



Hope Highlights

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

June 2023

Participant Spotlight: Mike's Story

Meet Mike! Mike's story is a bit different from many of the participant stories we share, as Mike has actually spent time working within the legal system. For thirty-seven years, Mike was employed by the State of Colorado, working for fifteen years at a juvenile hall, then for a couple of years in detention, and then spending the last twenty years of his career as a junior parole officer, working with kids and families in Larimer, Weld and Adams county. He is also a cancer survivor. Five years ago he retired, and he went to work as a cashier at a couple of grocery stores in the area. However, as Mike says, "COVID kind of threw a wrench into everything."

According to Mike, "I used to party in college, and I got married in college and had a son in college. It [drinking] became an issue back in the 80s, and in 1984 I got my first DUI. Of course, that didn't stop me, and two years later I got my second DUI. I kind of got the message after my second DUI. I went thirty-six years, and then a year and a half ago I got my third DUI. With that one, one thing I learned about myself is, I use alcohol to cope. When I drank this last time and got my DUI, my son was in the hospital with COVID, and we didn't know if he was going to make it. So I kind of gave in to the alcohol, and I went out to get a sandwich to eat half a mile away. And that's all it took. I'm responsible for all of it, and I just did what I had to do, you know. Take responsibility, and try to move on. That's how I ended up getting into this program."



Mike shared that up to that point, he had also been the caretaker for his parents, caring for his mother until her passing two years ago, and his father until last year, when he unexpectedly found himself without a place to stay.

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Staff Updates



Jobs of Hope is excited to announce two new full-time staff members: Jason and Ali! You may recognize these names, as both have been featured in previous newsletters in other roles! Although neither are new to Jobs of Hope, both will be starting new positions within the organization.

Jason, who previously interned with Jobs of Hope, is now joining the staff as a Peer Counselor/Navigator. As a Peer Counselor/Navigator, Jason supports program participants in a variety of ways. For example, Jason spends time meeting one on one with participants in the program, talking about how their legal issues create difficulties for them moving forward in their new lives. He also attends court with those who need that assistance, helps participants with technology issues, and transports participants to meetings and appointments.

Ali just completed a year-long service term at Jobs of Hope through AmeriCorps VISTA and is joining the staff as Communications Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. In this role, she will manage Jobs of Hope's print and digital media presence, as well as provide administrative support at the Jobs of Hope office. Please join us in giving both a warm welcome to the team!

Director's Corner

Hello to all our Friends and Family,

Welcome to the June edition of the Jobs of Hope newsletter. We appreciate all of you, and thank God for all your prayers and financial support. We are all partners in impacting our community for the Gospel!

As we are now entering the summer months, I wish to remind you that our Jobs of Hope Annual Banquet is coming up on September 14th. We will hold the banquet at UNC's University Center this year. This will be a large venue with the ability to host a larger audience than prior banquets. We will be celebrating our 10 Year Anniversary at this year's banquet. There have been many lives that we have touched over the last 10 years, and all of you had a part to play in our success. Our banquets each year provide us the opportunity to tell you about the success stories of men in our program. We also are able to share with you how you can partner with us for a monthly financial donation. It's your monthly financial support that allows us to operate the House of Hope, operate our various programs, and retain our hardworking staff. We will also have opportunities for you to sponsor a table at this year's event.

We had one more client transition to permanent housing this month. It was a joy for all of us to help this client move to his new home. We praise God that we were able to assist this client on his journey to success. Please keep our organization in your prayers as we continue to improve our programs to help the most men possible.

Thank you for reading through our June newsletter. We hope that you can get a taste of the important work that happens every day in the lives of our clients. We cannot do it without you! Please continue to pray for us. If you are able to support us financially, we will continue to be good stewards of your support. Please visit our website, and find us on Facebook and Instagram.

God Bless You and Keep You,



Dan Ordaz
Executive Director



Coffee and Conversation: Freedom

June 19 is now known as a federal holiday called Juneteenth. This holiday is a time to reflect and celebrate the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, taking control of the state and ensuring that all enslaved people were freed. The arrival of the troops came two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday (source: <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth>). Although there is no comparison to the experiences of those who endured slavery, I am reminded of the goodness of God and how easily we too can find ourselves in slavery of sin and flesh. And just as freedom was found from the Emancipation Proclamation, we too can find freedom in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." It is no secret that we all sin and fall short of the Glory of God. One man's sin is no greater than another's sin. When our men in the Jobs of Hope program fall and become enslaved to addiction, gang affiliation, broken relationships, self-preservation, crime, and more, we as staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters, offer ourselves up to the Lord for him to use and work through us to help our men find freedom! Ten years ago, when I found my own freedom, I discovered a calling in my life that showed me

that my purpose on this earth was to serve others. I think many of us are called to do the same thing. We are most useful to God when we allow him to make good of our not-so-great experiences to the benefit of others. Like Luke 4:18 says, "The spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." We at Jobs of Hope work hard to assist our men in finding their own personal freedom, however that may look for them. Using God's Word, his direction, and his principles, we offer a safe place for the men of our program to restore themselves after prison, to find true meaning through sight of the truth, to step out of oppression and rise above their past, and to proclaim victory in a new way of living!

Yours Truly,

Opal Hatfield
Jobs of Hope Case Manager



Mike's Story, Continued

One of Jobs of Hope's staff members, Billy, approached Mike about coming to stay at the House of Hope. Mike says he is glad that Jobs of Hope provides a place for people to get back on their feet. As he says, "I thought I'd never find myself in that position, but I did."

Regarding his experience on both sides of the law, Mike says, "It's very interesting." In his work, his job was to enforce the rules. And that involves a lot of authority and power, because one of the consequences for messing up while on parole is incarceration. When coming to Jobs of Hope, he says he was reluctant to share that he was a parole officer. But he felt safe enough to share that with other participants, and it gave him an opportunity to talk with other participants and give them advice because he is very familiar with the legal system. He says that he has been

able to use his time at Jobs of Hope to both help others and help himself.

Right now, Mike's goal is to find employment, although, as he says, it can be difficult to find employment as an older person. We hope that you will pray with us for all of our participants, including Mike, that they will have success in finding employment, finding housing, and finding transformation in their lives.

As we celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of Jobs of Hope, we are grateful to have been able to support participants with a wide range of lived experiences. We are thankful for the many community members who have supported us over the years and made it possible for us to impact so many lives!

Prayer Points

- We ask you to pray for Mike and the other men of Jobs of Hope as they seek employment, housing, and change in their lives.
- We ask you to pray for the participants in our program who struggle with their mental health, that they will find hope and healing.
- We ask you to give thanks for the freedom that we all can find through Christ.

Monthly Celebrations!

Join us in celebrating our participant's accomplishments!

- Aiden moved into a new apartment
- Nathan was baptized at the beginning of June
- Ricky found employment as maintenance technician at a property management company
- Peer Counselor/Navigator Jason and Alumni Jerry are now certified to lead Round Tables for the Men of Valor Program



Summer Food and Fun!

Earlier this month, Jobs of Hope was glad to host a BBQ gathering for program participants, alumni, staff, board members and family. Here is a small sampling of photos from that day—follow us on Instagram

[@jobs_of_hope_greeley](#) and on Facebook at [Jobs of Hope, Inc](#) to see more pictures and to be kept up to date with everything happening at Jobs of Hope!



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