetry reading. After the ceremony, the mothers, children and guests enjoyed a special dinner to celebrate the occasion.

Prior to the award ceremony, guest speaker Terry Garrity, R.N., gave a talk to the audience. Garrity, a nurse from Healthy Start, a program sponsored by the Prince George's County Department of Health, encouraged mothers to continue learning about the needs of their children. As a special treat, Nurse Garrity provided three gift baskets for a raffle at the event.

As a highlight of the program, the children presented each of the graduating mothers with a Parenting Certificate and an Acknowledgement of Participation. Complete with caps and gowns, the mothers were recognized for the changes they made to become better parents. And, the children were able to share in the celebration and pay tribute to their mothers for their hard work.

In addition to the diplomas, two special awards were presented. The first award, a *Mother's Helper Award*, was presented to a unique woman who doesn't have children of her own in Mellwood House, but shares a special connection with the children of other residents by giving her time, energy and love to help other mothers. The second award, the *Mother of Mellwood Award*, was given to a woman who best exemplified the characteristics of a loving, caring mother. These outstanding award winners were treated to a special dinner out as a prize for their special awards.

Mothers coping with addiction have unique needs. They are often faced with a choice between getting help and keeping their children. At Mellwood House, mothers and children stay together so women not only get help with their addiction, but also learn crucial parenting skills. This enables these women to give their children the help they need to build social skills and trust, improve their educational base, grow developmentally and psychologically, and simply learn to be a kid. The Parenting Awards Ceremony recognizes these efforts, and the women who work to create a better life for themselves and their children.



Second Genesis, Inc.

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Sidney Shankman, M.D.

Founder & President

Catherine C. Martens

Executive Director

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Community Relations and Development

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and community outreach, please
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