

## We Make Life Work, Getting Crafty, and You're Invited!



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### We Make Life Work



The transition from incarceration to life outside of prison walls is a challenging one. Our LifeWorks! program offers formerly incarcerated people and those with criminal conviction histories ways to successfully reenter society, gain employment and contribute to their communities.

We're so proud of graduates who've completed our two-week LifeWorks! Employment Readiness and Working Smart workshops. Over the course of 14 days, attendees learned:

- How to identify their professional brand
- How to answer the conviction question
- How to network with employers
- How to develop better decision making skills

**Learn more about our LifeWorks! Program**

### 2023 NC Reentry Conference



ICYMI: Several of our CCT staff members gained a wealth of knowledge while attending the 2023 North Carolina Reentry Conference in Charlotte last month. They learned about an array of topics such as supportive reentry and employer best practices in fair chance hiring. The conference also provided opportunities to network, exchange ideas, raise collective awareness across statewide reentry organizations and advocate for systemic criminal justice reform.



## Center For Women Special Guest



Toi R. Johnson, CCT Case Manager, Tiawana Brown, Beauty After the Bars, Susan Burton, Best-selling author, Delilah Montalvo, CCT Center for Women Program Director, Patrice Funderburg, CCT Executive Director

On Saturday, April 15, our Center for Women residents had a special guest join their monthly house meeting. Susan Burton, founder of A New Way of Life Reentry Project, a Los-Angeles based program that provides a variety of services for women rebuilding their lives after incarceration, shared encouraging words. She also gifted each resident with a copy of her best-selling book, *Becoming Ms. Burton*.

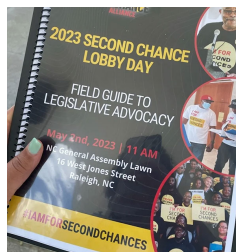
## NC Second Chance Lobby Day 2023



Our Executive Director, Patrice Funderburg, and Board Chair, Shamira Wright, attended the NC



Board Chair, Shanira Wright, attended the NC Second Chance Alliance Lobby Day Tuesday, May 2 in Raleigh. Dozens gathered to speak with lawmakers about the criminal justice and reentry issues that are impacting our communities.



Attendees had a chance to share stories and speak to senators and representatives about changes that should be made to NC laws to help remove barriers hindering productive citizenship for individuals with criminal records.

From the NC Second Chance Alliance website: "We believe that our communities are safer when all of us have access to the resources and opportunities needed to take care of ourselves and our loved ones."

## Let's Get Crafty



April Lee

We had a chance to show our creative side during our monthly Third Tuesday Family Event in April. Led by one of our Families Doing Time mom's, program participant families and volunteers created journals.

We were so glad that April Lee, owner of Latched by Lee, also spent the evening with us. April makes custom home décor, jewelry, logos and more. She is also donating a homemade piece that will be available for purchase at our [second annual Art Auction for Second Chances](#).

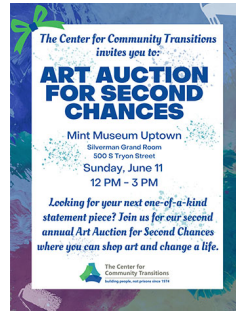
## You're Invited





We invite you to join us for the must-attend event of the year! We're talking about our annual fundraiser, Art Auction for Second Chances on Sunday, June 11 from 12 pm - 3 pm at the Mint Museum Uptown.

You can bid on unique pieces donated by artists from right here in the Queen City, and beyond. It's FREE and open to the public. Light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Cash bar available.



[RSVP for this FREE event!](#)

**RSVP for Art Auction Today!**

## Memorial Day: CCT Offices Closed



As we honor our fallen heroes this Memorial Day, CCT's main office, along with our LifeWorks! and Families Doing Time offices, will be closed Monday, May 29.

**To all the AMAZING moms out there, we wish you a Happy Mother's Day!**



As of last Mother's Day, nearly 150,000 incarcerated mothers will spend the day apart from their children. [Over half](#) (58%) of all women in U.S. prisons are mothers, as are 80% of women in jails, including many who are incarcerated awaiting trial [simply because they can't afford bail](#). Most of these women are

incarcerated for [drug and property](#) offenses, often stemming from poverty and/or substance use disorders. Most are also the [primary caretakers](#) of their children, meaning that punishing them with incarceration tears their children away from a vital source of support.

Incarceration punishes more than just individuals; [entire families](#) suffer [the effects](#) long after a sentence ends. Mother's Day reminds us again that people behind bars are not nameless "offenders," but beloved family members and friends whose presence — and absence — matters. [Read the full Prison Policy Initiative Article.](#)

At CCT, our Families Doing Time Program works to support entire families while combating the effects of maternal incarceration that some children face. [Learn more about the program.](#)



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