



## Laramie Graduates Find Support on Campus

It was the black folder and pen that Amanda noticed first.

"When Maira came in to the HR department to fill out her paperwork, she had her CLIMB Wyoming folder and pen," said Amanda. "There is such a connection between the women that go through CLIMB. I introduced myself right away and let her know that I had recently been in the same spot – a CLIMB graduate starting her first job."

For Maira, seeing a fellow CLIMB graduate as she began her new job at the University of Wyoming was a relief.

"I was so glad Amanda introduced herself," she said. "I was nervous and her support made such a huge difference. She gave me her email and told me to call her with any questions."

Maira is the tenth CLIMB graduate to be placed at the University of Wyoming. Katie Hogarty, CLIMB's Program Director in Laramie, is encouraged by the success of the partnership with the University.

"In addition to jobs that support self-sufficiency, the University offers these families stepping stones to breaking the generational cycle of poverty," said Hogarty. "Most women choose to start taking classes and their children start talking about going to college."

Both Amanda and Maira came to CLIMB looking for a better way to support themselves and their children. Both were working multiple low wage jobs and could not make ends meet. Amanda was surprised by the comprehensiveness of the CLIMB program.

"The mental health part, the group and individual counseling really helped me learn how to problem solve," she said.

Maira agrees.

"I'm very quiet and seeing the nine other women on the first day of the

---

"CLIMB was such a huge life-changing experience. I was prepared to come into this very professional world at the University, and be embraced by it, thanks to CLIMB." — **Amanda**

---

program was overwhelming," she said. "Working with the counselor I learned different techniques for managing my anxiety. I came out of my shell and learned how to be more outspoken."

Amanda is going back to school and working on a degree to advance her career in Human Resources. Maira is enjoying the diversity of her role with the Business Office in Agriculture, working with timesheets and payroll. She enjoys working with numbers and hopes to go back to school for a degree in accounting.



CLIMB graduates Amanda and Maira are two of ten CLIMB graduates that have been placed at the University of Wyoming.

Currently Amanda and Maira seek each other out a few times each week for support and are developing a friendship that might have been hard to initiate without their common experience.

"We both came from CLIMB and it gives us something in common," said Maira. "I love having a friend that I can talk to about work, how grateful we are and what we love about our jobs."

Both credit the CLIMB Wyoming program for preparing them well.

"CLIMB was such a huge life-changing experience," said Amanda. "I was prepared to come into this very professional world at the University, and be embraced by it, thanks to CLIMB."



# Recent RECOGNITION

## CLIMB Founder Dr. Ray Fleming Dinneen Honored during 2015 State of the State

Dr. Ray Fleming Dinneen, Founder and Executive Director of CLIMB Wyoming, a nonprofit organization that trains and places single mothers in careers that successfully support their families, was honored and humbled to be recognized twice during Governor Matt Mead's recent State of the State address.

"We see what the private sector can do to help people become self-reliant," said Governor Mead in his State of the State address to the 63rd Wyoming Legislature. "In 1986, Ray saw that single mothers needed help reaching independence. With her mother Pat she founded CLIMB Wyoming, a nonprofit organization which provides single mothers the resources needed to succeed on their own. The program benefits mothers, children, communities and the state. Ray it has been remarkable all that you have done, please stand so that we can recognize your efforts."

Chief Justice Burke spoke in



CLIMB Wyoming founder Ray Fleming Dinneen is joined by (from left to right) her son Will, husband Jim, Governor Matt Mead, daughter Claire, CLIMB Board President Mary Shafer-Malicki and Cheyenne CLIMB Business Liaison Valerie Arias during the 2015 State of the State

praise of newly named Equal Justice Wyoming (formerly the Wyoming Center for Legal Aid) and recognized the entire board before sharing a special recognition of Fleming Dinneen.

"She has made a wonderful contribution through CLIMB Wyoming and she is also making a wonderful contribution to this access to justice effort," said Chief Justice Burke.



"I think CLIMB is the most marvelous, innovative way to help women improve their lives. It helps the women, it helps their children, it helps their self-esteem, and it gives them money and energy to have a good job to support their family. CLIMB gives them the benefit of self-worth. I love this whole program because of the wholeness - the wellness of the whole body - mental and physical - and the children gain a lot having a mother who is happy in her work and proud of what she is doing." **Liz Rea, Casper, CLIMB INVESTOR**



Please **Save the Date** for our **Cowgirl up for CLIMB** event in Cheyenne on **Friday, July 10!**

If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Baylie Evans at [baylie@climbwyoming.org](mailto:baylie@climbwyoming.org).



## Mary Shafer-Malicki Honors her Mother's Legacy with Matching Gift to CLIMB Mother's Day Campaign

Mary Shafer-Malicki recalls how touched her mother Nancy was when Mary made a donation to CLIMB in her honor as part of the Mother's Day campaign.

"I thought it was a great way to make her aware of the work CLIMB is doing, and speak to her values," said Mary. "I remember seeing that CLIMB card tucked in among the other Mother's Day cards she received, and how special she felt being honored in that way."

As the current Board President of CLIMB, Mary is impassioned by the support CLIMB offers to vulnerable, underserved single mothers across Wyoming. As a retired energy industry executive, Mary also values the respectful, impactful relationships that CLIMB creates with

local businesses to place women in jobs where they can be successful and support themselves.

She can trace her interest in empowering women to her earliest memories of her mom.

"I grew up in a female oriented family," Mary shared. "Six kids and five girls. My dad coached girls' sports and my mom always had us involved in

service groups. I have early memories of my mom joining a group called Neighbors to Neighbors. She would help low income people by taking things to their house, helping them access services and just making sure they had the things they needed. There was an expectation that you should give back."

"My mom instilled in all of us girls that we could do and be anything we wanted to be, to a point that when I was growing up I truly believed I could do and be anything that I wanted to be. And that is why I have been interested in helping women get to a place where they feel they have control and empowerment in their own lives. The CLIMB program fits exactly into that belief."

As she entered the field of engineering, Mary found that the experience of working in a primarily male industry reinforced her desire to help women.

"During my first job working in the oil fields I actually had to get men's steel toe boots because they didn't make them for women. And now, 30 years later you can get custom made women's steel toe boots," said Mary. "My mom and I

always had the biggest laugh about that. She loved talking about how far we've come in allowing women to be heard and to be seen and be present. I think she saw it as something natural for me to do, to support women."

---

Mary and her mother Nancy shared a special passion for supporting and empowering other women.

---

With the recent passing of her mother Nancy, Mary was moved to do something meaningful to honor her mother's legacy. Her generous gift to CLIMB will match Mother's Day donations this year and encourage others to support the CLIMB program.

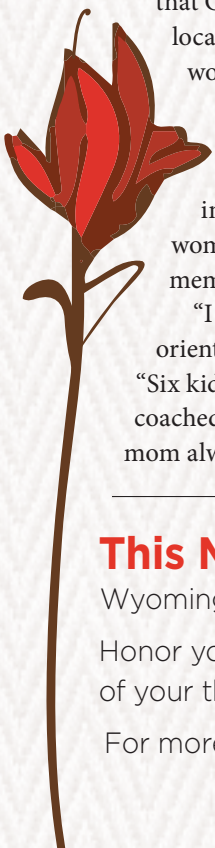
"With this gift, I am honoring the generational impact that my mother had on me and that CLIMB has on future generations who see their own mothers bettering their lives," said Mary. "I know that my mom would love the idea that she is continuing to make an impact on women's lives."



**This Mother's Day** we invite you to join us in our efforts to provide a brighter future for Wyoming's most vulnerable families. **A group of generous donors will match your Mother's Day gift!**

Honor your mother, or a mother you know, by making your gift in her name and we will notify them of your thoughtful gesture with a beautiful card.

For more information and to donate online, please visit our website at [www.climbwyoming.org](http://www.climbwyoming.org).





## CHEYENNE Jessica

Working the night shift was taking a toll on Jessica's family. Her two young children were in daycare sometimes until 10 or 11 pm, and Jessica would have to wake them up to get them home and in to bed.

"I had been looking for a new job for about six months but couldn't find one that didn't require working weekends," she said. "A friend told me about CLIMB and when I saw they were offering a Health Information Technology program I talked to them about getting involved."

Jessica was living with her parents when she started the CLIMB program.

"The job skills training really prepared me for the industry," she said. "We did a lot of medical record training, learned medical terminology and spent a lot of time using excel spreadsheets. I use all

of these things in my job every day."

After completing her training in the CLIMB program, Jessica was placed in a part time position with Patient Financial Services at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

"Within a few days of starting at CRMC a full time position opened up, and my manager helped to get me the training for it," she said. "I picked up everything so quickly that they wanted to keep me there."

CLIMB worked closely with Jessica and CRMC to ensure that the position was a good fit.

Jessica is currently living in her own place and hopes to find a larger home with a backyard for her family. She is excited about the changes in her life since completing the CLIMB program.



"It is wonderful to have insurance and paid time off and vacation days," she said. "And I am home at night now. I can spend time with my kids and get them to bed at a good time."

## TETON AREA Kristena

Kristena wanted to work. Making soaps wasn't enough to support her family and she was actively looking for a job.

"I must have interviewed for 30 to 40 jobs and nothing was working," she said. "I wondered if it was my resume. Was there something wrong with me? I couldn't figure out what I was doing wrong."

"Mindfulness really helped me stay in the moment and fight negative thinking. Knowing how to bring myself back to the moment still helps me today." – **Kristena**

Just before entering the CLIMB program, Kristena was living at the local shelter. Another guest at the shelter knew a few women who had

gone through the CLIMB program and suggested that Kristena check it out.

Kristena's two youngest children weren't living with her when she came to CLIMB.

"I needed to be back in their life, and that was my big push to progress," she said.

Kristena was particularly influenced by two elements of the CLIMB program.

"The practice of mindfulness really stands out – I felt wounded by all that I had gone through, and my self esteem crashed. Mindfulness really helped me stay in the moment and fight negative thinking. Knowing how to bring myself back to the moment still helps me today," said Kristena.

"I also learned how to speak up for myself more. I have a great job with Teton County Parks and Recreation and knowing how to speak up for myself has really helped me with managing conflicts at work."

Kristena has moved into her own place and recently saw her two youngest children. She is saving



money and focused on setting herself up for future success. She hopes that others won't hesitate to reach out for the support that CLIMB offers.

"No matter what you have gone through, reaching out to CLIMB could be the lifeline you need to take the next step."



# Featured EMPLOYER PARTNER

CLIMB works with hundreds of employers across the state to provide them with motivated, highly trained staff and provide our participants with careers that change their lives!



Cyclone Drilling President Patrick Hladky believes it is more than the job skills training in the CLIMB program that prepares CLIMB graduates for the workplace.

"The CLIMB program helps them build a foundation of individual confidence and self-worth," he said.

Cyclone Drilling is an Oil and Gas Drilling contractor in Gillette, WY serving the Rocky Mountain Region. They are celebrating their 40th year in business and currently operate 27 rigs in ND, WY, CO and MT.

CLIMB graduate Christine returned to CLIMB for help with her resume. The timing was perfect as Cyclone Drilling was starting a new warehouse to supply parts to their rigs. Christine was initially hired as a Warehouse Technician and has been promoted to a Purchaser.

"Cyclone Drilling has been a great partner to CLIMB," said Gillette program director Stacie McDonald.

"They support their employees with advancement opportunities and have encouraged Christine to take on more responsibility in her role, allowing her to move up in the organization."

Hladky is interested in a continued relationship with CLIMB.

"Cyclone Drilling has had a good experience with CLIMB and we will continue to pursue this as an option in the future," he said.



## Lucky's Market

The new Lucky's Market in Jackson Hole has invited CLIMB Wyoming to be a recipient of their **Bags for Change** program. For each reusable bag, shoppers receive ten cents to donate to their partner charity of choice, and Lucky's Market will match donations! **CLIMB will be a Bags for Change partner through June 28.** Remember to bring your reusable bags when shopping at Lucky's!



"When my wife Karol was in the Laramie Care Center I learned that some of the nurses had been through the CLIMB program. Although my wife Karol battled dementia

for twelve years, she was the leader in the education of our children. I have to give her credit for the fact that all of our kids are successful and three even have doctoral degrees.

I like to make my gifts to CLIMB from Karol and me in honor of Bob Fleming. We became friends with Bob in 1963 when he built our house. He was always very proud of his children and talked about them all the time.

I have always admired Ray, and I wanted to let her know that I remember her father."

**Jim Slater, Laramie, CLIMB INVESTOR**



## New Hybrid Training in Casper meets Evolving Energy Industry Needs

In response to evolving employer needs in the energy sector, CLIMB Wyoming has developed a hybrid of two successful non-traditional trainings: Warehouse Technology and CDL.

“We launched this new training in Casper in direct response to the needs we were seeing in the oil and gas industry,” said Casper program director Leshia Thorvaldson. “We saw that employers were requiring more flexibility in their workers and that a CDL license allowed them to leverage employees for a variety of projects.”

The hybrid training also increases employment opportunities for CLIMB graduates upon completing the program.

“We are able to place graduates from this program in warehouse positions or as drivers of tractor trailers, as well as smaller trucks. It opens up job opportunities and makes our graduates extremely marketable,” said Thorvaldson.

The first hybrid Warehouse Tech/CDL group will graduate in April in Casper. This same training is also currently being piloted in Gillette.



---

“A long time ago I was reading the New York Times while riding the train to work. I saw an article about CLIMB Wyoming and the work they did to help single moms. I was impressed by the impact that CLIMB made. I like the approach that CLIMB uses – placing single moms in living wage jobs and helping them move forward.”

**John Nissenbaum, New York, CLIMB INVESTOR**

---

**CLIMB Wyoming has launched a new website.**

Visit us at [www.climbwyoming.org](http://www.climbwyoming.org) for information about our program, becoming an employer partner, upcoming trainings and success stories from our participants!



# New BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF



## **WENDY CURRAN** **Board Member**

Wendy Curran is the Senior Director, Care Delivery & Communication for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming. She served

as a Health Policy Advisor for both Governor Matt Mead and Governor Dave Freudenthal and is a former executive director of the Wyoming Medical Society. She has also served as a board member for the Peak Wellness Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Center, Wyoming Health Resources Network and the Wyoming Small Business Development Center. She currently serves as a board member for the University of Wyoming WWAMI Curriculum Review Panel and an advisory board member for the University of Wyoming College of Health and Sciences.



## **MARY LYNNE SHICKICH** **Board Member**

Mary Lynne Shickich is a third generation Wyoming native from Casper. For the past 20 years, she has served in numerous government

and public relations leadership roles both at the state and federal levels. Prior to starting her own government and public relations business, she served as the Vice President of External Affairs, Community Relations and the Hospital Foundation at the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper. She also has served at the Senior Vice President at the Wyoming Hospital Association and as the National Grassroots Project Director at the American Hospital Association in numerous locations around the United States including Washington, D.C. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors in Wyoming.



## **KATI FINI** **Board Member**

Kati Fini is currently employed as a contracted school psychologist with Fremont Public Schools #2 (Dubois, WY) and

Fremont Public Schools #6 (Pavillion, WY). Most recently she was in research at Boston Children's Hospital. She has also worked as a school psychologist in San Mateo, CA; Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center (Greenfield, NH); and Eastern Navajo Agency (Bureau of Indian Affairs - Crownpoint, NM).

With a professional interest in working with underserved populations, Fini believes in the successful approach of the CLIMB Wyoming program and the impact that changing the family has on struggling children. She enjoys exploring Jackson Hole with her husband, two children and their dog.



## **BAYLIE EVANS** **Statewide Development Coordinator**

Baylie came to CLIMB from the Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne where she was responsible for coordinating fundraising,

marketing and grant management. She has a degree in journalism from Colorado State University and spent three years as a reporter for the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. Baylie has lived in Cheyenne for six years. She is married with a 3-year-old daughter and a 9-month-old son.



## **GRACE TORRES** **Assistant Program Director, Gillette**

Grace joined the Gillette CLIMB team in 2014, bringing with her varied business and management

experience. Throughout Grace's life she has always felt passionately about empowering women both in their personal lives and in the workplace. Grace lives in Gillette with her family. When she is not chasing her children to numerous sporting events she enjoys riding her motorcycle and traveling.



## **SARAH BROWN MATHEWS** **Statewide Director of Development**

A Wyoming native, Sarah joins CLIMB with 20 years of development experience including

roles as the Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity in Loveland, CO, Constituent Development Officer at the University of Wyoming Foundation, and most recently as the Major Gifts and Member Stewardship Manager at Wyoming Public Media. She holds a BA in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Natural Science and Education from UW. She has two grown sons with whom she loves to ride roller coasters, ski and spend time with at her family cabin.



## **HEIDI FOY** **Business Liaison, Casper**

Heidi is a Casper native with eight years of nonprofit management and marketing experience. She has worked as an

advocate for the recovery community of Casper and has a strong desire to help people see the best in themselves. After serving in an administrative role, Heidi is excited to work hands on with the women that CLIMB serves and to have a direct positive impact on their lives. Heidi is blessed with a wonderful husband, two step daughters and two children of her own.



## **TOMI BARBOUR** **Contract Mental Health Provider, Gillette**

A Campbell County native, Tomi feels connected and invested to the Gillette community. She has

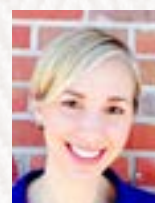
previously worked in Veterans Affairs, youth facilities, and community mental health centers. Tomi joined the CLIMB Wyoming program in August of 2014. In addition to her work at CLIMB, Tomi owns a private practice in Gillette.



## **ERIN O'DOHERTY** **Statewide Development Database Manager**

Erin comes to CLIMB from a background as a research ecologist. When her research lab in Laramie was closed

in 2005, she realized her greatest strengths lie in database management. She began to apply those skills to help her favorite non-profit organizations. She frequently spends quality time with her family on long river trips all around the Rocky Mountain west.



## **ABBEY DOBBLER** **Assistant Program Director, Cheyenne**

A Cheyenne native, Abbey moved back to Wyoming six years ago to begin a career working for a national

non-profit organization. Longing to make a local impact, Abbey was excited to join the Cheyenne CLIMB team. She believes the CLIMB program has the ability to change the outcomes of people's lives, and is committed to working alongside CLIMB mom's to help them do so.





CLIMB Wyoming  
1001 W. 31st Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Address Service Requested

## Board of *Directors*

Mary Shafer-Malicki, **PRESIDENT**  
Father Carl Beavers, **TREASURER**  
Dave Teubner, **SECRETARY**  
Wendy Curran  
Kati Fini  
Frosty Kepler  
Jean Lewis  
Mary Lynne Shickich  
Beth Worthen

Ray Fleming Dinneen, **Psy.D.**  
**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### CASPER

(307) 237-2855  
[casper@climbwyoming.org](mailto:casper@climbwyoming.org)

### CHEYENNE

(307) 778-0094  
[cheyenne@climbwyoming.org](mailto:cheyenne@climbwyoming.org)

### GILLETTE

(307) 685-0450  
[gillette@climbwyoming.org](mailto:gillette@climbwyoming.org)

### LARAMIE

(307) 742-9346  
[laramie@climbwyoming.org](mailto:laramie@climbwyoming.org)

### TETON AREA

(307) 733-4088  
[teton@climbwyoming.org](mailto:teton@climbwyoming.org)

For more information about  
becoming a business partner,  
program participant or investor,

## Contact CLIMB's Home Office

1001 W. 31st Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
(307) 778-4126  
[info@climbwyoming.org](mailto:info@climbwyoming.org)

[www.climbwyoming.org](http://www.climbwyoming.org)

