



# Hope Highlights

*“to restore hope and see transformation in the lives of previously incarcerated individuals, as well as individuals seeking transformation from a life of gang affiliation, homelessness, or substance abuse.”*

## FEBRUARY 2024

### Adrian's Story

God's love is a wonderful and powerful force. This love can do amazing things for the world and individuals. Unfortunately, many people going through hard times aren't ready to accept God's love into their hearts. In this month's edition of Hope Highlights, we would like to introduce you to Adrian. Adrian has had a tough start to his life but with the power of God's love, he has begun to put the pieces of his broken life back together and become whole again.

Adrian was born in Salinas, California in 1977 but has lived the majority of his life here in Greeley, Colorado. He is the middle child with two brothers and the son of a single mother. Adrian's mother worked extremely hard to give him a good life, but Adrian struggled as he grew up. While in school, Adrian frequently got into fights as the other kids would make fun of him for not having a father and for having to use the welfare system. Adrian did have a great stepfather who did his best to help him get through life, but unfortunately, he himself struggled with addiction and spent time in and out of jail. To Adrian, drinking, drugs, and spending time in jail was a normal occurrence. Additionally, most of the kids in his neighborhood dealt with the same issues so it just seemed like part of life.

Adrian spent most of his childhood drinking, doing drugs, and committing crimes. Eventually, as he became older, he became an active gang member and dropped out of high school. At the age of 18, Adrian was sentenced to 8 years in prison for numerous crimes including armed robbery, conspiracy to commit burglary, possession of firearms, and possession of drugs. Despite all of this, Adrian still saw nothing wrong with the lifestyle he was living. Adrian did manage to sober up while in prison but had no plans to change his ways. While in prison, Adrian continued to engage in criminal activities including involvement with prison gangs and engaging in prison riots.

It was in a prison in Nebraska in 2005 where things finally started to turn around for Adrian. While incarcerated for

drug charges, he allowed God's love into his heart and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Adrian was eventually released in 2007. By then, he had spent most of his adult life behind bars. Despite being released, Adrian continued to struggle. Substance abuse had always been a part of Adrian's life, and at this point he has lost count of the number of times he has been to detox since being released from prison.

In January of 2023, Adrian was released from jail yet again after being arrested for trespassing when he was found passed out drunk. Adrian feels that God led him to Jobs of Hope, and he became a client in March of 2023. Adrian has been working diligently ever since at reclaiming his sobriety and just celebrated one year of being sober! Additionally, Adrian has managed to restore contact with his family and is currently working towards becoming a carpenter as well as pursuing an art degree from AIMS Community College.

As we progress through 2024, please keep Adrian in your prayers along with all the men at Jobs of Hope, and pray that God's love continues to work throughout their lives. Also, please continue to pray for Jobs of Hope so that we can continue to help men like Adrian. May God bless you and continue to work wonders in your lives.



# Director's Corner

Greetings Friends and Family of Jobs of Hope,

It's already February of 2024, and this year just keeps on moving! February is that special month where we think about love, romance, roses, and chocolates! I am also reminded of a very special verse from someone who wrote the book on love: Jesus Christ himself. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Showing love to other people was the theme of our outreach back on January 20th. A team of our men prepared hygiene and food bags to bless people experiencing homelessness. On that cold Saturday morning, they met for a short devotion time, and then went out into the Greeley community to bless those who might not have a meal to eat. Our men were themselves blessed by giving to others less fortunate. Throughout their case management plans, our clients are encouraged to think of ways to give back to the community. This event helped them to give back, love, and demonstrate the life transformations they are experiencing. Every client that participated felt a sense of love, accomplishment, and care for the community. We will now make this type of outreach a regular event for our men. The plan is to go out again in mid to late March. They might make meal bags again, or they might volunteer to serve meals at a local shelter.

I personally would like to thank all of you who bless Jobs of Hope with your prayers and financial support. Because of all of you, we were able to create an event like Jan 20th. It was a planning exercise to coordinate clients, food supplies, rides, and prep time to make this event happen.

But without the support of the Jobs of Hope family, we would not have the means to carry this out! Once again thank you!

As you settle in to February, please consider one more act of love. Please consider becoming a monthly partner with Jobs of Hope. Your donations go to help house and feed the men in our House of Hope transitional housing facility. Your donations allow us to pay for supplies, curriculum, and the salaries of the Jobs of Hope staff. 2024 will be a difficult year when it comes to managing our budget, but I believe in the faithfulness of our God. I believe that He already has a plan in place to meet every need at Jobs of Hope! That plan just might include you. There is a QR code on the back of this newsletter if you wish to donate online. There is also the donate button on our website ([www.jobsofhope.org](http://www.jobsofhope.org)).

Please keep us in prayer for 2024. And send us your requests as well. Our staff of Christ-followers looks forward to lifting up your needs in prayer. You can send your prayer request to me at [dordaz@jobsofhope.org](mailto:dordaz@jobsofhope.org).

We love all of you, and pray for God to richly bless your lives!

Dan Ordaz  
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## Chairman's Update

I still remember the first time that I told my wife "I love you" before she was my wife. We had only known each other for a short time. As soon as those words left my mouth, they kind of hung in the air. They were waiting to land and then there would be a response. I wasn't completely certain what that response was going to be. I had hoped it was going to be positive. The one thing I knew for certain was the fact that there was no going back.

We've been married a long time now and it's much easier for me to tell her that I love her. I still have the same heart and sincerity but it flows much more naturally. I would certainly never want to withhold my love from my wife, or family, or even my close friends. I'd never do that...but what about all the other people I know? We've all done it. We can make our love very conditional to others and that is not the purpose of love.

God showed his love for all humanity by sending his only

Son to the earth to become fully man, and to remain fully God. This purposeful fulfillment of prophecy was a magnificent show of his love for us. This was the ultimate fulfillment of God's love for all of us sinners. His love was not and is still not conditional. It is not dependent upon our personality, or status, or wealth or height or width or even how much we have sinned. His love is offered to everyone, individually. So let's work together to love others unconditionally. Let's be generous in loving others and rest assured that we too are loved in spite of ourselves.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

John Goad  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Jobs of Hope



# The Power Of Love

February is the month of love. Not only do we celebrate the feeling or act of love on Valentine's Day, but we also celebrate its deeper meaning. Love is a large, flowing, vast emotion that can make or break us. Love is deep and very real. It is vulnerable, sweet, and has a way of changing us for the better. Love can make you cry tears of joy, happiness, and pride. Love can make you cry tears of pain, hurt, regret, and loss. Love is not just about loving another person, or a certain sport, or clothing line. It's also about loving ourselves. I don't know how you feel, but to me, love is the grandest gift we can give or receive. It is the largest emotion with the most depth and power to create, change, and bring others together. I used to think Valentines Day was a silly holiday to celebrate. We should be celebrating love every day, right? But now, although I still believe love should be celebrated every day, I see this holiday as a representation of something greater than us. It carries the weight of the earth in significance, and it gets to have its one day to remind us of what is important, to fill our cup, and to show how large it really is.

What does our everlasting God say about LOVE? He tells us that love is the greatest commandment, and he tells us to love others as we love ourselves. He certainly shares his love for us on a daily basis. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 provides us the characteristics of love "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." Scripture reminds of how big love really is and the all-encompassing nature of it in 1 Corinthians 13:13 "Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." Lastly, God shares with us in 1 Corinthians 16:14, "And do everything with love."

As you journey through this month of LOVE, think about what love is to God and what love is to you. How do they compare? Is there something about love that you didn't realize or think about before reading these scriptures? Has love changed since discovering just how big and important love is to God? Take some time to be with the thought of LOVE as you go about this month. Meditate on scripture, and remember to share with others this grandiose, God given emotion of LOVE.

Until next time,  
Opal Hatfield  
Jobs of Hope Case Manager



# Community Love

When you think about the concept of love, what comes to mind? Do you think about your spouse? Your children? Or even your close personal friends? There are many types of love including God's love and love of one's own family, but another type of love that is commonly overlooked is community love. God says we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves and recently, the men of Jobs of Hope illustrated this beautifully.

The idea of community service is a key part of the Men of Valor curriculum. Recently, the men took to the streets to serve their community. The men searched and gave to those they came across. "My Hope in this was to give the men a sense of Value and Hope by giving back to the community," said Men of Valor facilitator Cisco Davila. "It was great watching the men engage in this!" Eventually, the men found their way to the homeless shelter where

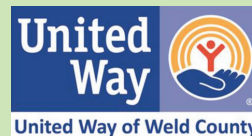
over 70 lunches and hygiene bags were handed out along with some blankets. Jobs of Hope board member Pres Montoya also joined the men as they carried out this community service project. The day was full of amazing moments, but one interaction in particular stood out to Pres. "The highlight for me is having one of our men reach out to homies he had been running the streets with. They were curious about what he was doing, and he told them 'I'm with Jobs of Hope, I'm sober!,' and he invited his friends to give JOH a chance. The event was very well received by all those involved, and Jobs of Hope plans to do this again in the near future.

Love is deeper than just loving your spouse or family members. It is also about loving your community and loving others you may not even know as you love yourselves. As we go through this Valentine's month, we at Jobs of Hope challenge you to serve your community in any way you can so that we leave it better than when we found it. God bless you all, and have a wonderful February full of love and happiness.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



# Thank You to our Partners



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