

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



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Participant Spotlight: Daniel

I was born in Roswell, New Mexico. I grew up with both my parents and my two sisters. We weren't rich, but we never really went without. When I was five, I began smoking my mom's weed. Unfortunately, it didn't stop there, and I began smoking meth when I was thirteen. I was constantly getting into fights and trouble, so my parents sent me to live with my uncle in Texas. I did that for a while, but when I came back, I returned to my old life. I continued getting high and getting in trouble. I was probably in a fight every week in high school and was always doing drugs.

I was about twenty-two when I moved out to Colorado. I had to get away from the bad influences, but things really weren't much better—in fact, they were worse. I've typically always had a job but always also sold drugs on the side. It wasn't long after moving to Colorado before I pleaded guilty to an assault, and shortly after that I was caught with a pound of weed and an ounce of meth and placed on probation.

Despite being put on probation, I continued using drugs. Finally, just a few days before I was supposed to get off probation, I caught seven felonies, including distribution, and that's how I ended up in jail and in the halfway house. The good news is that I was offered and accepted eight to ten months in county jail and four years at the halfway house rather than a prison sentence.

While I was in the halfway house, I developed a support structure with some of the other guys there. We would just sit and talk with each other, and we all realized that we wanted the same thing: to remain sober and take our lives in a different direction. Jerry Gomez was one of my friends at the time, and he told me about Jobs of Hope. I originally checked it out solely to get a better job, but it became so much more.

I began attending the roundtables, and I really liked the support structure it provided. It helped me to reestablish the values I grew up with that I had abandoned. It is a great program to help find yourself again and to be surrounded by likeminded people who will not judge you based on your past. You lose sight of your values and who you are when your life revolves around getting high all the time. Jobs of Hope helped me rediscover the person I used to be.

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Director's Corner

Dear Believers in Second Chances,

Do you remember those days when you would have some one-on-one time with your parents? Normally it was filled with stories of the past or, if you were younger, it had an educational component. As my folks got older it had something to do with one or the other depending on who I was talking to. I think each thought the other was going senile. As we look back over the years, the older we get the more our parents seemed to make sense. I mean, let's be honest, when we were younger, we really thought they were senile and most of what they told us went in one ear and out the other. So, as we look back it really is about timing and how ready we are to listen.

Today we share with you Daniel's journey, and, like most of the men who come through our doors, his story is all about timing. It's easy for a person to say that he or she will transform his or her life, but the more important and more difficult part is how and when that person chooses to live that transformation. As I say that, I am certain I am repeating something my parents told me when I was a teen. So, I guess all wasn't lost in those past conversations, and maybe I was listening, even if it was just for a bit. I think about another one of our participants who struggles with legal issues, years of substance abuse and the demons he hears. His struggle is very real and at times consumes him. As he stumbles, I am most impressed by how he continues to get back up, even when his shame overflows as he walks back into our doors. His desire to truly transform is amazing to me. Just like parents support their children when they stumble, Jobs of Hope's support of those in need is compassionate, loving, constant and unchanging in that we strive to be patient, humble, forgiving, selfless and faithful to our calling. I pray that this message finds you well and that our stories fill your heart with the knowledge that even as parents we all deserve a second chance.

In Christ,



Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca
Executive Director



Prayer Points

- We pray for Daniel's continued success as he continues his journey towards fulfilling his goals.
- We pray for the men of Jobs of Hope and for their success.
- We pray for the upcoming banquet and its success as a way to reach out to our community.

*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)*



Donate to Jobs of Hope

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

You can donate by going to the following webpage:

https://paybee.io/@jobs_of_hope@3

or by scanning the QR code in this newsletter.

Scan. Donate. Done.



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Spotlight Continued

Since coming to Jobs of Hope, I have been getting promoted at my job and have graduated from the halfway house. Additionally, my growth has allowed me to get closer to God. This has helped me to grow even more. My goals now are to save up to get my driver's license back and to get my own place and a car. This is something I never thought I'd be able to do when I was spending all my money on drugs. Growing up, I discovered my passion for freestyle rapping. I had a friend who was a great beatboxer, and we would hang out and make music together. Even today, I will put a beat on the computer and freestyle to keep me going through difficult times.

If I could give advice to someone struggling with issues like mine, I would tell them that as much fun as it seems to get high every day, it's just not worth it. Your life becomes nothing more than figuring out where your next fix will come from, and you stop living life all together. You become who you surround yourself with, so make sure you surround yourself with positive influences. It's going to be difficult, and you will likely slip a few times but keep your head up and keep pushing.



Welcome Ali Hermetz!

Jobs of Hope welcomes our new Program Development and Communications Specialist VISTA, Ali Hermetz!

Ali developed a passion for re-entry work during college, when she participated in a program called the Furman Prison Education Partnership. Through FPEP, Ali met many currently and formerly incarcerated people and learned their stories. Because of her experiences at Furman, Ali decided that she wanted to pursue work related to reentry after graduation, which led her to apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA position with Jobs of Hope.

Ali's work this year will focus on building Jobs of Hope's capacity to serve our community, and she is already working toward this goal by helping us plan our upcoming Jobs of Hope Banquet! We're excited to welcome Ali to the team and look forward to working with her for the next year.



Banquet Sponsorships

Jobs of Hope invites you to become a sponsor in support of our annual banquet. Sponsors will receive exposure and join other individuals and organizations in our community who believe that everyone deserves a second chance. The annual banquet will be a great opportunity for people to learn a little bit more about the work we do, celebrate the victories, and hear directly from those impacted by our efforts. There will also be fun items to bid on during the silent auction and chances to talk with others from the community who also believe in the work being done.

If you would like to be a part of the transformational discovery that happens when a gang member or individual who has committed crimes discovers the power of our Lord and Savior, please consider sponsoring this event.. Use the QR code below or visit our website at www.jobsofhope.org for more detailed information on sponsorship levels.

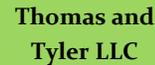
Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

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- 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

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