



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

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Journeying Through COVID*

What can we say? As of March 2020, we are facing a once-in-a-century event that could become generation defining. We feel the pain of our larger community beyond the men we work with and we pray for those who are struggling with the disease and those who have lost loved ones.

For the men in JOH, fortunately they have avoided the as of the writing of this newsletter, should things change we will provide updates via email and Facebook. Despite the virus, the general work of JOH spins and sadly, drugs have worked their evil in four of our guys. Another young man joined the program in the midst of a relapse event. We have maintained relationship with all five men, promising relationships and support despite their struggles. We ask that you would join us in prayer for Daniel, Darren, Ken, Bobby, and Jerry as they are in the battle of their lives today.

Despite the setbacks, we rejoice in the stories of God's power and victory. The other day I was walking 6 feet away from everyone in grocery store when a young man got my attention. He was an employee and looked very professional in his job. I suddenly recognized Michael, who came to JOH in 2016 at 21 after serving three years. He announced that he is working at the grocery store and doing well! AMEN!



## JOH SOCIAL DISTANCING

We are doing our best as an organization to respect and observe the requests that have been made by our local Public Health Department and our State Governor. In light of this, all staff are working remotely, which means home office set ups and lots of time spent on the cell phone. We are maintaining our staff interactions through text, phone calls and zoom. Thank God for zoom (and I know I am not the only person who has uttered that phrase or will utter it during this crisis).

Zoom is also proving invaluable in providing support and relationship to the guys during this time. Thanks to Rick Hartman and Cisco Davila for their hard work in turning our weekly Round Table meeting into a zoom Round Table. This past week we covered the topics of Connection and Responsibility which are so important today.



## SPOTLIGHT: BILLY

Despite all the chaos and upheaval, we have continued to see God move in our organization. Our JOH family is growing again in the form of Billy Morones, a Greeley native who is actively volunteering with the men. Like most of our guys, Billy understands the battle with addiction, in his case it was alcohol, and the power of Christ to bring freedom. Through people, who acted as God's hands and feet, Billy is now five year sober and free from incarceration. He wants to pass along the hard-won lessons he has learned and bring love and hope into our guys' lives.

He does this practically by driving men to work at 5am since they do not have transportation right now. Billy will tell you that he has been through pure misery since childhood looking for the love he never had, today by the "Grace of God I am thankful to be alive and able to help the next person who was in my shoes".

Billy was also instrumental in getting our office straightened up a bit. We had this large desk that was taking up more space than we could afford, and it was attacking Jazz at times (the keyboard sliding "drawer-thing" fell on her) so we decided to remove it. A couple of guys were the muscle and Billy (in the hat) was the transportation. His grin in the picture is true to life and brings such joy to all who see it! We and the guys are so blessed to have Billy around.



### Prayer Points

- Safety for our guys and our staff during this time
- Favor for a couple of grants we just recently submitted
- Freedom from addiction

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