



FIRST CHANCE INDUSTRIES
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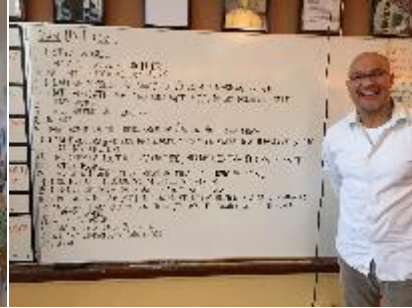
Hope Has An Address: firstchanceindustries.com

FIRST CHANCE INDUSTRIES FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Board, Donors and Enthusiastic Friends:

Please enjoy these photos from this year at the Academy:







I would like to take a few minutes of your time to let you know what is going on in this miraculous little Academy program we partnered with a year ago...so please indulge me😊...I would like to tell you:

- I. First Chance History and Background
- II. Some of what has taken place this year
- III. How we spend our money

First of all, if you have not yet taken the time to view our website, firstchanceindustries.com, please do. It was built out of the generosity of one of our Board members who hired a world class website builder, Becky Myhre....you will see what I mean when you look it over....please look at all of the drop-down menus because it will give you a very thorough look at what we do at the Academy.....Principal Kaaren Andrews, faculty member Emery Walters and I took the photos....

I. BACKGROUND

A year ago April, we made a commitment to back up this Academy program financially as best we could for as long as possible....providing that my health holds up, I remain sitting up and taking nourishment!:)😊....so far, so good!...I do have a day job still and plan to work until my 90th birthday (McQuesten Fine Art Services), 12 years away, but manage to split my time approximately 50/50...

The back story to this idea came with my first introduction several years ago to Father Greg Boyle on his Seattle visit (Founder of Homeboy Industries L.A., author of “Tattoos on the Heart”, a Jesuit colleague of my husband, Pat Carroll...)

Next, my Queen Anne High School classmate, Susan Stephan Rosenberg, began encouraging me to visit Homeboy L.A., where she volunteers her time to teach Language Arts and Math....which I eventually did visit....

Having followed the Seattle papers closely relative to the violence issues, I was heartbroken when little Alajawan Brown, age 11, was fatally gunned down entering a 7-11 store after school, mistaken for a “Crip” because he was wearing a blue jacket...that did it for me!.....I decided to get involved.... we are the adults in this community....in my opinion, these are all of our kids, not somebody else’s, but ours!... the kids who shot Alajawan Brown had no business driving around town shooting out car windows!....they should have been in school....however, by then I was deep enough into this marginalized culture to understand WHY they were not in school....

At Susan’s encouragement, I began visiting Greg’s Homeboy complex in L.A. frequently, trying to figure out how to make it work in Seattle....I built a matrix at the suggestion of Chuck Nordhoff and Father Steve Sundborg, S.J., to see “who” is doing “what” in Seattle to help traumatized/abused Seattle teens on the margins....

I found, after massive research, the Academy in Columbia City is doing 70% of what Greg does so successfully in Los Angeles. I found the Academy serendipitously at a St. Joseph dinner through a fellow Parishioner, Roger Rigor, who teaches Math, Art and Social Science for the Academy.

It made sense to partner with them to try to fill in the other 30%.....

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal gave permission to her staff to help me gain a Non-Profit Status, 501c3, which we accomplished in only 2 months, First Chance Industries Seattle.

The concept at the Academy is the same as Homeboy: **KINSHIP!!!!**....they welcome any Seattle resident between the ages of 14 and 21 who would like to achieve their high school diploma. All are welcome each Friday morning from 9 – 11 for Orientation....word is on the street there is no judgment in this program; there is no criticism ...the faculty and staff meet the kids “where they are” and stick with them, **no matter what**....teens are self-referred through friends and

acquaintances...some from the Seattle Public School System where they have given up or been expelled...some from the court system...some from Juvie or King County Jail...

II. THIS PAST YEAR

It is made clear to these young people that we (I use the term “we” generously, as we are a very tight knit partnership) will stick with them to assist them to achieve their diplomas, NO MATTER WHAT.... “no matter what” is followed through on a daily basis...if the students get into legal tangles and end up in Juvie, no problem, because the Academy has a faculty there....If they are older (18-21) and are incarcerated in King County Jail, still no problem, as we have a faculty in the Jail, also...

In Greg’s compound it is real simple: it is the “No Matter Whatness of God”....however, as this is a non-secular school, we just say “No matter what, we will never abandon you”....we WILL help you achieve your Diploma!...(also, a few opt to earn a GED)...

This Academy program (which is 12 small academies sprinkled across Seattle) is a subset of the Seattle Public School System....however, there is no extra money for things these kids need which, in regular family situations, are taken for granted; i.e., a book they can keep that is their very own; a piano they can have access to if they are musical; rain boots in winter that do not have holes in them that are not too tight!....a place to sleep at night in a dry bed with pillows and covers that are safe and they can count upon at the end of the day...3 nutritious meals a day...clean clothes....clothes, shoes and sox that fit....a place to take a warm shower...soap, shampoo, toothbrush, deodorant...someone to welcome them home who cherishes them, encourages them, values and respects them and gives them unending hugs, a listening ear and understanding....

The Academy can’t provide all of those things, but they do teach, along with the required academics, self-worth, self-esteem, integrity and respect for others....they also teach their students, for the first time in their lives, they have value and are cherished....along with many, many more life values....

Besides academics, depending upon their individual interests, students learn woodworking, welding, construction skills, screen printing, cultivation and growth of fruits and vegetables.....also, how to dismantle a bicycle and create a new bike out of individual parts....at Thanksgiving this school year, the students built and/or revitalized 240 bikes for some of Seattle's impoverished kids....

After the first two hours of orientation on a Friday morning, potential students spend the following 5 school days in "Intake"....there they take a large battery of tests, intellectual, academic and psychological, to determine which of the 12 Academies would benefit them the most., and confer with several people...The Academies stretch from an airplane hangar at the north end of the Boeing Airfield, to West Seattle, Queen Anne, the University District and farther....the Hub/Administration is the Columbia City facility, which is the beautiful old Columbia Elementary School on South Ferdinand, built in 1926...across from the relatively new Columbia City PCC...

The "Giving Room" at the far end of the Columbia City facility is artfully arranged by Brenda McGhee, a full time Probation Officer for the Academy, but who manages to also create a welcome space where all students can come and shop for free☺☺☺....a room filled with clothing and shoes for teens, baby clothes and baby equipment, toys and children's books, diapers, bottles, shampoo, toothpaste, mittens, mufflers, underwear....all previously loved items....we now have enough used goods, thanks to your generosity, but **have a link to Amazon on our website for some badly needed new items:** <https://www.firstchanceindustries.com/wish-list>

STATISTICS:

This year we had 650 students enrolled; 112 were homeless and 42 had babies and toddlers. This is a VERY heavy lift for teenagers to be raising little ones☺...140 Seniors Graduated June 19th at the High School Memorial Stadium, including 30 students who are incarcerated at Juvie and King County Jail...when they complete their sentences, they will have their Diplomas and we will help them find work...

After much thought, two important decisions have been made:

1. We cannot afford an Executive Director or a Director of Development...any money we raise needs to go to the students....
2. The most urgent current need is day care so the teens do not have to take their babies and toddlers to class with them....

The plan is: I am loosely working on a proposed budget for day care, which we think will be a matter of rolling onto campus one or two large mobile units to the tune of some \$ 700/month leasing fees each, plus water, plumbing and electrical hook ups, salaries, a bookkeeper to handle payroll, insurance, baby equipment and furniture, etc., etc., etc., and the multiple licenses and fees involved therein.

I am overwhelmed at this point....if anyone has any time to help me with the research for this budget, you can't imagine how much I would appreciate it....

I believe in miracles:

This past year we experienced many miracles....I will list just a few:

We received an anonymous donation for \$ 10,000.00 from Vanguard Charitable in Warwick, Rhode Island;

One of our board members donated \$ 22,000.00;

One of my clients donated \$ 3,000.00;

Father Greg Boyle joined our Board, which is a great honor;

Father John Topel, S.J., Seattle University, offered to tutor and/or mentor our students in Juvie;

Another Board Member, Rob Moehring and his son, Mark, donated 700 pairs of stylish very good looking rain boots in all the sizes we needed;

A kind soul donated an absolutely gorgeous walnut upright piano, which our students enjoyed enormously...one of the students, a senior, discovered he could both compose and play, and did so during the beautiful Graduation Ceremony...this is the same senior whose family we flew up from Austin for Graduation night....they had no idea he could play the piano!.....he will be going on to college on a basketball scholarship and majoring in music!!!!;

A sixteen-year-old with a two-week-old baby girl was carrying her around school all day in her left elbow....she could not set her down....she had no one to help her with the baby and no money to buy a stroller or a pram so she could set her down...Kaaren alerted me of the situation....after a whole day of running the streets between children's consignment shops (having discovered new strollers

start from \$ 500 to \$ 1,000!(☺), I found a compassionate woman/proprietress at Three Birds Children's Consignment on California Avenue in West Seattle, who sold me a beautiful little stroller that came with a booster seat, allowing for growth, built in car seat belts and 4 small outfits for a 2-week-old baby girl for \$40.00!...another miracle;

In October, when faculty member Roger Rigor inquired if we might have a way the students could have a book of their own to keep, which he felt strongly would mean a great deal to each of them, University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce set me up with her First Lieutenant, Sally Clark, to speak to us upon our arrival at the University of Washington....this population is dear to Ana Mari's heart; however, she was scheduled to be in San Francisco on the day we could train out to campus....we were sooooo fortunate to be greeted by Sally, who entertained the kids with a lively conversation about their Principal, Kaaren Andrews' illustrious career as a basketball star at Princeton University;

Sally set us up with Adam Hall, head of V.I.P. Tours of Suzzallo Library, who then dazzled the whole crowd with a view of the Reading Room, which the students declared looked like Harry Potter's "Hogwarts Dining Room"....Adam showed us the world's second largest book and how to turn the pages...one of the students mused she would like to LIVE in Suzzallo!;

We then walked through a beautiful sunny day to the Hub for lunch...the students discovered college kids looked just like they did!....all stripes, colors, sizes and shapes☺!;

Finally, we walked over to the University Book Store where each student had a budget of \$ 35.00 to spend on whatever books they wanted....curiously enough, no one spent over \$ 16.00...no one bought more than one book....traveling back to school on the Light Rail from campus, everyone had their nose in books...no one was paying any attention to their cell phones...a miracle in itself for teens!;

The gift piano needed tuning, which is rather expensive, at \$ 375...one of our Board members treated....the same board member who treated a huge stack of much-needed brand new towels and wash cloths; additionally, she contributed several other financial donations☺;

Another miracle is the list of 38 Board members (Listed on the website) who have loaned their good names to help me look legitimate when I begin serious fundraising; hopefully this fall....although I have served on 9 Non-Profit Boards in

Seattle, worked on 18 political campaigns, both here and in Cambridge, founded a national prototype for parents working in major city downtown cores (Seattle Infant Development Center)founded and published the Madison Park newspaper, I haven't done any serious fundraising since I launched a Treehouse Visibility Campaign for Julia Calhoun in 1993....I am pretty sure no one knows my name any more; especially the burgeoning new population in Seattle...so the kind souls who have loaned their good names for recognition will be a tremendous help when I contact foundations and corporations;

Miracle of all miracles, one of our board members who is deeply entrenched with the local philanthropists has offered to set up connections for me to meet with the proper foundation and corporation people I need to see, to tell our story;

Okay, I want to tell you some of how we spend your hard-earned money so you have some idea of how we disburse it.

First of all, we opened an account at Chase Bank....I find the people here in Madison Park and in the Rainier Avenue Chase Bank (near the Academy) could not possibly be more helpful....most of all, Damien at the Rainier Branch, Frank Konvalinka and Wesley Evans at the Madison Park Branch....

Three people have First Chance Debit Cards and checkbooks to our Chase Bank Account:

1. Kaaren Andrews, Secretary of the Board;
2. Pat Carroll, Board Treasurer
3. Me, as Chair....
4. We will be adding Melissa Rysemus to our bank account, as she is our new Principal and Board member.... (In August, Kaaren will become Washington State's Executive Director of Stand With Children; she will remain on the First Chance Board). Melissa and Kaaren have worked side by side for 9 years... Melissa is more than well prepared to take charge....Kaaren isn't really leaving us; she will simply don a larger canvas to paint....we will always be part of it...

III. A FEW OF OUR RECENT EXPENSES:

\$ 15/Month, a Park Postal Mailbox;

\$ 120, co-pay for 6 months' toddler day care;

\$ 494.33, April Launch Party to introduce our website; the invitees and guests donated 6 times that much,(approximate \$ 3,000.00) for which we are grateful;

\$ 150, student rent;

\$ 188, cell phone and start-up costs for a student living in a dangerous situation;

\$ 103, student's shelter fee;

\$ 250, student clothing, haircuts and shoes without holes for the Graduation Ceremony;

\$ 280, a total of three round-trip Frontier Airline tickets from Austin, Texas, for a student's mother, grandmother and aunt, to fly to Seattle for Graduation night....these three women reside in an Austin shelter...their senior played a piece he composed at the Graduation Ceremony....before his senior year, he had never had access to a piano...his family did not know he could play!...it turns out he is gifted☺...

\$ 100 so the four of them to go to dinner after Graduation;

\$ 693, an overdue electric bill 3 hours before the electricity in the apartment of two of our girls was turned off;

\$ 575.40, an excursion to U.W. Suzzallo Library, Hub Lunch and the University Book Store to buy a book the students could keep; for most of them, their very first book; 20 students;

\$ 4,165 for \$20 and \$25 Safeway grocery and PCC coupons for students and babies during the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks....our students are all on the Federal Food Program, which provides a meager breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday...no dinner; some of our kiddos don't eat all weekend;

\$ 850, our 501c3 Federal License;

\$ 200, First Chance Logo designed by one of our students;

\$ 180, round trip air fare to Oakland for a student to participate in a “Kingmakers” meeting, which faculty member Emery Walters has implemented and teaches at the Academy: “How to be a good son, brother, father, and responsible citizen,” a program that originated in Oakland;

\$ 109, a self-inflating air mattress for one of our girls sleeping in the street;

Our Chase Account, as of today, has \$ 29,947.90...we clearly have a long way to go to finance day care for our kiddos....however, Seattle is a generous town and Seattle REALLY loves kids....I absolutely believe we can do this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I keep careful track of the money that comes in and goes out....I don't know any proper accounting procedures, but I have receipts for all the money that has been spent, which I keep in one ledger, chronologically...in a **second** ledger, is a carefully crafted list of what comes in and from whom, along with an alphabetical file of thank you notes, which are kept up to date daily...they are also listed on line....

To this point, we have 83 donors who have given us funds, clothing, children's books, etc., in addition to (and there is some overlap) the 33 trusting souls who have loaned me their good names for our Board of Directors and Advisory Board... there is no way I can express my gratitude for your enthusiasm in staying the course with me. These kids truly deserve our support....I have tremendous respect for all of our kids who are trying soooooo hard to earn their Diplomas, take employment and/or go on to college....

Please call/email or text me for any questions and/or suggestions. (I can respond the quickest via email)... I promise the Annual Report next year will not be this long☺

Gratefully,

dee

“In the end, the most important thing is not to do things for people who are poor and in distress, but to enter into relationship with them, to be with them and help them find confidence in themselves and discover their own gifts”Jean Vanier via Gregory Boyle, S.J.