

Hope Highlights

"To restore hope and see transformation in the lives of gang-affiliated individuals and those involved in the justice system."



May 2022



Inside This Issue:

Spotlight: Billy - p. 1

Director's Corner - p. 2

"Jump Start" Program- p. 2

Prayer Points - p. 2

Spotlight Continued - p. 3

New Board Member - p. 3

How to Donate - P. 3

Community Partners - p. 4

Spotlight: Billy

If you've been around Jobs of Hope in the past few years, you've probably met Billy. Billy has been involved with Jobs of Hope since 2019 and shares our passion for giving men hope in their darkest times. Billy is no stranger to hardship and has overcome a lot to be where he is today. This is his story.

Billy's Story

I grew up with my mother and six siblings in Greeley. My father wasn't in the picture and my mother tried her best to give me a loving home. Unfortunately, like many single mothers, she was unable to give me everything I needed. I desperately wanted and needed a father figure in my life. I wanted someone who could take me fishing and camping. Unfortunately, I didn't have that. As a result, I had to grow up early which wasn't a good idea. I began making bad choices and started getting into some legal issues at a very young age. I was fifteen when I was caught drinking in a bar. I was labeled a problem drinker and placed on Antabuse when I was only sixteen years old.

Over the next forty-five years, I made six different visits to prison and served about 12 years of my life behind bars. I was sixty years old when I woke up to find myself in a detox facility in Denver. I was tired and exhausted, mentally and physically. I was looking for a way out. I began looking for resources and the word hope got my attention. It was a flyer for Mary's Hope Sober Homes in Littleton, Colorado. I called them and spoke with Mary Brewer, the president of the organization. I had already restarted my relationship with alcohol, so she arranged to have someone take me to New Beginnings Recovery Center. That was January 23rd, 2015, and it marked a wonderful new chapter in my life, and I have been sober ever since.

After being in Littleton for a while, I felt that it was time for me to return to Greeley. I was introduced to Jobs of Hope by a man named Pres Montoya. Pres invited me to a roundtable and while I wasn't sure at the time what I was getting into, I'm so glad I did. I recently received my certificate for completing the "Men of Valor" Certified Leadership Program.

Continued on page 3 >>>>>>

Director's Corner

May brings many blessings as we start to see the trees filling with leaves and flowers starting to bloom. Let's not forget it was also a time to remind us of the blessing that mothers bring to our lives. Here at Jobs of Hope, spring is a reminder of how much hope plays a significant part in the transformation of a person's life. As previously mentioned, one of our most important philosophies here at Jobs of Hope is "the only time we are looking down at a brother is when we are trying to help him back up." This philosophy provides the foundation for our nonjudgmental and compassionate service to those who are seen by most as lost. At Jobs of Hope, we understand that service to our participants is driven by passion, caring and gratitude. In the words of Albert Einstein, "Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living." In this edition of Hope Highlights, we hear about Billy's Journey that started later in his years. Even after 60 years, hope can and will prevail.

Please take a moment to read about our newest endeavor, the "Jump Start" project. Thanks to a newly awarded grant, we will have the funding to pilot this project for one year. Success will be measured in men being able to get a jump start on their employment search while being housed at the "House of Hope" at no cost during an introductory period. Our plan is to transition men directly from incarceration to housing with no lag in time or opportunity to engage in other unproductive activities. If successful, this will be the new standard in how we serve men released from incarceration who self-identify as homeless.

And as you all know, I always have something up my sleeve, so please keep an eye out next month for more announcements.

Please stay safe and know that we are blessed to have you in our corner.

Sincerely,



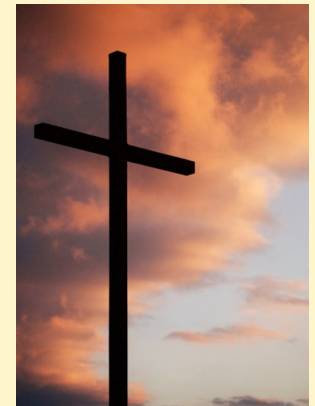
Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca
Executive Director



Prayer Points

- We pray for Billy and his continued success as he continues his journey towards fulfilling his goals.
- We pray for the men of Jobs of Hope and for their success.
- We pray for the new "Jump Start" program and its participants' success.

Father, thank you for all; for everything that is working in my life and even for the things that are not working as yet. Just want to say thank you Lord for all and in all, in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)



JoH Announces "Jump Start" Program

One of the biggest challenges individuals face when released from incarceration is housing. For many, criminal records and previous rental history have a significant impact on finding anyone willing to take a chance on them. Responding to this challenge, Jobs of Hope made it a priority to provide a low-cost housing option with the opening of the "House of Hope," a service of our program. Individuals could move into one of our transitional beds (shared room) at \$150/week or a single occupancy room for \$650/month, all utilities included. For those employed, the transition worked perfectly and proved to be most effective. However, for those not yet employed the option seemed far out of reach.

Jobs of Hope is pleased to announce the "Jump Start" Program. Through a generous grant, the funding will enable participants enrolled in the Jobs of Hope program who are ready to make a change in their lives and who identify as homeless to move into a transition bed for up to five weeks **free** of rent. With intensive case management, the five weeks will allow the Jobs of Hope team ample time to assist the participant in obtaining employment. The most positive impact of the grant is an ability to work with our community partners to transition folks immediately into the "House of Hope" and hopefully avoid the temptation of returning to behaviors or habits that led them to commit crimes. We are so excited about the opportunity this program will give those in our community in most need and can't wait to share with you stories of how it will impact their lives. Thanks to our funder and thanks to all of you for your continued support and prayers.

Spotlight Continued

Prior to 2015, I dropped out of school, and I had two failed marriages so it's a big deal that I was able to do this. In addition, I have two kiddos, a son and a daughter. As an alcoholic father, I wasn't much help to them, so we had a lot to work out. They say time heals old wounds, and it does. Thanks to the grace of God, we are still mending but we are going in the right direction. In addition, I have been blessed with seven grandchildren. I am very thankful to be alive today and that Christ provided me with a second chance to be a father and grandfather.

Currently, I serve as the house manager for the House of Hope program at Jobs of Hope. It's my way of giving back and being connected to people that I feel I've already walked their steps. I am so grateful that I have the opportunity to do what I can to help the men and show them that hope is alive and possible.



Welcome Margie Martínez!

Jobs of Hope Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Margie Martínez to the Board of Directors for a three year term beginning April 18, 2022.

Many of you may know Margie as she has a passion for serving her community and has done so for many years through her work with the United Way of Weld County and with the Weld County Sheriff's office. Margie has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management in addition to her service on several other community boards.

"I'm pleased to welcome Margie to our board of directors," said Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, Executive Director. "As we implement our new strategic plan, it is especially important that our board membership reflects the passion of our mission and willingness to represent our community and individuals we serve. Thank you Margie for your willingness to be a part of the Jobs of Hope team."



Donate To Jobs of Hope

Please consider supporting Jobs of Hope and its ministry so that we can continue helping people like Billy.

You can donate by going to https://paybee.io/@jobs_of_hope@3 or by scanning the QR code in this newsletter.

Scan. Donate. Done.

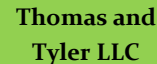


Powered by
PayBee



paybee.io/@jobs_of_hope@3

Community Partners



Grace Reformed Church

Family of Christ Presbyterian Church

Pres Montoya Real Estate LLC

Smith Family Trust

Wittnam Family Foundation

The Garnsey Trust

Board of Directors

- John Goad Jr., Chair
- Jonathon Gonzales, Vice Chair
- Jodi Hartmann, Treasurer/Secretary
- Meredith Munoz, Director
- Nicolas Moeller, Director
- Pres Montoya, Director
- Richard Hartman, Director
- Margie Martinez, Director

Staff

- Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, Executive Director
- Casandra Gallardo, Re-entry Case Manager/Navigator
- Cisco Davila, "Men of Valor" Facilitator
- Billy Morones, House of Hope House Manager
- Micaiah Schneider, House of Hope Resident Lead

Contact Jobs Of Hope

Email: Info@jobsofhope.org

Phone: 970 451-5007

Mailing Address:
P.O Box 1017
Greeley, CO 80632

Donate Online

https://paybee.io/@jobs_of_hope@3

Donation QR Code

Scan. Donate. Done.



paybee.io/@jobs_of_hope@3

