



*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*

## SPOTLIGHT: CISCO

Last month we talked about Shannon and the wonderful encouragement he has provided our guys. Shannon brought with him Cisco Davila, another gentleman with a heart for this community and a similar story to our guys. As we have gotten to know Cisco, we have encouraged his greater involvement within Jobs of Hope. He is our new Peer Mentor and is helping organize and lead the Saturday roundtables along with being a support for the guys. Cisco has grown up with many of our men and you can see the big smile on their faces when they are reunited with Cisco and see his transformation. He is a father of 4 daughter's, 3 step sons, and 4 grandchildren.



Cisco was raised in Greeley and has been in the juvenile system since he was 13 years old. Like many of our men, he had complicated relationship with a largely absent father and an overwhelmed mother. As is the story all too often, this left Cisco to his own devices which eventually led to a life on the streets. He found his family in the world of drug dealing which brought him face to face with the US criminal justice system. By the grace of God, Cisco was granted mercy and found himself with a second chance at life which he ran with. As he tells us "I left behind the drug dealing and violent behavior that I picked up from my father and my own bad choices that almost got me 6-18 years in federal prison and losing my children."

For over 20 years he has committed his life to a relationship with God and his family. He has put in the hard work to fight the good fight through good and tough times and has seen victory over toxic cycles. He is committed to loving his fellow brother and sharing his ongoing story of redemption so that they may know truth and hope. Over time he dreams of these men finding redemption and sharing that hope with others.

## SPOTLIGHT: REJEANA

Thank you for joining us in prayer for case manager position, we feel like God has been so present in this process and we are excited to introduce her! Her name is Rejeana Martin and we are thrilled to have her on the team. Rejeana has spent the past five years working hand in hand with the Greeley Parole Office. She provided case management in order to connect them with treatment plans and ensure they were progressing through their requirements and goals. During those five years, Rejeana was consistently referring men to Jobs of Hope and many of our past participants have stories about how she advocated on their behalf.

Nico, who is now a board member, relayed a story about how she stepped into his case in order to ensure that he and his Parole Officer were on the same page, which allowed for his early dismissal from parole. Her intimate knowledge of the system and the experiences of the guys in the system will be invaluable as she work for Jobs of Hope.



Rejeana is excited about the broad scope of work offered to her as the Jobs of Hope case manager. She started on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and is already running at full speed to make sure our guys are getting to their appointments, accessing meds, and keeping them on track with all their various requirements. Her quiet but firm presence is a great asset as she allows the guys to feel safe but know they will not be able to push her around.

In her personal life, Rejeana has firsthand experience with the justice system as her sons were gang affiliated. She has walked with her sons through the hard process of exiting the gang life, and re-entry into society. She knows the necessity of a healthy support system and the

many complications that arise from being justice involved.

The system puts so many competing expectations on the guys and navigating the various meetings, agencies and requirements can be genuinely overwhelming without outside assistance. So often the guys walk into our office with a pile of appointment cards and business cards directing them to this meeting with that person from such and such agency that will then send them on to another meeting with yet another agency that may give them directions that further complicate the process and can even contradict directions from a previous meeting. Rejeana has walked this chaos so many times with the guys at parole and with her own family members that she can see through the competing layers and identify an effective strategy to get the guys from point A to point B. You can see the relief on the guys' faces as she gives them a clear path and offers to walk through that with them.

### Prayer Points

- Seamless transition as Rejeana starts her position
- Wisdom to identify the best ways to correctly empower the guys in this process
- Freedom from addiction

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