

Clinb G Ο Μ

**2017 PROGRESS REPORT** 

## **A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER**



Dear Friends,

Climb graduates give me hope. These women enter Wyoming's workforce after program completion with newfound tenacity and confidence. Their children share in the pride and stability that self-sufficiency brings to life. They now can imagine brighter futures of their own.

I hope that you, like me, find hope in the following pages, whether in the story of a mom finding her way or the data and research that show our strong impact on fighting poverty. As Climb celebrates these achievements we also prepare for the challenges ahead. In the past year, we've seen the need for our services grow. We remain nimble and adaptive, never letting our innovation waver in order to stay focused so our Wyoming families find success and purpose.

We are grateful for the strength you give us.

With gratitude,

Ray Hummy Sinneen

Ray Fleming Dinneen, Psy. D.



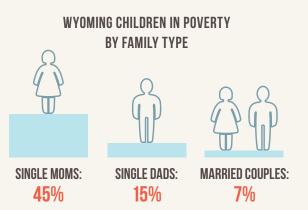
For low-income single mothers to discover self-sufficiency through career training and placement.

# THE CHALLENGES **OF LIVING IN POVERTY**

SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN EXPERIENCE THE HIGHEST RATES OF POVERTY AMONG FAMILIES IN WYOMING.

40% OF WYOMING'S SINGLE MOTHERS with children under age 18 live in poverty.

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Of those, 60% HAVE CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5—the years when the majority of brain development occurs.

(U.S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)



"We moved about 3 or 4 times a year before Climb. We were living on food stamps and all shared one bedroom. My son was having behavior issues. It was just tough on everyone, very depressing."

Read Christina's story on page 15

## EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING INSIGHTS

Recent research indicates that the chronic stress of functioning skills we all need to negotiate the challenges of everyday life, including planning, emotional regulation and decision making.

#### GENERATIONAL POVERTY CREATES SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO JOB SUCCESS. TRAPPING LOW-INCOME SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN A CYCLE THAT CLIMB PARTICIPANTS ARE READY TO BREAK.

## **POVERTY CAUSES TOXIC STRESS FOR ADULTS**

The toxic stress of poverty significantly limits the cognitive bandwidth for adults—similar to a decrease in 13 IQ points.<sup>3</sup>

Almost a **OUARTER** report moving 3 or more times in the past year, and almost **HALF** have changed jobs more than 3 times in a year.

82% have not accessed educational advancement beyond high school.

## $\left( \right)$ **POVERTY COMPROMISES YOUNG ADULT JOB SUCCESS**

<sup>1</sup> "Poverty Shrinks Brains from Birth," Nature, March 2015

<sup>2</sup> "Child Poverty and Adult Success," Urban Institute, September 2015

<sup>3</sup> "Poverty Impacts Cognitive Function," Science, August 2013



## **CLIMB'S** SINGLE MOTHERS

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### **POVERTY DEVASTATES** CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The effects of poverty on the early childhood brain include diminished capacity for learning, language and emotional control.<sup>1</sup>

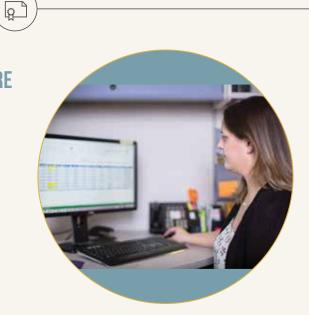
Young adults who grow up in deep poverty are 37% less likely than their counterparts to be consistently employed.<sup>2</sup>

# **EMPLOYMENT AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE**

THE COMPLEXITIES OF POVERTY CANNOT BE FULLY ADDRESSED BY SIMPLY FINDING SOMEONE A JOB. THE CLIMB PROGRAM CONSIDERS THAT LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY DEPENDS NOT JUST ON EMPLOYMENT BUT ON THE ABILITY TO NAVIGATE DECISIONS, CONFLICTS, CHALLENGES AND EMOTIONS SUCCESSFULLY.

## **CLIMB TRAINS SINGLE MOMS WHO ARE READY FOR JOBS THAT EXIST**

- Real-time research and collaboration with local employers identify existing job opportunities.
- Potential participants commit to the . rigorous Climb program.



## CLIMB IS INTENTIONALLY DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE LEARNING AND PREPARE PARTICIPANTS FOR SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT

JOB SKILLS are technical and relevant to professional opportunities. SOFT SKILLS like workplace communication and conflict engagement support workplace success. LIFE SKILLS like parenting and budgeting provide tools to manage life outside of work. COUNSELING addresses barriers that would interfere with success in the workplace.

#### WORKING WITH GROUPS

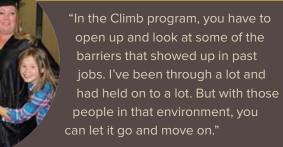
accelerates learning through interaction and builds networks that last beyond the program.

CONSISTENT STRUCTURE models that a crisis doesn't need to derail progress.

**RELATIONSHIPS** build trust and safety.

## **CLIMB IS A RESOURCE FOR GRADUATES**

- Graduates can return to Climb for support with job transitions, promotions and workplace issues.
- Monthly lunches are a networking opportunity and prompt referrals of new moms for future programs.



Read Sara's story on page 16



Climb intentionally works with groups of women during the program to allow participants an intense opportunity to engage with their relationships that create support networks (social capital) outside the Climb program.









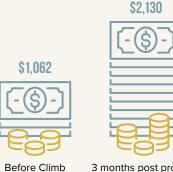
# THE PATH **TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

CLIMB GRADUATES EXPERIENCE A CRITICAL SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-WORTH BY BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THIS EMPOWERMENT IS A HUGE MOTIVATOR FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS, AND THE STATE OF WYOMING SEES A SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS.

#### "It's one of the best programs in the country."

Kevin Concannon, Former U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Casper Star-Tribune, January 2016







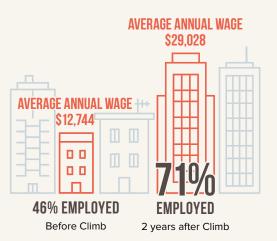


"Since Climb, I've been able to move up the career ladder instead of working so hard in a low-wage job and feeling like I'm not going anywhere. My daughter wants to be a brain surgeon. She says I've inspired her."

Read Mary's story on page 18

## **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING INSIGHTS**

After Climb, participants show improvement in several skills that we all need to manage the challenges of life and work, reporting a decrease in the number of times their behavior interferes with work and relationships.



## **MOVING OFF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

**FOOD STAMP USAGE BY SUPPLEMENTAL** NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) PARTICIPANTS



Wyoming saves \$801,768 annually from decreased food stamp use among graduates.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Poverty Interrupted: Applying Behavioral Science to the Context of Chronic Scarcity," Ideas 42, May 2015

<sup>2</sup> Based on graduates two years post program.

All data represent Climb's most recent 5-year cumulative outcomes.





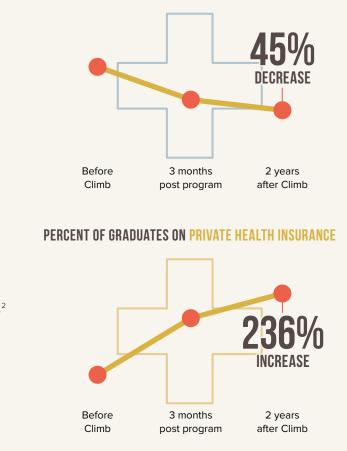
## **INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

A **\$10,000** increase in annual income for families in poverty averaged over the first five years of a child's life nearly TRIPLES the odds that he or

she will finish high school.<sup>1</sup>

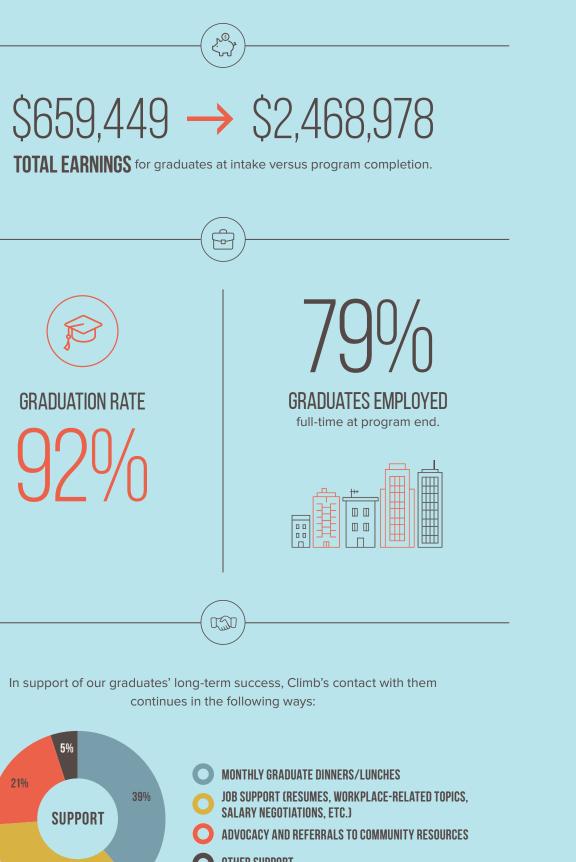


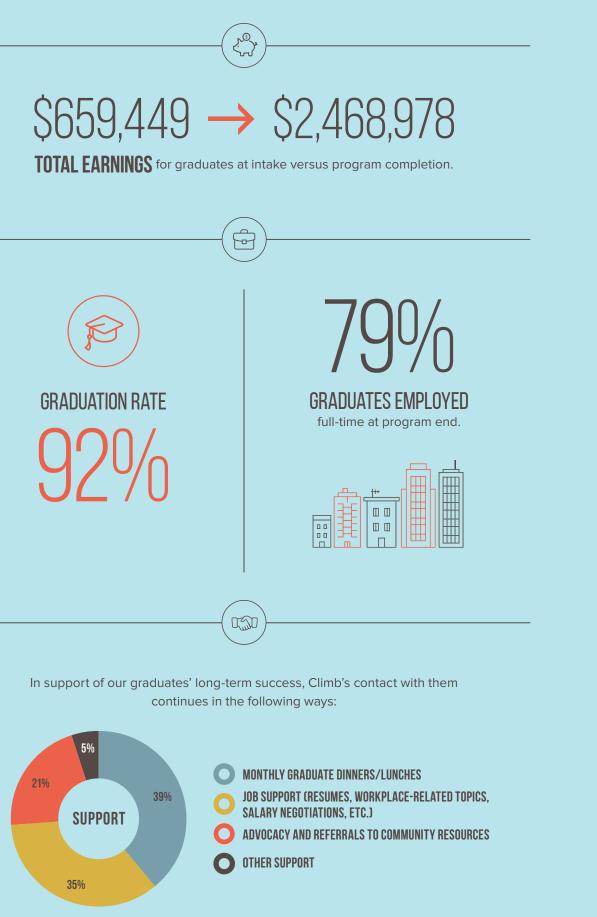
#### PERCENT OF GRADUATES ON PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE





**BY THE NUMBERS** OCTOBER 1, 2016-SEPTEMBER 30, 2017





# **THANK YOU EMPLOYER** PARTNERS

YOU ARE PART OF CHANGING A FAMILY'S FUTURE. YOU SEE FIRSTHAND HOW A NEW CAREER IMPACTS SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN!

## **FY17 PROGRAM TRAININGS**

Climb engages with local employers to create trainings that meet Wyoming's most current workforce needs. During job placement, staff support the employer-employee relationship with follow-up meetings to establish performance evaluations, problem solve, and communicate for long-term success.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING (CDL) GED CERTIFICATION/INTRO TO PROFESSIONAL CAREERS INTRO TO CONSTRUCTION TRADES INTRO TO MEDICAL CAREERS/MEDICAL OFFICE CAREERS **OFFICE CAREERS** PROFESSIONAL WORKFLOW SPECIALIST WAREHOUSE INVENTORY



More than **50%** of Climb's trainings this year were in the MEDICAL FIELD in response to Wyoming's need for healthcare workers.

## THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING **EMPLOYERS WHO PARTNERED** WITH CLIMB IN FY17:

#### CASPER

All About Family Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions Central Wyoming Skin Clinic **Douglas Care Center** Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital **Express Employment Professionals** Farm Bureau Financial Services Farmers Insurance Garden Square Assisted Living Gastroenterology Associates Greiner Ford Mountain Plaza Assisted Living Interim HealthCare of Casper One Call of Wyoming **Poplar Living Center** Shepherd of the Valley Healthcare Community Summit Home Health Care Wyoming Medical Center

### CHEYENNE

Youth Crisis Center

AZCO Inc. Cheyenne Eye Clinic Chevenne Healthcare Center Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Cheyenne Skin Clinic Continue Care Home Health Croell Redi-Mix Duran Construction Employee Onboarding Services, LLC Granite Rehabilitation and Wellness Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County Holly Frontier JE Dunn Construction Lincare Inc. Meridian Trust FCU Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 192

Stitches Acute Care 4 Quarters Excavation & Development Inc. United States Postal Service US Engineering Wyoming Bank & Trust

### GILLETTE

Above The Line CPAs Campbell County Health – BHS Campbell County Health – ER Campbell County Health – Med Surg Campbell County Health – OB Campbell County Health Hospice Campbell County Health Legacy Campbell County School District -Stocktrail Elementary School Campbell County Sheriff's Office Gillette Optometric Clinic Personal Frontiers, Inc. Primrose Retirement Community -Gillette Priority Property Management Sharon's Home Health Care Wyoming Child and Family Services, Inc.

### LARAMIE

Albany County School District #1 **ARTech Services** Honeywagon Sanitation Pumping Laramie Mechanical Modern Printing Company University of Wyoming – Material Services University of Wyoming – Operations University of Wyoming – Transit and Parking Services

### SWEETWATER AREA

Best Home Health & Hospice Cedars Health – Rock Springs Deer Trail Assisted Living NOWCAP Services Rocky Mountain Home Care Sage View Care Center

"Climb has helped us address a nationwide shortage of bus drivers. With Climb, you're getting an employee who is technically sound and mentally ready, who knows how to communicate and is ready to work and take the initiative."

Randy Wilkison, Transportation Director, Albany County School District #1, Laramie

#### "Healthcare is a complex business, and our Climb employee already grasped the concepts and had a areat foundation for the healthcare work environment because of her Climb training. It's challenging to find these professional candidates, so I appreciate Climb's role in making that connection for us in the community."

Bryan Lords, Patient Financial Services Manager, Patient Access, St. John's Medical Center, Jackson

#### **TETON AREA**

Aspen Physical Therapy Emerg-A-Care – Jackson Hole Global Ties Wyoming Jackson Whole Family Health LR Computer Services Lucky's Market Premier Green Cleaning Services St. John's Living Center St. John's Medical Center Teton County School District #1

The Senior Center of Jackson Hole

Wind River Dental

"The care and support these women experience through the Climb program carries over to the workplace in the form of selfconfidence and the ability to ask questions and be very open to training experiences. To see their personal and professional growth is amazing!"

> Katherine Moczulski RN, BSN, Administrator, Rocky Mountain Home Care, Green River

## **SUCCESS STORIES**

## **CASPER**

## SUCCESS STORY | JEN

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 2 WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: Unemployed CURRENT OCCUPATION: Service Associate, Farm Bureau Financial Services WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$2,513/month TRAINING: Office Careers

"I had a lot of discouragement with jobs before Climb. I felt like there was no point in trying to even get another job. I'd had issues with coworkers and just didn't feel like I had a place in the working world.

At first, I had the least amount of confidence in maintaining relationships of anyone in my Climb program. But by the end, the one-on-one and group counseling had really helped me come



out of my shell. For my son, that's been a great lesson. I tell him, 'Don't assume you're not good enough, put yourself out there!'

Climb was there in the beginning of my job placement and helped me learn how to speak to my bosses when I had a problem. I'm really focused on maintaining positive workplace communications now rather than just blowing up and saying, 'I quit.'"

## CASPER AT A GLANCE



(U.S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)

#### 452 MOMS & 822 CHILDREN

have been served through our Casper program



Average monthly income before and after Climb

Single-mother families living below poverty level in Casper:  45% with children under age 18

**40%** with children under age 5



"Before Climb, we were living on food stamps. We had to share a bedroom, and my son was having a lot of behavioral issues.

My kids were really proud of me for doing Climb and trying to provide better for them. My son would always say, 'I'm proud of you, mommy.' The training made me feel more confident in my abilities to work outside of the food industry.

## **CHEYENNE AT A GLANCE**



J.S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)

## CHEYENNE

## SUCCESS STORY | CHRISTINA

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3 WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: \$455/month, Food Service CURRENT OCCUPATION: Ophthalmic Technician, Cheyenne Eye Clinic WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$2,253/month TRAINING: Administrative Professionals

I brought my daughter to work with me recently and she said, 'Wow mom, you're really smart.' It does make me feel really smart to be able to teach my kids new things. We're now off benefits completely. We're hoping to be able to start buying a house soon and a new car. We have money in the bank, and my son's behavior has gotten a lot better now that we're stable."

#### 851 MOMS & 1,093 CHILDREN

have been served through our Cheyenne program since 2004

\$994 → \$2,031 Average monthly income before and after Climb

Single-mother families living below poverty level in Cheyenne: **36%** with children under age 18

**50%** with children under age 5

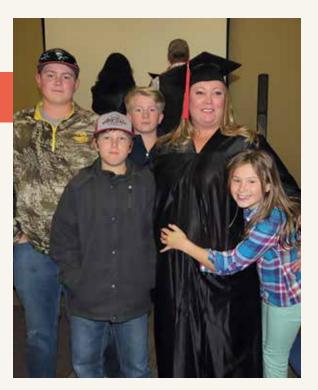
## GILLETTE

## SUCCESS STORY | SARA

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 4 WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: Unemployed CURRENT OCCUPATION: Apartment Manager, NEW Management WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$3,102/month TRAINING: Professional Workflow Specialist

"As a mother, you have to try to hold yourself together when things are hard, but when you have to decide whether to keep the lights on or put food on the table, it's extremely stressful. I had no healthcare, no PTO, no 401k. It was just take your paycheck and go home, and it meant relying on state support.

At Climb, you have to open up and look at what's held you back. You shed a lot of tears, but that's



part of growing with other people in a nonjudgmental environment.

We're not on any state assistance anymore, and it's amazing to not have to rely on anybody. We don't have to struggle to go to the grocery store or worry about new school shoes or supplies. There's less stress and chaos—in my house and in my job. I just got married and life is good!"

## GILLETTE AT A GLANCE



(U.S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)

#### 279 MOMS & 600 CHILDREN

have been served through our Gillette program



Average monthly income before and after Climb

Single-mother families living below poverty level in Gillette: **25%** with children under age 18

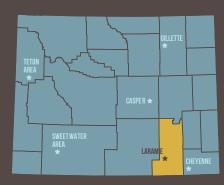
**47%** with children under age 5



"When I first arrived in Laramie, I was homeless, scared, alone and moving around a lot. I believed others who said, 'You'll never amount to anything, there's no job that you'll have for more than a couple months.' I thought I was going to live in a rut my whole life.

Within the first day of starting Climb, we were delving into really deep issues, having these hard conversations with strangers, but by the

## LARAMIE AT A GLANCE



S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)

## LARAMIE

## SUCCESS STORY | HAILEY

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 5 WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: Unemployed CURRENT OCCUPATION: Senior Materials Handler, University of Wyoming WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$2,170/month TRAINING: Heating and Ventilation Systems

time those weeks were over, we were far from strangers.

Now I wake up every morning looking forward to going to work. I sometimes want to go on Saturdays! I never thought I'd be at a place in life where I was standing on my own two feet. We live in a townhouse and I'm hoping soon to get the first raise in my whole life. I couldn't ask for a better life at the moment!"

#### 260 MOMS & 474 CHILDREN

have been served through our Laramie program

## $950 \rightarrow 1,854$

Average monthly income before and after Climb

Single-mother families living below poverty level in Laramie: **54%** with children under age 18

**55%** with children under age 5

## **SWEETWATER**

## SUCCESS STORY | MARY

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3

WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: \$1,668/month, Hospitality Aide, Sage View Care Center

**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** CNA/Central Supply/ Transports, Sage View Care Center

WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$2,860/month TRAINING: Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

"Since Climb, I've been able to move up the ladder instead of working so hard and feeling like I'm not going anywhere. I didn't have health insurance for any of my kids before, and my medical bills just went to collections. That was hard.

I figured I was just doing the CNA training at Climb, but the counseling and support has really helped. Being in a room with all those other



women helped me be more open with co-workers and showed me how to think before I talk. I'm now part of a management team, and these communication skills have been really important.

I'm now one of the highest paid CNAs at work. My kids can get things they need for school, and I don't have to beg, steal and borrow to make it happen for them. It's just a great sense of accomplishment."

## SWEETWATER AT A GLANCE



(U.S. Census Bureau 2014/2015)

#### 171 MOMS & 345 CHILDREN

have been served through our Sweetwater Area program



Single-mother families

level in Rock Springs:

47% with children under age 18

**71%** with children under age 5



"I was working in housekeeping before Climb. It was stressful because I did double shifts so was working in the morning and then at night. I didn't see my kids and they would always ask, 'When are you coming back?' They didn't want to go to school and were fighting a lot. I was mentally and physically drained.

At Climb, it was okay to say what you thought, and there was no judgment. We got connected

## **TETON AREA AT A GLANCE**



## **TETON AREA**

## SUCCESS STORY | GLORIA

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 3 WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: \$364/month, Housekeeper CURRENT OCCUPATION: Front Desk Receptionist, Emerg-A-Care – Jackson Hole WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$2,946/month TRAINING: Medical Office Careers

to community resources like counseling for my kids. It used to be that I'd ask for help and get down about it—now I can pick up the phone.

I'd never had a mock interview, it was always, 'Here's a job you're stuck with it.' I have such great healthcare benefits now. I'm not as tired as I was and have energy to go home to my kids."

#### 202 MOMS & 380 CHILDREN

have been served through our Teton Area program

 $\$980 \rightarrow \$2,232$ Average monthly income before and after Climb

Single-mother families living below poverty level in Jackson:

**31%** with children under age 18

# **YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT. Climb invested \$15,877 in Kayleigh, and as a result she will earn an additional \$873.600<sup>1</sup> during her lifetime.



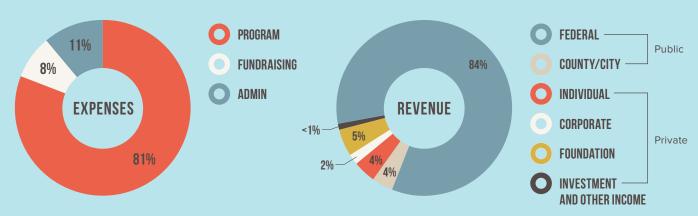
## CLIMB INVESTMENT IN KAYLEIGH: \$15,877<sup>2</sup>

	LIFE SKILLS: 26%	JOB Training: 53%	MENTAL HEALTH: 21%	
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## YEAR-ONE INCREASE IN WAGES: \$20.800 LIFETIME INCREASE IN WAGES: \$873,600

<sup>1</sup> Assumes retirement at age 65 and no wage increase. <sup>2</sup> Average cost/Climb participant is \$20,000.

## **FY17 FINANCIALS**



## **KAYLEIGH**

**AGE (AT CLIMB APPLICATION): 23** 

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 1** 

**TRAINING:** Office Careers

WAGE BEFORE CLIMB: \$9,360/year, Food Service

WAGE AFTER CLIMB: \$30,160/year, Accounting, University of Wyoming, Departments of Botany and Molecular Biology

"I don't even know who I would have become without Climb. I didn't think I would be doing accounting, I didn't even know what QuickBooks was! The closest I had come to doing anything like that before was counting the register. I don't need food stamps anymore and went from not being able to afford rent to being able to live in my own house. For my son, it looks like he will most definitely have a better future than if I didn't have this career. I can now afford to save money for his college fund, unlike before when I had nothing. Once I made the choice to do Climb, both of our lives were changed forever."

## **FY17 INVESTORS** FISCAL YEAR (OCTOBER 2016-SEPTEMBER 2017)

#### THIS YEAR'S CLIMB PROGRAMS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR DONORS.

Thank you to our FUNDING FUTURES **GIVING SOCIETY DONORS for their** pledges that contribute to our stability and help us plan ahead

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#### Gifts were made

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#### "Climb provides the opportunity for our contribution to bless the lives of these mothers and their children in providing hope for a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this great program."

#### -Dave Young, Tata Chemicals North America (TCNA)

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