



# Hope Highlights

*“to restore hope and see transformation in the lives of previously incarcerated individuals, as well as individuals seeking transformation from a life of gang affiliation, homelessness, or substance abuse.”*

## JANUARY 2024

### Men Of Valor Program

On most Tuesday nights, the Jobs of Hope offices are buzzing with activity. Around 4 pm, a delicious aroma wafts through the offices. It's always a pleasant surprise to see what our House of Hope Manager Billy Morones and dedicated volunteer Diane Montoya are cooking. One Tuesday was taco night and another was BBQ night. These valued team members faithfully cook a delicious dinner for the men that attend the Men of Valor class.

Around 5:15pm, the clients start trickling through the doors. There are hearty laughs, hugs and greetings as the House of Hope men and the clients that live in the community greet each other and catch up on that week's happenings.

About 5:30pm, the men sit down to the delicious meal and fellowship. It is a uniquely warm atmosphere that is only made possible by committed staff members creating a healthy, safe and supportive environment for our men. Promptly at 6pm, Cisco Davila starts the class and begins digging into that week's topic/value.

This class is the primary avenue for Jobs of Hope to work with each client in helping them to learn the attitudes, habits and values needed to find success in their re-entry plans. Some time ago, our dear friend Rick Hartman brought a new discussion framework to Jobs of Hope called the Roundtable, produced by Global Priority Solutions in Ohio. Roundtable quickly took off as a great guide for group therapy, discussion and values education. Equally as important as the book work are the personal testimonies and encouragement from the facilitators. Coordinator Cisco Davila, Jerry Gomez, board member Pres Montoya and peer counselor Jason Bingham lead the discussions. Each of these facilitators is able to enhance the group work and discussion by drawing on examples from their own lives.

Cisco is our overall coordinator for the Men of Valor class and oversees the training and topics for the class.

At the time we went to press, the men were studying the value of healthy confrontation. From a practical standpoint, as well as a scriptural standpoint, the men have been studying what it means to face confrontation in healthy ways and how to avoid unhealthy methods of dealing with confrontation. The team even brought in a guest speaker, Nico Moeller. Nico is a graduate of Jobs of Hope and has a wonderful testimony of how he learned to forgive people in his past, how to make amends with people he hurt and how he was able to heal the animosity that had been brewing for years with a neighborhood rival. Rather than violence, Nico chose love and was able to turn this enemy into a close friend.

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# Director's Corner

Greetings Jobs of Hope Supporters, Friends, and Family,

It's already mid-January, and the month is flying by. As we start 2024, let's reflect on the goodness God has bestowed on us. In 2023 we hired 3 new positions, made a leadership change, mourned the loss of a dear friend and board member, formalized our treatment methodology, held a successful banquet, and welcomed a new board member. None of the highs, lows or in-betweens would be possible to manage without the grace of God shining down upon us and blessing us every step of the way. One of the biggest blessings is all of you, our supporters. I am encouraged and amazed every time I meet people in the community that know about Jobs of Hope, have attended a banquet or have donated in the past. Every one of you talks about our great work in the community and how pleased you are to be associated with Jobs of Hope. That is a blessing!

Another blessing is watching our clients embrace their programs and make incremental progress. Our Monday Relapse Prevention class, Tuesday Men of Valor class, and Saturday Fellowships are filled with activity. Our men are active, digging into their curriculums and discussions. and best of all, mutually exhorting and supporting each other. In this newsletter, you will read about our Men of Valor class where the men discuss and practice life skills.

2024 will be a challenging year. The economy, a tighter grant landscape and increased budget pressure are realities we face. We are grateful to our supporters and appreciate your past donations. We humbly come to you again and ask you to partner with us as we trust God to provide what we need to keep our ministry viable and effective. We encourage you to become a monthly partner. If you have considered a legacy, stock or other type of gift, we would love to speak with you.

Please keep us in prayer for 2024 finances, and we will keep all of you in prayer as well. Never forget that you can send your prayer requests to my email address, and our staff will pray weekly for you. We know that our God is sovereign, in charge and able to do far more than we could ever imagine! Let's make 2024 a year of testimony! I pray that at the end of this year, we can look back and say, "Look what the Lord has done!"

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Dan Ordaz  
Executive Director  
Jobs of Hope  
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# Chairman's Update

Looking to a new year always brings a sense of renewal: Starting over, a clean slate, a chance to do better or different, a chance to progress or grow or mature. Knowing that the issues, bills, worries and concerns of the last year will carry through independent of the calendar, there is something great about a fresh start.

As each year passes, I learn to pay less attention to the previous year. I want to learn my lessons and improve. I want to keep good memories, but it is easy to linger in the past. Wallowing in past bad decisions or dis-appointing outcomes only fosters frustration. I can beat myself into a "should have" mentality by fixating on what I should have done or decisions I should have made. We can all find ourselves in this mindset, and it can become dangerous for us and others around us.

I love my truck. It is my second office, and I spend a lot of time driving. One thing I like is that my windshield is huge. The driver's seat affords me a commanding view of everything in front of me. I can see vehicles coming at me or those that I'm following. I can avoid potholes and clearly see where I need to go. Conversely, the rear view mirror is just big enough for me to keep tabs on where I've been. That little mirror lets me see whether I need to react to something coming upon me.

Thinking about these two pieces of glass in my truck, I believe there is a strong correlation to how we need to approach our lives when it comes to the past. Like the rear view mirrors in our vehicles, keep the perspective of the past in check. Keep the past small. Let's see just enough to remember where we've been. We can learn the lessons and look back long enough to avoid dangers that can sneak up on us. Let's put our full attention, focus and hope looking ahead trusting that God has a bigger and better plan than we can understand.

I'm reminded of this in Isaiah 43:18-19. "Do not call to mind the former things of the past. Behold, I will do something new. Now it will spring forth. Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Jobs of Hope is in the business of fresh starts. Let's all embrace this new start and the challenges sure to come in 2024. If we keep the past in check, and trust that the future is bright, hope can become contagious.

John Goad  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Jobs of Hope Inc.



# December Festivities

Jobs of Hope held their annual Christmas party on December 22nd. It was a fabulous evening of great food, gifts, and cookie decorating!

Jobs of Hope thanks all of our supporters for your generous donations. Each one of you helped make this a very special Christmas for each of our men!



# A Fresh Start

Often when we think about the coming new year, we begin to play around with the ideas of “what can I do differently in the new year?” or “what is my new year’s resolution going to be?” Don’t get me wrong, there is nothing uncool about setting a new year’s resolution or thinking about personal development. However, by setting such goals, do we put unnecessary pressure on ourselves? On the other side of the coin, are we doomed to fail if we don’t set these goals?

I think it is most important to first seek God and ask Him what needs to change in our lives and our circumstances. I personally came up with a mantra for the new year to help keep me focused on personal development. This was done in a way that is open-ended, leaving room for God to do His work and to allow me to move forward knowing that by the end of 2024, I will be a different woman. I don’t know how this change will happen, but with God by my side, I don’t need to know more than that. I just need to know my mantra; “New year, New me.”

Taking this a step further, how does God and the Bible look at a new year or a fresh start? In Hebrews 8:12, God provides us with a fresh start by forgiving us for our past. If the past trips you up, look at in the way God does. He looks at it as something that is behind you. It is no longer, no more and not determining your future. As said in Isaiah 43:18; “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old.”

This is harder than it seems knowing we can’t always just forget what we have done or what other people have done to us, but God gives us a fresh start when we need one, and He will be there to guide us on the journey with love and grace. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us this very thing, that God promises a fresh start to anyone.

Through His son Jesus Christ, God gives us freedom, forgiveness and a future filled with hope and purpose. God loves you more than you know and has an incredible plan for your life. Taking on a new year is taking on a God filled “fresh start.”

In thinking about our work at JoH, I am filled with joy as God uses us to give this same grace and fresh start to our men. We feel that no matter what your past may have been, it is the present that will shape your future. In other words, who you used to be does not need to be who you become.

I can’t imagine how our men have struggled before coming to JoH. Instead, I imagine the fresh start God gives them that they might not see yet. God gives it to them anyway. So, as you venture into this new year, remember it is not necessarily about resolutions or change, but about focusing our fresh starts on Jesus and His plans for us.

Until next time,  
Opal Hatfield  
Jobs of Hope Case Manager



## Men Of Valor Continued

For 2024, Cisco and his team will be working on new teaching methods for each value. By stretching the teaching time over 4-6 weeks, the team will be able to use a variety of teaching methods to reinforce the value being studied. The team will use a combination of book work, guest speakers, video presentations, small group scenarios, community service projects, and spiritual discussions for each unit in the Roundtable discussion guide. The goal is that each client will learn these Roundtable values from a variety of angles and will have a longer time for tracking results and participating in self-reflection.

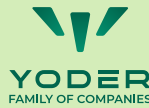
Cisco Davila recently had this to say about the Men of Valor class, “My main focus is to have the men share how they interpret what they are reading and then have them share an experience where they felt like they had hope or felt hopeless; engagement from everyone around the table.”

In the end, that is what the team is imparting - Hope. The Men of Valor team cares for each client and works to ensure that they begin to see life through a new framework or lens. As each client begins to see that they are loved and valued, there is a change that happens in their self-image, confidence and attitude. That change is Hope: hope for the future and hope for a new life!

Jobs of Hope wishes to thank each of our donors. Your financial support makes it possible to feed our men on Tuesday night, to provide class materials, and to teach the class. We also wish to thank Mr. Lee Yoder for his generous donation of the classroom materials.

PS: Diane and Billy made chicken tacos last Tuesday. The guys had a feast!

# Thank You to our Partners



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