
NEWSLETTER

August 2015

FAITHWORKS!

COMMUNITY COALITION, INC.

THIS IS MY STORY!

By Clara Smith – C-Lee

My life has been full of circumstances that haven't always been the best. As a child I grew up in and out of foster care. Back and forth between my Mom and the system because of my mother returning to prison over and over again.

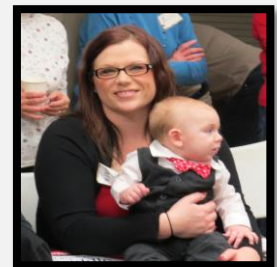
As a teen I started following the party lifestyle and was allowed to do so. It started with drinking and partying with guys at the motel. Then experimental drug use took over the next couple of years, then on to meth. For the next ten years of my life I struggled with the addiction. There were periods of time when I did well, such as when I had my older son and when I moved to Oregon. But I always came back to the same old lifestyle. I didn't know any other way to live.

I got arrested in April of 2013 for sales and possession. At first I continued to use and abuse because it was all I knew and how I had been living for so long. I was offered drug court instead of going to prison. After writing a letter to the committee about how badly I wanted to learn a different way to live I was admitted to a residential facility for 30 days and then chose to move on to sober living. I stayed there for a year while on the waiting list for FaithWORKs. And finally in June 2014 I was accepted into the Faithworks program.

I came to FaithWORKs with my 2 boys, one a newborn, on cash aid along with a part time job of less than 20 hours a week. I had no transportation at this time. After meeting with my Case Manager Monique a couple of times she referred me to Bruce Hudson, owner of Clear Creek Market to apply for a job. I had 2 different interviews and kept calling Clear Creek to see if I had the job. Truth be told, on paper I didn't look like a great candidate, but Bruce was willing to give me a chance. I am so grateful for my job and my home.

I have worked my way up from the bottom in life. Things have been hard. I am blessed to say I have over 2 years of sobriety. My 2 boys are in my custody and see me as a healthy Mom. I have a full time job working for wonderful Christian people who teach me a good life, better than I have known. My boss trusts me with keys and codes to his business. I was promoted to manager. I am making payments on a car that I love, pay my bills on time; sometimes early. I graduated my drug program and am no longer on county cash assistance. I have a relationship with God and so much of my life today has to do with the opportunities I've received from being at Faithworks. I am so grateful to this program and all the people who have dedicated their time and money to help myself and all the other families. I am not a drug addict today, but a working mommy. Thank you all so much for this opportunity to live a new life, **I will not waste it.**

With a thankful heart
C-Lee



SAVE THE DATE

Powerful Testimonies of Transformed Lives

What: Graduation Celebration
When: Friday October 9, 2015
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Where: Neighborhood Church
777 Loma Vista Drive
Redding
Dinner: Italian Dinner,
Salad and Dessert

Complimentary Dinner
Seating by reservation only
Donations are appreciated

2825 West Street Apt. #1 Redding, CA 96001
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Page 1 of 2

THANKFULNESS FROM BRUCE HUDSON, Business owner and FaithWORKs Board Member

Recently during our Faith-Works Vision for the Coming Year, board of directors meeting we reviewed the previous year's accomplishments of families who have found new hope living at Francis Court. Each of the families must adhere to very strict rules and guidelines meant to encourage them on through two years of learning and disciplines necessary to survive in a society filled with pitfalls and traps.

One of those families, championed by single mom Clara Lee Smith with her two sons, brought our optimism to new heights. A few days ago C Lee, along with three other women, graduated from the Addicted Offender Program (A.O.P.) through Shasta County Superior Court. I was fortunate to be present, along with some very distinguished guests. It is worth noting 150 or more notable men and women including judges, probation officers, district attorneys, city council members, county commissioners, and many other civic leaders were there to acknowledge the graduation of these four women. Applause as well as certificates of accomplishment from various government leaders were presented to the graduates. These four women persevered through the difficult two year A.O.P. program filled with many requirements including weekly drug screening, weekly classes, counseling, as well as many other unexpected challenges.



I was unable to contain my own blessing of not only knowing C Lee, but also enjoying working with her at our family owned business. We hired C Lee about a year ago. She was quite honest with us during her interview process, which included an interview, background check, drug test, and a physical exam. C Lee freely offered the many reasons why we probably shouldn't hire her due to her past and the need to work around her A.O.P. program schedule, but by God's grace we chose to hire her.

I am blessed not only knowing C-Lee, but also enjoy working with her. As the months went by her attention to detail, instinct for paper work organization, accuracy with cash, and her error free tills earned her our monthly awards. She quickly moved into management and has proven herself invaluable in so many ways. Her background gives her an advantage over most of us. She has a sixth sense about meeting our customers' needs. We have a busy store and sometimes serve close to 2000 customers a day. C Lee is quick to spot people trying to take advantage of our convenience store in the form of shoplifting, attempts at check fraud, and attempts by underage or under the influence clientele to purchase alcohol. Dealing with customer service issues can be challenging. The hard working customers coming into our business are sometimes tired and demanding. The homeless or unemployed customers are difficult at times as well. C Lee has a firmness tempered by her compassionate heart that has earned her the respect and love of our many wonderful customers and crew. She knows most on a first name basis.

I must point out that C Lee has many challenges as a single mother of two children. I know she gets tired and discouraged. That is why I put this story in print. She deserves applause for her determination, accomplishment, and character. C Lee has learned from mistakes she has made in the struggle to make others and herself happy. C Lee has matured into the beautiful, brave young woman she is today. She is not unlike the many other men and women who have hit bottom. God picked her up, dusted her off, and gave her and many others at Francis Court a second chance. Their stories are all filled with people loving and caring for them. In the process, lots of miracles occurred. So our story is not just about C Lee, but about God's love and the blessings of all who are involved with Francis Court I & II and House of Cornelius. They are all God's children and go on to bless people like you and me.

C - Lee You Are Awesome!

JESUS LOVES YOU & We love you
Bruce Hudson, business owner
Clear Creek Deli Market