

celebrating
25 YEARS OF SECOND CHANCES
founded in 2000



Program

6pm Registration & Buffet Open

6:30 Welcome and Acknowledgements

6:35 MER and Program Graduates

6:45 LINC Society Inductions

6:55 Cecil Collins, Keynote Speaker



Thank You
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City of Wilmington

NORTH CAROLINA

RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, for 25 years, LINC, Inc., a Wilmington, North Carolina nonprofit organization, has been a beacon of hope and a cornerstone of support for citizens returning to the community from incarceration, dedicated to the principles of equity, opportunity, and second chances; and

WHEREAS, LINC, Inc. has provided vital housing services at its flagship Marvin E. Roberts Transitional Living Campus, and has expanded to additional residential locations, fostering stability, dignity, and a foundation for individuals to rebuild their lives and become active, contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, through its Local Reentry Council, multiple programs, including L.I.T.E. Manhood, and comprehensive case management services, LINC, Inc. has addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by returning citizens, including stable long-term housing, employment, education, mental health, substance use disorders, and community reintegration, ensuring a holistic approach to their success; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in January 2000, the organization's unwavering commitment to breaking the cycle of recidivism has not only transformed individual lives but also strengthened families, revitalized communities, and inspired systemic change; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters of LINC, Inc. have tirelessly worked to create opportunities, dismantle barriers, and advocate for justice, earning the respect and gratitude of those they serve and the broader community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of LINC, Inc., recognizing its profound impact and enduring legacy. We commend its leadership, staff, and partners for their exceptional service and dedication to building a more inclusive and compassionate society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all citizens to join in honoring LINC, Inc.'s accomplishments and supporting its ongoing mission to empower returning citizens and create pathways for a brighter, more equitable future.

Bill Saffo
Mayor City of Wilmington North Carolina

At the Buffet

Catch Restaurant

Mixed Bread Basket

Marinated & Grilled Chicken Breast

Tuscan Style Roasted Salmon

Farmers Market Salad

w/ Honey Balsamic or Buttermilk Ranch Dressing

Loaded Scallop Potatoes w/Parmesan Spinach Crust

Roasted Vegetables w/Rosemary & Olive Oil

Desserts by Sweet D's

Mini Brownies

Assorted Mini Cupcakes

Mini Banana Pudding

Fancy Filled Croissants

From the Bar

Mr. Bartender

Domestic Red and White Wine

Premium Domestic Beer

Milestones Mocktails (alcohol-free)

CELEBRATING

25

YEARS

LINC

MILESTONES GALA

Thank You

**Reflections of Hope LLP
Platinum Sponsors**

Cecil Collins

A Life of Faith, Football, and Redemption

Cecil Collins is a man of God whose remarkable journey is defined by resilience, faith, and a passion for youth empowerment. After spending 13 years in prison, Cecil emerged with a renewed sense of purpose, dedicating his life to spreading the message of hope and salvation through the Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Before his trials, Cecil was a standout athlete. He made history as the first-ever Mr. Football in Louisiana, showcasing his extraordinary talent as a running back. His impressive career continued at LSU, where he left an indelible mark, and later with the Miami Dolphins, earning recognition as a record holder for rushing yards in high school football in the state of Louisiana.



Cecil's inspiring story was captured in the Emmy-winning documentary "Cecil vs. The Diesel," available on YouTube, which chronicles his journey from the football field to personal challenges and ultimately to spiritual awakening. Now residing near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with his loving wife Elena and son CJ, Cecil is not only a devoted family man but also a passionate coach. He recently led his son's football team to a Super Bowl victory in the LA Prospects flag football league, instilling the values of teamwork and perseverance in the next generation. In addition to his coaching, Cecil works as an electrician and actively participates in his faith community. He attends Bellfort Church of Christ online and the Healing Place in Baton Rouge, where he shares his love for God, especially with the youth. His mantra, "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light," reflects his commitment to guiding others on their spiritual journeys. Cecil Collins is a living testament to the power of faith, transformation, and the impact one person can have in their community.

Thank You Gold Sponsors

John and Sheila Fellerath

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.

New Hanover County Department of Social Services

Cape Fear Collective

Coming To The Table

NOVANT Health

New Hope CDC

Southeastern Occupational Trade Group

LS3P | Thomas Construction Group



Celebrate Milestones

M.E. Roberts Residential Campus and LINC Program Graduates

**Paul Adams
Glenn Anhorn
Robert Arnette
Samuel Barrington
Regina Beatty
Joe Britton
Katrina Brooks
Richard Carter
April Crenshaw
Daquan Dudley
Ryan Duffy
Justin Grant
Lennon Hawes
Emmitt Jackson
Emmett Lang
Derrick Moore
Timothy Pope
LaJoye Smith
Andrian Taylor**

LINC Society

LINC Inc. is very pleased to recognize and applaud those individuals and organizations that support #secondchances.

Please join us in congratulating and thanking this year's inductees into this select group that comprises the LINC Society.

NON-PROFIT CATEGORY

Donyell L. Roseboro, Ph.D.
Watson College of Education, UNC-W

SMALL BUSINESS CATEGORY

Angela D. Alford
Property Manager, Hanover Landing ESKAY Mgmt

CORPORATE CATEGORY

Laura Brogdon-Primavera
VP Leadership Development, Greater Wilmington
Chamber of Commerce

VOLUNTEER CATEGORY

Natasha Davis
WPS Strategy Group, LLC

Thank You Silver Sponsors

Evan Ashkin

James H. Faison

Katy and Worth Parker

Stephanie Fetzer and Richard Poole

Steve and Louise Coggins

Michelle Gunn

Sena and Christian Preziosi

Ashley and David Wells

Russell Davis

Wilmington Housing Authority

Brenda Roberts Fong

Ken Weeden and Associates Inc.

TIRZAH Wellness Center PLLC

SEEDS of Healing

Mark Loudermilk Architecture

NC Insurance Advisors Inc

Richard Poole and Stephanie Fetzer

New Hanover County Democratic Executive Committee

New Hanover County Branch of the NAACP 5424

Monumental Foundations

East West Partners

LINC Inc.
Board of Directors

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Brandy Watts, RN, BSN, The Laurels of Pender/Wellpath

Cory Wrisborne, Owner, Suite 108 Events

Rosetta Royster, Esq.

McKay Siegel, Partner, East West Partners

Thank You
Past LINC Board

Mike Maume
Kristin Mapson
Jean-Anne Sutherland
Tracy Wilkinson
Evelyn Adger

Special Thanks:

25th Anniversary Milestones Committee:

Brandy Watts

Teresa Woods-Cox

Ashley Helfer

Brenda Roberts Fong

Chef Keith Rhodes of Catch Restaurant

Paul Campbell of Mister Bartender

Brian Dickie of Sweet D's

Our volunteers:

Ta Wainwright

Linda Thomas

Telesa Jones

Jamir Jumoke

Maria Speas

Lisa Manicelli

**and everyone on the LINC, Inc. team who helped
pull this all together!**

**Especially Vince Burgess, who answered our call for
an unexpected weather-related airport run.**

We appreciate you all!

25th Anniversary Reflections from LINC clients and staff

LINC , has really gave me a new beginning on life and a great start. And the people are so nice and very consistent, they never made me feel like a charity case they gave me Hope on so many levels and I and so very thankful and grateful. - Renee

LINC has profoundly impacted my life through their small gestures, simply by being supportive and offering a listening ear. They instilled a sense of confidence in me and made it clear that I have a reliable support system within them. anonymous

I was given the opportunity to drive residents to their doctors appointments, job interviews and even trips to get clothing, food and medications. I got to know the residents a little. They talked about how they would need to fight the system to get their children back or at least have visits, out of state court dates. For some people they haven't applied for a job in years. Some of these conversations led to tears. We had fun too. Dancing to music, telling jokes. We are working with people who need help. I just love how they don't have to go through their journey alone. - Ta Wainwright

Exchanged knowledge, resources and skill for successful independent living! - anonymous

My case worker was very helpful to me and my needs. She answer all of my questions and concerns. I must say I really do appreciate all that you did for me. If there were more people like Mrs Aston who really cared about people. I will say thank you and may God bless what you all are doing. - anonymous

They helped me and my kids move into our home. We have been homeless for a couple years now, and they helped us tremendously. I personality can say if they wouldn't have helped we would still be homeless. We are forever grateful ❤️ - Wanda

I would like to thank all of the staff who have worked with me during my start to present here at LINC. A special shout out to both Frankie Roberts and especially to Michelle Gunn who gave words of encouragement and support but gave structured criticism when needed. I thank them both for the opportunity and confidence they showed me when back in September of 2019 to move from the MER campus to the Local Reentry Office and then a few months later making me the Local Reentry Coordinator. I feel blessed to be working for such an awesome organization and to be working with such amazing coworkers. I celebrated 10 years here and LINC and I love every minute of it. It is my prayer that in some small way I have touched one or some of the men and women I have been privileged to serve to get back into society. God Bless you Frankie for allowing the man above to give you the vision to give men and women that second chance for a comebacks and instead of a setbacks. HAPPY 25th. - Linda Thomas

You were there when my family was at its lowest. After the death of my daughter the bills piled up and you were there to help. I don't know how we would have done without you. We happily take this opportunity to say "Thank YOU" for all your help, past, present, and possibly future if needed. - Tamika

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to work at LINC. My time here has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the experiences I've gained. I particularly appreciate the leadership and guidance from Mrs Michelle, Mr. Frankie, and the HOP team, which have greatly contributed to my personal and professional growth. Your leadership and guidance have made a significant impact on my journey here, and I feel fortunate to be part of such a supportive team. Thank you once again for creating an environment where I can learn and thrive. I am looking forward to continuing to contribute to our team's success. - Asbrelle

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Milestones*



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*Thank you in advance for
your generosity!*