

i have been in the gwinnett County detention center since Jan. 6 2011. Over the last year i have lost everything, like so many of my fellow inmates. with no family and no support from the outside times can get pretty rough in here, but on Oct. 31 ~~that~~ i became part of the second chance program and let me tell you, what a gift! i can honestly say this program has helped me greatly in seeing a positive future for myself. it has helped me to find an inner peace that allows me to focus on my daily life here as a dog handler, letting go of the anxieties related to, my case, my future, my past, ect. and tackling the task before me. this is a quality of this program that i don't see get alot of attention, but, its huge. alot of bad decisions are made in the eye of an anxious storm, to learn to let go and focus is a lesson that could very well result in a great decrease in bad choices.

the second chance program ~~has~~ ^{also} helped me to change certain mind sets that have plagued me my whole life. what i mean by this is, most of us, inmates, are 'in it to win it', all about whats in it for us and truth be known that's exactly how most of us wrote our way into this program, to see what perks, what advantages we could manipulate. when we get here one of three things happens. one) we soon see the jokes on us, no great perks and we slake off and end up out. two) we get comfortable and ride under the radar figuring this is better than the other pods, continuing in the 'get what i can get' mind set or. three) we find self value, we see ourselves making a difference, contributing to something great. this is where something magic happens in the human mind, no longer am i just an agent of failure and corruption, now suddenly i'm a part of something full of positivity and love and i'm good at it. so a foundation is being poured, a foundation that's so concrete in its positivity on so many fronts that its not easily broken, if one realizes its here, the tower of success it could hold is breath taking.

this program gives people, who deep down, feel as though their good for nothing, failures, the chance and tools to find purpose and meaning, not all will grasp it, not all will see, but any that do will forever be changed and that's just one of the many positive factors of the the second chance program.