

The Second Chance

*"We are used to meet people in different life situations
and therefore we can meet you where you are in your life right now.
Our approach is characterized by commitment and
respect for your privacy and your self-determination"*

The administration for allocation of social welfare at Gothenburg City offers alternative accommodation for people that lives in homelessness and don't get accommodation through the regular housing market. They often suffer from addiction, psychosocial problems and other vulnerability.

The Second Chance is an employment activity that begun in 2003 through a partnership between The administration for allocation of social welfare and the Recovery Department at IKEA. IKEA is based on the vision of creating a better everyday life for people and the Recovery Department at IKEA receives products that often are fully operational but for various reasons can't be sold, such as damaged packages, warranty and repurchases rights. If these products can't be donated they are discarded. Our participants collect the furniture from the stores and repair and assemble them before they deliver them to various individuals living in our accommodations. Our participants are far from the labor market and therefore carry out their work based on condition and ability. *The Second Chance* gives each and everyone an opportunity to be more prepared for a job ahead elsewhere.

The Second Chance is part of a larger activity named *Villa South*. The whole concept is aimed to support people in various ways. Two days a week it's possible to join wellness activities like swimming or workout at a gym. Our personal trainer supports and motivates the participants to see the joy in treating the body in a healthy way. We want the physical activity to create a good memory in everyone that is possible to long for during hard periods in life. Recently we started a collaboration with a group of scientists in Gothenburg in order to develop our skills concerning the importance of physical activity and its beneficial effects on recovery after illnesses of various kinds.

We work primarily on the basis of Motivational Interviewing (MI), low arousal approach and the theories of Housing first. From a gender perspective, we want to offer every individual the opportunity to express their own unique essence and be met with dignity and respect in a safe and empathic environment. The participants can influence their work by participating in weekly meetings. We strongly believe that a second chance is a necessity for everyone. For some people life can be full of difficulties and there is always important to give a person a second chance. Everyone has hidden skills and abilities and a person needs a safe and encouraging environment in order to acknowledge and appreciate them within themselves. Everyone person has a need to be met and confirmed as they are. The majority of the participants express that their self-esteem has increased by having something meaningful to do and by doing a good thing for other people in need.

Gothenburg 2017-03-21

We are proud of our concept and hope it can inspire others. We encounter several important areas in our society today. Recycling of discarded furniture is good for the environment. It gives jobtraining to people that have little experience of working and makes them feel that they can contribute. It helps less wealthy people to decorate their homes and it feels meaningful for us and for our participants to meet needs within others.

Maria Gonzalez, groupmanager, The Second Chance, Villa South, FO:KUS

The administration for allocation of social welfare, Gothenburg City

maria.gonzalez@socialresurs.goteborg.se

