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**Kevin Walsh Promoted to LifeWorks! Program Director**

Kristine Goodyear [communications@centerforcommunitytransitions.org]

**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 10:19 AM

**To:** Kristine Goodyear [kgoodyear@keeva.com]; CCT Communications [communications@centerforcommunitytransitions.org]

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Kevin Walsh Promoted to LifeWorks! Program Director**

*Walsh began Center for Community Transitions career in 2015 as an intern*

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CHARLOTTE, NC (Oct. 21, 2019) – Kevin Walsh is the epitome of a second chance success story.

A decade ago, following his release from prison, he had mandated weekly visits with a federal probation officer. Today, that same probation officer is referring clients to Walsh at [LifeWorks!](#), where he was recently promoted to program director.

LifeWorks! is an employment readiness and retention program of the [Center for Community Transitions](#), a nonprofit organization to help individuals and families affected by incarceration.

In 2015, while working on his bachelor's degree in human services at Gardner-Webb University, Walsh set out looking for an internship. But time and time again, his previous incarceration and related charges were a huge barrier for potential employers.

"I went out cold calling to a ton of places but kept getting turned down. Then I went to the CCT office and said to the guy at the front desk, 'Look, I just want to cut to the chase. I've got a criminal background and nobody's giving me an internship. Do you take people with criminal backgrounds for interns?'"

The receptionist brought Walsh to see Erik Ortega, then LifeWorks! program director. He shared his story with Ortega and by the end of their conversation, Walsh had an internship. He spent the semester doing administrative work, sorting and giving out clothes and helping with food referrals.

"CCT didn't have any job openings when my internship ended, so I asked if I could continue to volunteer," he said. "I'd help out with orientation and wherever I could, and then a part-time position opened as an admin for the Work First program."

Also during that time, Walsh was making ends meet by running his own handyman business and working at New Beginnings as a substance abuse counselor.

Once his CCT position evolved to full time, Walsh began working his way up through the organization and held several positions, including volunteer coordinator, substance abuse coordinator, client advisor, class facilitator, [Working Smart](#) master trainer, senior client advisor and interim program director.

Now that he's leading the LifeWorks! program, Walsh said he's eager to help build more awareness around CCT and its [programs](#). "I want to create more opportunities for our clients and I want to change the perception that society has of people with criminal backgrounds," he said.

With his former life of "selfishness and self-centeredness" behind him, Walsh said he's now focused on giving back. "It's just been amazing how things have worked out in my life. And it's been about doing the next right thing," he said.

"I've been given a lot of opportunities and second chances and I've had a lot of doors open for me. And it's cool when I see it happen for somebody else. I love being able to instill hope in others."

For more information, contact Kristine Goodyear at [communications@centerforcommunitytransitions.org](mailto:communications@centerforcommunitytransitions.org).

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**About LifeWorks!**

*LifeWorks! is a program of the Center for Community Transitions that provides people with criminal records the resources and tools necessary to reach their professional and personal goals. Using a cognitive behavior intervention approach, we ask clients to evaluate themselves in their journey to make healthier decisions. We believe when clients learn how to take charge of their thinking, they can change their life.*

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**About the Center for Community Transitions**

*Established in 1974, the Center for Community Transitions is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the community by helping people with criminal records and their families find healthier and more productive ways of living. CCT's work provides employment and transition services; supports alternatives to incarceration; and restores and strengthens family bonds. Everyday people receive reentry and family services from CCT to rebuild their lives and families while dealing with job and financial difficulties that result from incarceration.*

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