

Hope Highlights

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



February 2022



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Participant Spotlight: Clint

I was born in Longmont, but we moved around a lot. My father was forbidden to have anything to do with me, so my mom was a single mother of two. My mom was a kid herself when she had me and she had addiction issues, so it was hard growing up in that environment. I was 12 and my sister 10 when my mom was involved in a horrible car accident. She was intoxicated and as a result my younger sister was placed in foster care and went to live my aunt. Eventually my mom lost custody of us.

I was 13 when I started getting into trouble with the law and I was already having issues with cutting class and using drugs, specifically meth. As I got older, I continued to get into trouble. I got arrested for assaults and possession of firearms. I was pretty violent at a real young age, and I have spent a total of eight years incarcerated. For a while I blamed my struggles on my upbringing but from where I'm at today, I think my attitude was the biggest cause of my problems. It was the way I viewed the world and how I approached it. I just didn't care.

I was 24 when I met my wife and unfortunately, she gave birth to our first child while I was behind bars. When I was released, I was pretty messed up and became addicted to heroin. One evening I was so angry I pushed my wife and I immediately decided to leave as I couldn't control my anger and thought it best to keep her safe. Shortly after I was charged with a violent crime and was back in jail. It was this endless cycle of getting in trouble and each time my wife took me back. At times I would be gone for weeks, needless to say, she had it rough.

For years, I had gotten in trouble for things I had done, and it didn't have much impact but in this last incident, I was being charged for something I didn't do and I actually got sentenced to prison for 11 years and because I paid attention in court, filed the right paperwork, I fired my lawyer and forced them to vacate the sentence I was released on a bond. While out on bond and through my good behavior, I was afforded the opportunity of not going back. I had been hearing about Jobs of Hope for years from inside and outside of the prison system. People kept telling me "Hey man, go there if you want to go in that direction."

Director's Corner

The effects of someone's struggle with addiction stretch out far beyond them. Their immediate family also feels the impact when their loved one has a drug or alcohol problem. Whether it's a child, parent, or spouse, addiction alters the lives of everyone who loves them.

There are countless effects of drug addiction on the family. Strained relationships, financial difficulties, and increased risk of abuse are only the start. Since each family has a different dynamic, not all families feel the same effects to the same extent. Regardless, it's impossible to deny that addiction affects the entire family.

It is not uncommon for us to get calls from family members who's trying to find options for their loved ones. And often, we find family members working harder than their loved ones and over time the only option is to pray and hope that eventually their loved one will find the help they need. Most if not all the participants who join the Jobs of Hope program have little to no support due to the impact their addiction as has had on their families. The situation is not hopeless, though. Treatment can help people with substance abuse issues and their families who love them.

Since becoming the executive director of Jobs of Hope, nothing is more rewarding than seeing men who transform their lives and find hope and joy in the possibility of reunifying with their families. Time heals old wounds and finds a way of remembering the love and happiness they once had.

In this edition of Hope Highlights we share with you the story of Clint and his wife who never lost hope. We pray for all those families who have been affected by substance abuse and that the knowledge to know they are not walking this path alone. May the heavenly father bless them with hope.



Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca
Executive Director



Farewell Casey

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and participants of Jobs of Hope, we extend our heart felt Thank You for your service as our Communications/Social Media Specialist VISTA. Among other projects, Casey has worked diligently on updating the Jobs of Hope website, managing our social media accounts and making sure all of our marketing materials were up to date. Casey's knowledge of technology, specifically social media has been invaluable. His work will enable Jobs of Hope to share our services with the community. Good luck on your future endeavors!



Donate

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

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

Scan. Donate. Done.



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Prayer Points

- We pray for Clint and his family that they continue to be blessed with the gift of family and love.
- We pray for the men of Jobs of Hope and for their success.
- We ask that you provide for our needs and help us prosper.

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)

Participant Spotlight Continued

I'm so glad I called as I have benefited so much from Jobs of Hope. The biggest one is the "Men of Valor" program. It helps to keep me grounded and gives me guy time throughout my chaotic life. When I released this last time, I didn't have identification, a social security card and no prospects for a job and they helped guide me in right direction on every level and they're still helping. Cassandra is amazing when it comes to that stuff.

I took the first job I could get as a felon. I worked that job until I found something better. Today I have a full-time job at Circle Graphics with benefits. I went from worrying about my addiction every day to worrying about my credit score and what's in my savings account. I couldn't have done it without Jobs of Hope.

My wife and I have been together for 18 years and we have six beautiful children, five boys and one girl, ranging from two to seventeen years old. My wife never lost hope and indicates she can see the change. It has taken a year for her to trust me as she has always had the carpet taken out from under her. But today, we are stronger than I can remember. I have a deeper understanding and love for her than I ever thought I could and I love them kiddos. I get to be the husband my wife deserves and a father to my kids that I never had growing up. Drugs never compared to this joy and love I have for my family. I am just sorry it took so long for the miracle to happen. In addition, I reunified with my sister. She is now married and has eight children. Nothings more special than family.

Our families next big goal is to buy a house. If I could give advice to someone going through similar struggles to mine, I would tell them to put down drugs and to not give up. If you fall nine times get up ten. As a team, Jobs of Hope is amazing, and I can't say enough how much I appreciate them. It works if you are willing to let it.



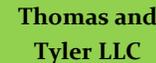
Participant Pays his talent Forward.

You may remember a while back we spotlighted Anthony. A participant of the Jobs of Hope program and an extremely talented artist. Thanks to a donation from one of our supporters, Anthony will be creating art to be displayed at the House of Hope. Thank you for all your support, without you, we wouldn't be able to help men like Anthony achieve their goals. This is the first of nine paintings Anthony will be doing for us.

If you'd like to see more of Anthony's art and to learn more about his story, check out the November 2021 newsletter on our website at www.jobsofhope.org



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