



# Hope Highlights

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



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## Meet the Staff

In this busy time, Jobs of Hope has been blessed to be able to expand our team to seven people.

From left to right in the photo above, our staff members include Micaiah Schneider, House of Hope Resident Lead; Ali Hermetz, Program Development and Communications Specialist VISTA; Cisco Davila, Men of Valor Facilitator; Casandra Gallardo, Case Manager/Re-Entry Navigator; Billy Morones, House of Hope House Manager; Andrea Amaya, Intake/Outreach Specialist; and Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca, Executive Director.

Thank you for your continued support so that we can grow and increase our capacity to serve our community!

## New Pre-Release Program

Re-entering the community can be challenging for those recently released from incarceration. Navigating housing, resolving family problems, accessing health care and finding employment are not always easy tasks even for those who have never been incarcerated, but all of these problems can quickly become more difficult to solve when a person has been gone from a community for an extended period of time.

Our new Pre-Release program, headed by our new Intake/Outreach Specialist Andrea, is focused on addressing the difficulties recently released individuals face when transitioning back into the community by working with correctional institutions and/or their case management teams to identify people within their facilities who would be interested in accessing Jobs of Hope's post-release support system. Andrea will work with each client to assess individual needs, such as housing, employment readiness, criminal justice obligations, and benefits, and will help each person create a plan for after his release. Connecting with soon-to-be-released individuals while they are still incarcerated increases the likelihood of each person's successful reintegration into the community, and the new Pre-release program will support Jobs of Hope's goal of reducing recidivism by giving individuals access to a support system and a foothold in the community as soon as they exit incarceration.

## Director's Corner

Greetings friends of Jobs of Hope,

Well, the heat is on! Literally. Not certain if it is just me, or does it seem like a hotter summer than normal? Probably me. But there is no shortage of action going on here at the office. Previously we shared with you our new Jump Start program and introduced you to our new VISTA Ali. This month we are pleased to share with you our new Pre-Release Program and introduce you to Andrea, our new Intake/Outreach Specialist who will be overseeing that program.

I can't tell you how blessed I am to be surrounded by individuals who are so dedicated to our community, and their commitment to make a difference in the lives of those we serve is truly humbling. I am truly motivated by seeing what we achieve daily. So, we dedicate this edition of *Hope Highlights* to the staff, as the work they do is truly commendable, and I greatly appreciate their contributions to Jobs of Hope. I know we couldn't do what we do without them.

Sincerely,



Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca  
Executive Director



## Prayer Points

- We pray for the men of Jobs of Hope and for their success.
- We pray for more chances to encourage and provide hope for both currently and formerly incarcerated people.
- We pray for the upcoming banquet and its success.

*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)*



## Welcome Andrea Amaya!

Jobs of Hope is pleased to welcome Andrea Amaya, our new Intake/Outreach Specialist! Andrea was born in Brighton, Colorado but grew up in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She moved to Greeley, Colorado in 2005. Andrea brings a lot of work and life experience to the table. She has worked in the behavioral health field for over seven years, having served clients with significant mental health and substance abuse issues, and her experience with a close family member who was incarcerated makes her uniquely qualified to serve Jobs of Hope's clients.

As the Intake/Outreach Specialist, Andrea will be responsible for interviewing potential clients and going out into the community to tell people about our program, and she will also manage our new Pre-Release Program. Andrea is very passionate and devoted to helping others, especially those society has turned their backs on. She is excited to start working with our men and fulfill the purpose God has put in front of her, and we are excited to have her on the team!



# Letter of Thanks

Jobs of Hope continues to be a life-changing, faith-based community organization with a goal of seeing transformation happen in the lives of men who wish to leave behind years of legal problems, gang affiliation and substance abuse. We strive to support men leaving incarceration with services and tools that will enable them to re-enter society and be successful contributors to the larger community.

None of this would be possible without a team of dedicated individuals who believe in our mission and understand that "second chances" is not just a phrase we say, but also an integral part of our philosophy. We want our actions to speak volumes and to impact the way we are seen by the community and, most importantly, by those we serve. Below, we share with you a letter we received from a prospective participant that we are currently working with who is still incarcerated in Canon City, who reminded us that we truly are what we say.

Ms. Gallardo:

Thank you so much for your time this past Friday! It is not always the easiest task to recount my mishaps and share those lingering soul piercing pains with others. I greatly appreciate the fact that you not only allowed me to share all of this with you, but also the fact that you allowed me that opportunity without casting judgement on me. It was as if I could feel the embrace of your sympathy and genuine care.

I simply don't know how to express the encouragement and excitement I feel about the opportunities I have coming in the near future, God willing. As previously said, I know that this part of my journey will not be easy but I have done it before and truly hope to do it again.

I can not wait to meet you and the rest of your team at Jobs of Hope. But mostly I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you!  
Take care.

All of my best,



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- Casandra Gallardo, Re-entry Case Manager/Navigator
- Andrea Amaya, Intake/Outreach Specialist
- Cisco Davila, "Men of Valor" Facilitator
- Billy Morones, House of Hope House Manager
- Micaiah Schneider, House of Hope Resident Lead
- Ali Hermetz, Program Development and Communications Specialist VISTA

## Contact Jobs Of Hope

Email: [Info@jobsofhope.org](mailto:Info@jobsofhope.org)

Phone: 970 451-5007

Mailing Address:

P.O Box 1017  
Greeley, CO 80632

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Photo of Bible on p. 2 from Sixteen Miles Out on Unsplash