

*To find, train and equip at-risk young men in order that they may become positive influences of our community through a job and caring relationships*



## CULTURE SHOCK

In December we were blessed to meet Fernando, Logan, Ken, Mario, Darren and Eugene, all of whom are seeking a new chance with and for their families and see JOH as an opportunity for such a change.

They are excited to be starting 2020 as “free men”! This status does not come without difficulties. Adjusting to life after incarceration is full of complications and unexpected triggers. In all reality these men are facing culture shock and to make that even harder it is invisible to the wider world.

The simple act of choosing has to be relearned and it is being relearned under the onslaught of American consumerism. The open spaces are foreign for someone used to a 10x11 jail cell.



**Alumni Group meeting together on a Saturday**

While inside, life was controlled, the men were told when to eat, when to exercise

(and where), when to sleep and when to wake, and at some point that becomes “normal” and “safe”.

Now they must adjust to functioning chaos. They must relearn societal rules, many of which have changed during their time inside and they must do all of this with a label that alters how most of society treats them. We applaud them for their courage and strength to daily choose to walk in a familiar but foreign world. We are also humbled to be chosen by them to be their support in this time.

## APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: LOGAN and FERNANDO

We say this over and over again; the beauty of Jobs of Hope is working with men from all different backgrounds. Logan and Fernando are perfect examples of the diversity of our guys.

Fernando was raised in Greeley, eventually falling into gang life which led to Meth use. He tried to leave gang life and get clean but the struggles of life kept pushing him back. Out of desperation he returned to his gang community for help and they supplied him with the dugs that led to a decade of being in and out of prison.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*The Hope of a New Year*

2020 has a great ring to it! Pastor Alan Kraft talked to us about spending 20 minutes a day for 20 days being quiet and reading the Word. Thank you for taking a few minutes to read about and support Jobs of Hope. One thing that has been on my heart and is growing in importance is the struggle of addiction for our guys. Even with the support of JOH and each other, this is a very difficult path to walk, they desperately need divine intervention to truly reach freedom and we are praying for such a miracle. Please join us in prayers for freedom from addiction, not just for our men, but for the larger Greeley community. Meth has built a stronghold here and is destroying so many lives and only through the grace of God will it be defeated. For the year of 2020 we are hoping to see more and more men walk into the joy of the freedom from addiction and we dream of the day that this enemy is defeated forever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Matoya".

Logan found himself in Greeley in order to care for his disabled father. A one-time experiment with Meth turned into an immediate addiction that spiraled until he was handed a four year sentence. According to Logan, "Meth will make you steal from your closest family and friends." While in prison, he was determined to avoid gang involvement and found his freedom in running laps. His hard-work inadvertently paid off when the staff noticed his impressive physical endurance and approached him about joining the Forest Firefighter Program. This past summer, Logan put his life on the line to battle the Decker Fire near



Salida, for which we are so grateful. Through all of this dedication Logan earned an early release for good behavior.

Now these men are both in the JOH program where they immediately bonded over their shared desire to find freedom from drug addiction. Recently they enjoyed picking out new outfits from the clothes donated by Dave Todd and learned how to tie a tie! Today, Logan is completing his program requirements for JOH while working at Truck City with Weld County Garage. Fernando is

working through rehab program and repairing his relationship with his three children, all while working at JBS.

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To access our online donation system either go to:

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You can set up recurring gifts through the system

## Prayer Points

- Hiring a new case manager – we have had several excellent candidates.
- Wisdom to identify the best ways to correctly empower the guys in this process
- Freedom from addiction