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# They Need A Second Chance

By Vincencia Adusei  
VASE Management LLC  
[vee@vasemanagement.com](mailto:vee@vasemanagement.com)  
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One of the rare qualities of America as a society is giving its citizens a "second chance" In most cultures being jailed once could potentially strip one of some essential benefits.

Recently I learned about "Fresh Coat Painting Plus" program from a fellow Rotarian. The program is run by "Family Re-Entry/Fresh Start Program. According to Rosa J. Correa, the Employment Coordinator, Fresh Start Enterprises is a work and learn model that operates with "work crews" where men can learn necessary marketable skills and gain work experience. FSE recognizes that one of the most important steps in helping ex-offenders reintegrate into their communities and overcome the stigma associated with their past is to help them find sustainable employment in the private sector.

Luis, one of Family Re-Entry's clients who is living his "second chance" said it best, "Family Re-Entry turned my life around". "This October is my first birthday in five years that I am not in prison. I will be celebrating it with my new family."

Family Re-Entry knows about second chances, they work with men who were once incarcerated and want a second chance to stay away from crime and prison. They train these individuals in painting and handyman services and some are employed by Fresh Start Enterprises (FSE).

Mitch DePino, Director of FSE, said that as a licensed and insured company, FSE strategy affords its employers significant benefits. "Our employees are pre screened and trained and have developed a variety of skills that are supervised by a Crew Chief that receives on-going support from management."

FSE is equipped with on site vehicles and tools that enable the employer to assign work at different destinations on short notice. Most notably, FSE management is committed to providing support to the employers whenever the need arises.

When I learned about Fresh Coat Painting, I thought I should bring it to attention of VASE Management Construction known as VASEconstruction.com and its vast organizational buyers to consider FSE as potential subcontractor for their bids.

VASEconstruction.com is a national resource portal used by large organizational buyers to identify and/or disseminate bid opportunities to specialty trade contractors including small and minority-owned businesses capable of meeting their business requirements.

I asked Rosa to register FSE with VASEconstruction.com since there was no charge for Subcontractors to join.

Currently, Bridgeport Housing Authority is one of the organizations working with FSE and from what I hear they are pleased with the outcome. There are tremendous benefits of contracting FSE workmen including the following;

- A Fresh Start Enterprise supervisor accompanies all employees to work with no extra charge.
- Providing a second chance with employment opportunities for this population contributes to the stability and public safety of the community.
- You may receive recognition from the State for your good faith effort.

If you're interested in giving opportunities to FSE program please send us a note at [support@vaseconstruction.com](mailto:support@vaseconstruction.com).