



*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*

## NICK'S STORY:

Nick was recruited to Jobs of Hope days after he was released from prison in January 2018. Nick came from Tennessee to start a new life in Greeley. He described himself as a "white trash" child, with a mother who was a thief and a father who was a drug addict.

At age 11 he experienced his first run-in with the law and at 12 years old he was incarcerated. During this time, he became involved in a gang and took on the role of a drug dealer. When he turned 15, he began living on his own and bought a car, all funded by his drug dealing. As is painfully common, his dealing led to using, which turned into an addiction to Meth that was destroying his life. As if all of this was not enough trauma for a child, during a gang shoot out, his best friend was killed. That event prompted him to leave Tennessee and eventually land in Greeley. After three months of sobriety, he returned to his old life style, at 19 years of age he found himself behind bars once again.

Nick was released from prison to the homeless shelter, which is where we encountered him. Nick was a model Jobs of Hope student. He followed the program curriculum perfectly, completed his job training in excellent time and was placed in his first job while still living in the Guadalupe Homeless Shelter. Soon he was able to get his driver's license, a car, and an apartment. He began talking to his mother again, for the first time in years. Life was looking great.



One day after seeing his therapist, Nick shared that he had been given a letter to allow him a therapy pet based on being "lonely". Living a sober and clean life was very scary for Nick, he did not have the communal support necessary to work through all the changes. His attempts to address the struggles eventually led to alcohol.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Why a "re-tool"?*

We have talked with many of you about our process of "retooling" Jobs of Hope. I recently looked up the definition of retool, "to make changes to improve" which is exactly what we are attempting. After graduating 170 men from the program, we have stopped to listen to them on what changes we could make to improve our services. One story, Nick's, showcases why we chose to take this approach.

So many of our men reach a point of being employed and "successful" by society's standards but not in reality. As such we added a staff member to work full time supporting and walking with our men. We also contracted the services of a counselor raised in Greeley who overcame his own homelessness and drug addiction, and thus has similarities and connections with our men, which we do not have.

We recognize that the statement "Changing the Family Tree through a Job and Jesus Christ" is what we continue to offer.

With your generous support we are already seeing the benefits of our "Retool" and cannot wait to see where else this process leads.

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In that space, more complications occurred and he is now serving a one-year sentence. A recent letter from prison said "I got into don't give a damn mindset which I know that's EXACTLY what sent me back." Nick plans on returning to Greeley and Jobs of Hope. We as his brothers and sisters are committed to assist him to find that place in life, he dreams about which he has never experienced or seen.

We know these are not the types of stories that people want to hear, but unfortunately these stories are far too often the reality for our guys. The process is slow and fraught with danger and setbacks. We are dedicated to walking the tumultuous process for as long and as far as is needed. We are making concerted efforts to implement changes in our own programming to prevent, as much as we can, the degree of isolation that can lead to outcomes like Nick's. This means walking with the men for longer, it means greater levels of intentionality in the relationships built by the staff and between the program participants, it means redefining success and celebrating the smallest of achievements. It means we need you to be our champions, to be their advocates and to be our prayer warriors.



## Jobs of Hope

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## ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

*Blush Boutique*

**Blush Boutique – 805 8<sup>th</sup> Street**

This adorable boutique in downtown Greeley is run by a wonderful young woman and tremendous advocate of the Greeley Community. She has graciously offered to make Jobs of Hope her partner of the month for August, which means we get a percentage of all her sales for the month! So, drop in, say hi, and help support us and a wonderful local business!



**Garden City  
Bootleggin' Days  
621 27th Street Rd**

Weldwerks is participating in the People's Choice award competition. The top three breweries receive \$500 to give to a non-profit partner of choice and Weldwerks has selected us! There will be children's events and other festivities throughout the two days. Hope to see you there!

**Scan to access our online donation system.**

You can set up recurring gifts through the system

