

Creating stepping stones

CHRIS BOWMAN

PRISONER'S KIDS COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, SECOND CHANCES SA



SECOND CHANCES FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
131 RICHMOND ROAD, RICHMOND

Sitting close to the corner of South Road and Richmond Road, Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is not only raising funds to support the children and families of prisoners through the sale of quality, pre-loved furniture – it is also becoming a stepping stone for some volunteers as they make the move into paid employment.

For Furniture Warehouse manager Liam, the development and growth he sees in volunteers during their time at the charity store is impossible to miss. Watching volunteers grow in their confidence and in the responsibilities they take on is part of what makes it all worth while for him.

Every week, Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is dependent on volunteers to drive the truck, pick up and deliver furniture, take phone calls and provide customer service – job skills which are helping to prepare and transition volunteers into the workplace.

Over the past twelve months, at least six Furniture Warehouse volunteers have since transitioned into paid employment with other businesses and although Liam rejoices with his volunteers as they find work, he acknowledges it is a bittersweet occasion.

"These are individuals who have become part of the community here at the Warehouse and they will be missed. Plus, once you've found and trained a great volunteer – it's never easy to say goodbye. They're not easy to replace."

Volunteers like Darren, Rama and Cindy have found work elsewhere. After over 18 months volunteering as a truck driver for Second Chances Furniture Warehouse, Darren recently started a part-time job as a contracted industrial cleaner. Rama has secured himself a paid position with a business as a truck driver and after just a few months of volunteering at the warehouse, Cindy has obtained work as an office cleaner at a corporate facility.

For Liam and Second Chances SA Chief Executive, Helen Glanville, watching volunteers as they grow in confidence and learn new skills is a key part of building a mutually beneficial relationship between volunteers and charity organisations. For Helen, "Seeing people succeed makes me happy and proves that volunteering does pay off in the end!"

Second Chances Furniture Warehouse is open six days a week. For more information phone (08) 8352 7722.



SECOND CHANCES FURNITURE VOLUNTEERS

Second CHANCES SA
restoring hope

For more information
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or visit www.secondchances.org.au