

Hope Highlights

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



April 2021



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Participant Connects With Kids

Once a person who was involved with gangs and drugs, Geno now shares his story with kids pushing them to make good choices and stay in school. Redemption is just half the puzzle; a lot of criminals turn their lives around. But even individuals who preach giving felons a second chances hesitate to give them a chance.

So why hire a felon like Geno? Why take a chance on a former crackhead, car thief, or a teen mother? The road of reentry into a community is not easy and the cards are usually not in their favor. But for those who are willing to work hard, the rewards are plentiful. Today, many of them live in our community as pastors, youth counselors, substance abuse workers and even directors. Adults who've committed crimes, done drugs, committed violent acts, or got pregnant at 15 can sometimes connect with youth in ways that straight and narrow adults cannot. What better mentor for an at-risk kid who is headed into a life of crime than someone who came out of prison and can share their story.

"My mom was an alcoholic and she ended up changing her life and went to the street in hopes of changing lives but by that time, I was reliant on growing up on the streets." Eventually, Geno wound up with a 32 year prison sentence. "Now that I am out of prison, I've been given a chance to honor my mom's memory by sharing my story with kids who are going down the wrong path."

"There were some kids who were showing signs of going down the wrong path... gangbanging, selling and doing drugs and even kind of planning suicide." said Geno. One of the parents in attendance asked Geno to talk with her son. "He's been caught selling drugs and carrying a weapon" I talked to her son and I just told him, "there's no excuse, you have a choice to make every day you wake up. You could either choose to do the right thing or the wrong thing. There are two roads. The narrow path and the wide path and there's a lot of people going down that wide path because it's easy and the narrow path is hard" I could tell he wasn't just listening, he was hearing me.

Geno hopes to continue touching the hearts of kids at risk. "Of course it's rewarding but the thing is you never know whose heart you're going to touch. So I think it's more of a duty because I have a story to tell and if you have a story and you don't tell, then how's anybody going to learn from it?"

If you are interested in having a participant from Jobs of Hope present, please don't hesitate to contact us at 970-451-5007 or at director@jobsofhope.org.

Director's Corner

Spring is in the air and I don't know about you, but I'm excited for the arrival of spring and the longer days.

The announcement of a road map to resuming a relatively normal life makes me feel so hopeful. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year, partly because it's time to shed off the layers and rediscover my spring wardrobe - shorts and Hawaiian shirts!

The promise of Easter and spring flowers reminds, as always, that God is in charge of our hopes and dreams. And we are met with the divine grace and knowledge that all things are possible with and through Him.

At Jobs of Hope, we are leaning on our faith as we grow to meet the increasing needs of our participants and the community. In this newsletter you will read about stories shared and lives transformed with the help of Jesus Christ, our generous donors and amazing team.

We wish you many blessing during this spring season, and pray you find much hope and peace in the promise of the Resurrection.



Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca
Executive Director



Employment

Jobs of Hope works with a variety of employers so that we can better help our participants find meaningful work. Without these partnerships we would not be able to do the work we do. With this in mind, we would like to thank those organizations that have worked with us over the course of the pandemic.

If you are interested in supporting Jobs of Hope by partnering with us, please feel free to reach out and we can arrange a time to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

Jobs of Hope would like to recognize the following participants currently employed.

- Jason - JBS
- Toby - JBS
- Maciaha - JBS
- Danny - Andersen Salvage
- Anthony - Andersen Salvage
- Anthony - McDonalds
- Geno - Self employed barber
- Abdul - Cargill
- Alex - Ag Tek Security
- Mark - Mountain States Plastics
- Timothy - Mountain States Plastics
- Jerry - AWP



Prayer Points

- We ask to be more loving, generous and compassionate as we live our day to day lives and may we be reminded of the beauty of spring, and new beginnings for the men of Jobs of Hope.
- We ask for a fresh beginning in each of our hearts and allow each of us to grow in your word, just as the flowers are blooming.
- We ask that you provide for the needs at Jobs of Hope. May the seeds of grace you have given us grow to flower and fruit in the fullness of life you intended.



Volunteer Opportunities

Jobs of Hope is looking for passionate volunteers to help in following areas:

- Resume assistance
- Online application Assistance
- Online Job Search Assistance

If you like to volunteer, please don't hesitate to reach out! Visit our website at www.jobsofhope.org or we can be reached by phone at (970)451-5007

New Vision Statement

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we pleased to announce our new Vision Statement which will guide our work as we continue to meet the growing needs of our community. We thank you for your continued support!



"We envision a community freed from the effects of gang involvement and incarceration through faith found in Jesus Christ thereby transforming individuals and generations."



JOBS OF HOPE VISION STATEMENT

Volunteer Caden

At Jobs of Hope, we are blessed to have volunteers share their time and talents with the participants of our program. This month, we welcome Caden to our family.

After graduating college, Caden began wondering if there were better ways he could be spending his newly-available time. In addition, he felt as though he was being called to serve others. "God was convicting me of the importance of finding ways to serve others nearby and in my community. I would get easily overwhelmed by the abundance of needs which can be difficult to discern how best to meet, but I realized that simply doing nothing in response is not an option. I appreciated that this ministry was openly Christian and that they seemed to work toward investing in the whole person, seeking to build men of character as well as helping them to reach a place where they could support themselves."

A member of Grace Reformed Church, Caden noticed our newsletter posted on the bulletin board and he often stopped to read them. When Caden became interested in volunteering, he looked Jobs of Hope up online to learn more about the ministry. Caden will be sharing his technology talents by helping participants learn to use computers and navigate the world of employment by job searching, filling out online job application or setting up an email since many have never learned these skills.

If you are interested in volunteering for Jobs of Hope, please don't hesitate to reach out by visiting our website www.jobsofhope.org.

Thank You Phil

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and participants at Jobs Of Hope, we extend our heart felt Thank You for your many years of service and leadership as the chair of the Board of Directors. Good luck on your future endeavors!



New Board Member

Jobs of Hope would like to welcome Jonathan Gonzales to the board of directors! Earlier this month, the Board of Directors unanimously elected Jonathan to serve on the JOH Board. Thank you for your service to the community and to Jobs of Hope.



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- Nicolas Moeller, Director
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- Richard Hartman, Director
- Jonathon Gonzales, Director

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- Casandra Gallardo, Re-entry Case Manager/Navigator
- Cisco Davila, “Men of Valor” Facilitator
- Casey Fogel, Communications/Social Media

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Contact Jobs Of Hope

Email: Info@jobsofhope.org

Phone: 970 451-5007

Mailing Address:
P.O Box 1017
Greeley, CO 80632

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