

A Quick Overview

Year at a Glance

'13-'14 Classes

In the 2013-2014 school year to date, we have held four two-week class sessions in August, October, January, and March. To date, we served over 80 women, including new and former students. At our most recent graduation ceremony in March, we were honored by the presence of PA Representative Ryan Aument celebrating with us. We are looking forward to a great May class!

New Choices in Columbia

In October, Tricia Nabors, Director of New Choices, and Carolina Betancourth, a successful New Choices graduate, traveled to Cali, Columbia for medical missions to assist distressed families. These families had a mother or wife struggling with cancer and receiving treatment from Partners for Cancer Care and Prevention, who invited New Choices along to offer coaching. New Choices was excited to travel and use what we have learned to 'pay it forward' to families in need of support.

Christmas Giving

This Christmas we were overwhelmed with support from the community as families and individuals stepped forward to adopt the family of a New Choices graduate who was unable to provide her family with Christmas. These graduates are in training which means they cannot work full-time to have the money to buy Christmas gifts. Sponsors donated money and presents to give these families a taste of Christmas while their mothers work hard in school.

Taste of Success

2014 Taste of Success, hosted with the Junior League of Lancaster, the Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation, Franklin & Marshall College, the YWCA, and Millersville University, was a great success! We were honored to have Representative Steve Mentzer join us as our honorary chair in hosting 184 members of our community on March 28th for a wonderful evening of culinary delights, friendly competition, and community support of our program. We managed to raise over \$42,000! It was an overwhelming success.

Legislative Funding

This year's state budget is extremely tight. New Choices hopes to receive, at minimum, level funding to remain a viable program within the Lancaster community. The numbers will be finalized in July, which we wait for with anticipation. We hope to continue to support the Lancaster community this up-coming year!



Our March class was so excited to graduate and begin their new life!

Up-coming!

- We are about to begin our May class with a wonderful new group of women! Graduation will be held Friday, May 16th at noon at the YWCA—please call if interested in attending.

2013-2014 Statistical Highlights

- After graduating from New Choices our students get busy!

Enrolled in School or Training

LPN Training – 10
CNA Training – 12
Other Schooling – 12
Returning Second Year Students - 23

Graduation

Recently Graduated - 24

Workforce

Started new position – 50

If you'd like to enroll in the New Choices Career Development Program please call our office at 717-393-1735 ext. 235

Transformation Stories

New Choices Goes to Columbia

Carolina, a New Choices graduate now working as a Professional Interpreter, recently traveled to the country of Columbia with New Choices director, Tricia Nabors and Partners for Cancer Care and Prevention. Carolina, originally from Cali, Columbia, lives in Lancaster and had expressed interest in helping with New Choices. Since Carolina knew Cali well, it was the perfect trip!

In Cali, they worked with patients receiving breast cancer treatment and their families in a local hospital. Carolina interpreted while Tricia Nabors offered supportive coaching. Normally, patients' families received no attention. Carolina and Tricia offered support and encouragement to the families helping them to process everything happening to their loved one and showing them that, most importantly, there was life beyond the diagnosis.

One touching experience was with Maria, a patient, and her husband Hugo and their daughter Larissa. Maria, fighting cancer, needed her family's support, but no one was there to support Hugo and Larissa. Tricia and Carolina spent time with the family, offering a safe place to open up for the first time. Carolina remembers how incredible it was to see the healing begin with this hurting family.

Through encounters like this Carolina saw the importance of their humanitarian work giving her a new appreciation for her work as a Professional Interpreter in Lancaster breaking through language barriers daily. She is excited to incorporate her new perspective and passion into her life at home as she connects families facing language barriers similar to Hugo, Maria, and Larissa in Lancaster.

New Choices Lancaster is thrilled with our first humanitarian trip. We hope to continue transforming the perspectives of our New Choice's students and graduates while paying it forward.



Carolina Betancourth
Professional Interpreter, Rodriguez Language Services, LLC

Paying It Forward



Emily Rodriguez, a single mother of four children, transformed her life from a high school drop and struggling young mother in an abusive relationship to a successful business owner with big future plans.

Originally from Lancaster, PA, Emily grew up in Puerto Rico but returned to Lancaster in her 10th grade

year of high school. Instead of completing high school she trained and worked in the medical field. She became involved in an abusive relationship from which she had 3 children. Realizing it was unhealthy, she left and came to New Choices depressed, alone, and pregnant.

New Choices was a "life-changing experience". She learned she was not alone in her struggles and left New Choices with a new goal to "live and not just survive" life. With newly discovered determination, she got her GED and pursued an education in Nursing. However, a friend suggested that she explore interpreting. Emily took her friend's suggestion, and it was a perfect fit. Using her medical knowledge and language skills, she thrived as she interpreted in hospitals, businesses, and court cases. However, Emily kept dreaming. She opened a small business, Rodriguez Language Services LLC, where she offers Interpretation, Translation and is licensed to teach a 40 hour Medical Interpreting Training Course. The company began with just one small contract, but Emily persevered and her determination paid off.

Today, she employs an array of Interpreters and Translators, including two New Choices graduates, in various languages. The company serves the Lancaster, Philadelphia and Delaware areas. Emily is able to spend more time with her family, and she has a bright future. She offers the message to "always believe in yourself" to those around her. Regardless of the situation, if you truly want it, you will achieve your goals. Emily sees New Choices as a key step in her journey, and she is excited to nav it forward!

*"Always believe
In yourself"*

Changing the world – One woman at a time



Ashley Garcia, a mother of two children, has defeated incredible odds. As a young, single mother, she put her life on hold to raise her children. When she came to New Choices, she was a Medical Assistant working for Prime Care Medical at the Lancaster County Prison. She hoped to go to school to pursue a career in nursing, but it seemed a distant dream.

New Choices helped Ashley understand who she was and what taking the next step meant for her. She regained her confidence and learned the importance of networking and setting boundaries, which was life-changing. She learned there are always more options if you continue forward.

Ashley left New Choices with confidence and a "go for it" attitude. She was promoted to Medical Administrative Assistant at the prison. Recently, Ashley became Executive Assistant to the Warden making her the Human Resource Representative for prison employees. She is essential in prison communications, risk management, and meetings. She loves her job and is grateful for continued support from New Choices. She uses all that New Choices taught her everyday at work, home, or with friends. One valuable lesson she learned is that failure is only a platform to build on.

Continuing forward, Ashley plans to begin Nursing School while continuing to work. She is hopeful as she plans to build upon the skills she has developed in the future.

Taste of Success 2014 was a smashing success! Over 180 supporters attended this event! They saw the transformation that New Choices catalyzes in women's lives. The event raised over \$42,000 for New Choices.



The food was superb and the testimonies of the speakers, two New Choices graduates - Ashley Garcia and Emily Rodriguez - were honest and powerful.

While sampling different Lancaster County Career and Technology Culinary Students' creations, guests mingled with each other, took pictures, and bought raffle tickets.

After the speakers shared their stories, many attendees filled out pledge cards pledging their support to New Choices for the up-coming year before announcing the winning culinary team.



All in all, it was a great night of celebrating the success of our past graduates while raising support for future New Choices students. We are so grateful for all who gave or came out to support New Choices and this wonderful event.



How to get Involved!

Taste of Success 2015 - Join the planning committee for a bigger and better Taste of Success event OR donate raffle items for the evening. Restaurant or travel vouchers work great!

Christmas Clearinghouse - Though it seems ages away, the holiday season will be here before we know it. Many of our clients struggle to provide Christmas for their children while pursuing their academics. New Choices accepts charitable contributions for families in need in the holiday season. Please contact our office no later than November, 20th, if interested in being a contributor.

Grant-Writing - We are looking for a knowledgeable volunteer to donate several work hours to help us research and apply for grants and funding opportunities.

Charitable Donations are accepted on behalf of New Choices at the Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation. Checks may be made payable to the LCCTF and sent to 1730 Hans Herr Drive, P.O. Box 527, Willow Street, PA 17584 with "New Choices" specified in the memo line.

Note from the Director

OUR MISSION:

To assist single mothers, displaced homemakers, and women in transition in achieving economic self-sufficiency

OUR VISION:

To empower individuals in transition to participate fully in planning and achieving their career, educational, and personal goals. This program provides an environment that preserves dignity, respects diversity, and supports personal choice

As the Director of New Choices Career Development, my mission is to empower women in transition in our Lancaster community to realize their individual potential inspiring positive transformation in their lives, families, and communities. Concluding my third year as Director of New Choices Lancaster, I am as passionate about this program as the day I began. It is a joy to see New Choices women reach their goals and establish success in their lives.

Despite a 70% funding reduction, we have made incredible strides serving over 40 new women this year alone, and we are extremely hopeful for the future. Taste of Success (TOS) 2014 was an overwhelming success. We wait with anticipation to learn if New Choices will receive state funding this up-coming 2014-2015 year. We hope to use the funds to continue to help the women of Lancaster County. Additionally, New Choices is looking at a few new service models, as well as revamping old models, to improve the services we offer. We are so proud of what we have accomplished this year and we are hopeful, despite funding uncertainty, for the up-coming year's classes and women.

Our year's success would not be possible without the continued support of you, our community members, and the women of Lancaster who use New Choices as a spring board to success! Thank you for your support. We are exceedingly grateful. Read below about the exciting happenings of New Choices this past year. Thanks for your support.

Tracie Nabors

Program Director

Chairman's Perspective

Continuing our long tradition, Lancaster County Career & Technology Foundation remains a strong supporter of New Choices. Historically, this highly successful program flew "under the radar" with strong government support. When government funding was reduced forcing a transition from a government-funded enterprise to one funded by public and private partners, we discovered that greater community involvement, gained from increased awareness, is vital. As the successful transition continues, New Choices strives to constantly improve community involvement. Taste of Success – an annual fundraising event supporting New Choices – is the result of our desire to increase community awareness. Not only is it an enjoyable evening with delicious food to "taste", but it is also an opportunity to generate awareness and celebrate the "success" of our program and many graduates.

Personally, it has been an honor to be part of New Choices, and a bigger honor to know our graduates and hear their wonderful success stories demonstrating how they enriched their lives, and in the process, enriched all of Lancaster County. As one of our new supporters said at the event, "you are changing lives, one at a time." He couldn't have been more right! Please visit our website to learn more about our success and how you can become a supporter. As a community we must continue to make New Choices available to the women of Lancaster County. It is the only program of its kind.

King J. House

Chairman, Lancaster County Career & Technology Foundation

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Or, find us on Facebook or Twitter! 

Who We Are and Who We Serve

New Choices is a non-profit organization founded in 1985 through a collaboration between the YWCA, the Junior League of Lancaster and the Lancaster Career & Technology Center, and is funded through a combination of public and private sources. We serve women in transition including first time pregnant, single mothers, displaced homemakers and dislocated workers. We hold 5 two-week classes each year in which we focus on career guidance, identification of resources and personal social development. At the successful completion of the course, students are eligible to receive scholarship funds to pursue short-term education. Students also receive the continued support and guidance from the dedicated New Choices staff long after graduation.

Acknowledging Success

Congratulations to our Recent Grads!

After New Choices, a portion of our students return to school to receive further training. Reaching the end of another academic year, we have new graduates to recognize and congratulate.

Julie Beck

Clarvine Cadet

Eliza Colon

Alicia Dorsey

Mercedes Garcia-Mendez

Amber Giffis

Tia Glover

Monyae Hill

Gina Jones

Kimberly Kreider

Denise Ortiz

Sheri Patton

Paulia Rodriguez

Sarah Smith

Grace Stillman

Renee Struzinski

Christina Torres

Guadalupe Zarita

*Taking the next step to success starts
here!*



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*“Every new day is a new
chance to change your life.”*

-Unknown