

Restoring Hope for Generations

## A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

As I reflect on my 33 years with single mothers guiding my life, those of you who have joined us in our mission come to mind.

When you invest in Climb Wyoming, you support our rigorous data collection, which you see on the pages of this report. These strong outcomes continue to pique national interest in an organization that's unique to Wyoming. Our graduation rates consistently exceed those of other programs. Our moms report notable longterm stability and higher household incomes that increase the chance that their children will graduate from high school.

Climb Wyoming's graduates move beyond the chaos that so often defines families in poverty and join all of us to make Wyoming proud.

Hay Himmy Jenneer Ray Fleming Dinneen, Psy.D. Climb Wyoming Founder and Executive Director



Dr. Ray Fleming Dinneen (center) stands with several Climb graduates and staff for the multimedia project Women in Wyoming. The images are on exhibit at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody until August 2020. © Lindsay Linton Buk / Women in Wyoming

## **SUCCESS STORIES INSIDE**

TETON AREA <b>4</b>	LARAMIE 10
SWEETWATER AREA 6	GILLETTE
CHEYENNE 8	CASPER14

"Climb Wyoming's graduates move beyond and join all of us to make Wyoming proud."

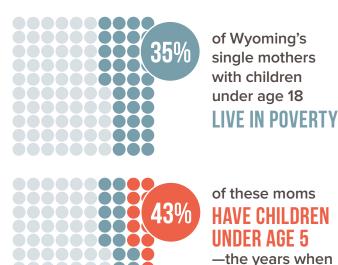
# LIVING IN POVERTY TOXIC STRESS AND TOUGH CHOICES

Single mothers and their children experience the highest rates of poverty among families in Wyoming. The women we serve are living in crisis: unemployed or working low-wage jobs that don't provide financial stability, dealing with stress that is toxic for the brain, and struggling to cover basic needs like food and housing.



### WYOMING CHILDREN

live in single-mother families in poverty

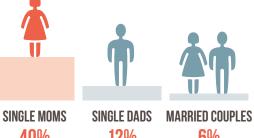


the majority of brain

development occurs

## BY FAMILY TYPE

**WYOMING CHILDREN IN POVERTY** 





"Bills weren't getting paid, and we had to ask for help anywhere we could get it. We went without a lot of necessities, and I had to make some tough choices about what and how we were eating."

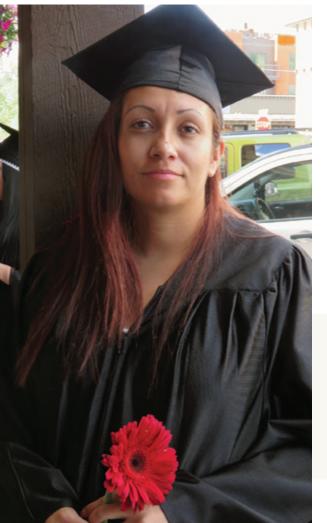
> Jamie. Climb Graduate (read her story on page 10)

the chaos that so often defines families in poverty

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# THE PROGRAM A JOURNEY TO PERMANENT LIFE CHANGE

Climb has evolved over the past 30 years into one of the nation's most successful models for moving families out of poverty. By working intentionally in groups, the program allows women to build relationships, learn conflict resolution and self-regulation, accelerate their job skills, and find success at work and at home.



"At first. I was terrified to drive a truck and would tell myself 'I can't do this,' as I sat frozen behind the wheel. But having the other women in my group encourage me was really important. Also, my counselor was someone I could always talk to and not feel judged. All that support got me through, especially my kids saying, 'Mom, you got this!' I went on to earn both my Class A and B driving certifications. Now I'm super confident getting into that truck. I'm not nervous, not at all. I feel a huge change in my confidence overall. Nothing is holding me back now."



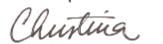
### CHRISTINA | 2 CHILDREN COMMERCIAL DRIVING (CDL) | TETON AREA

**WAGES BEFORE AND AFTER CLIMB:** 

(part-time administrative)

\$1,275/month >> \$2,570/month, Bus Driver, Sublette County School District #1

"Having the other women in my group encourage me was really important."



### WHAT'S INCLUDED



### **Mental Health**

Tools to manage life outside work, including parenting, conflict management, and budgeting

Life Skills

## Services

Individual and group counseling with licensed therapists to address barriers at work

### Job Training

Industry-specific skills, resume building, mock interviews, and workplace professionalism

### **Job Placement** Selected based on

each participant's unique strengths and interests with continued support and performance evaluations with employers

### Graduate Services

Ongoing support through group lunches, resume assistance, and advice on workplace issues and wage increases



**GRADUATION RATE** in 2019





# THE JOBS MEETING WYOMING'S WORKFORCE NEEDS

Climb has the unique flexibility to respond to Wyoming's ever-changing economy and guickly address critical labor shortages in different industries throughout the state. Employers can help change a family's future and see firsthand how a new career impacts single mothers and their children.



MEGAN | 1 CHILD COMMERCIAL DRIVING (CDL) | SWEETWATER AREA **WAGES BEFORE AND AFTER CLIMB:** Unemployed → \$3,467/month,

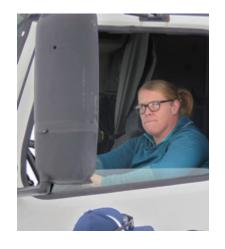
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Driver, AmeriGas

"I was unemployed before Climb and had to guit a job that went from 5 a.m. to late at night because I ran out of daycare options. I had left an abusive relationship, and we were homeless and really on the verge of disaster. Now I work a regular daytime schedule that's better for my son and make twice as much money. I drive a 3,000-pound propane truck and love my job. Climb supported me through it all. When I didn't have a decent pair of pants to wear for my job interview, the staff took me shopping for that and winter clothing to wear on the job. That kind of support makes it possible to push forward through the hard things."

"Now I work a regular daytime schedule that's better for my son and make twice as much money."

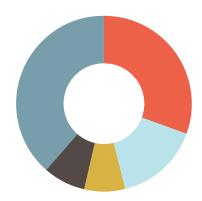




"I manage two locations and have always had a tough time getting help because of a lack of qualified drivers in the workforce. Climb has really helped me out with this need. Megan is an excellent driver. She has been a rock star! I definitely recommend Climb to other employers."

> Tyler Maxfield District Manager, AmeriGas

### 2019 TRAINING PROGRAMS



- COMMERCIAL DRIVING (CDL)
- CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)
- OFFICE CAREERS
- PROFESSIONAL WORKFLOW SPECIALIST
- PIPEFITTING

### **GRADUATES EMPLOYED**

full-time at program end in 2019

### THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYERS WHO PARTNERED WITH CLIMB IN 2019!

### **CASPER**

Bear Country Home Healthcare Casper Mountain Rehabilitation and Care Center Edgewood Meadow Winds Epsilon Home Health Primrose Retirement Community

of Casper Scientific Drilling International Shepherd of the Valley

Healthcare Community

### CHEYENNE

Aspen Wind Assisted Living Chevenne Healthcare Center Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Croell Inc. – Cheyenne 4 Quarters Excavation Fresenius Kidney Care – Cheyenne Granite Rehabilitation and Wellness Home Instead Senior Care Knife River – Cheyenne Life Care Center of Chevenne Primrose Retirement Community of Cheyenne Synergy Home Health UA Local 192 Plumbers and Pipefitters

Wyoming Education Association

### GILLETTE

Campbell County Health Main Clinic Campbell County Senior Center E & S Services First National Bank of Gillette **HUB** International Interstate PowerSystems Knell Enterprises Lubnau Law Office, P.C. Pluggin' Along Tisdale Creek Ranch, Inc. Team Properties Group, LLC TIMCO Service and Supply Walker Inspection, LLC Wyoming Child and Family

Development

Wyoming Transfer, LLC

LARAMIE Albany County School District #1 -Transportation Family Physicians of Laramie Spring Wind Assisted Living United Parcel Service University of Wyoming – Retail Operations University of Wyoming – WYSAC Wyoming Community Foundation Wyoming Disposal Systems

### **SWEETWATER AREA**

AmeriGas Basic Energy Services – Rock Springs Commerce Bank of Wyoming Fremont Motors Genesis Alkali Greene's Energy Services, Inc. Infinity Power and Controls Killer B Trucking Lewis & Lewis, Inc. Maxam US, LLC Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County Rock Springs Family Practice Tata Chemicals United Vision Logistics Western Wyoming Beverages, Inc.

Wyoming Financial Insurance, Inc.

### **TETON AREA**

Curran Seeley Foundation DS Services, LLC Farm Bureau Financial Services Jenkins Lumber & Hardware Northern Title Sublette County School District #1 Teton Trust Company The Turning Point Voss Vision Wilderness Adventures Wyoming Landscape Contractors

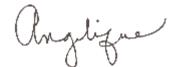
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# EARNING A SELF-SUFFICIENT WAGE THE UPWARD TREND

After just three months, Climb graduates are starting new careers and discovering new lives. After two years, they are continuing an upward trend, earning self-sufficient wages and benefits that allow them to transition off public assistance and provide financial stability for their children.



"My job placement with the local Plumbers and Pipefitters Union began with a construction company building air conditioning units for servers at a Microsoft facility, and now I'm an apprentice with the union and on track to become a Journeywoman! This is the most money I've ever made in my entire life and my first steady job. I didn't work before Climb, other than waitressing in high school, but had to find a job when my partner went to prison. With my wages, I've been able to move out of my parents' house and get my own car. The kids now have their own rooms and a place they know is theirs. It feels great to be able to give them what they need."



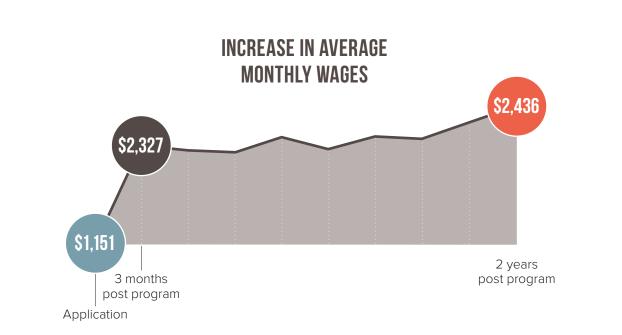
"The kids now have their own rooms and a place they know is theirs.

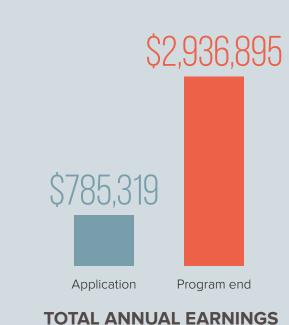
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Local 192



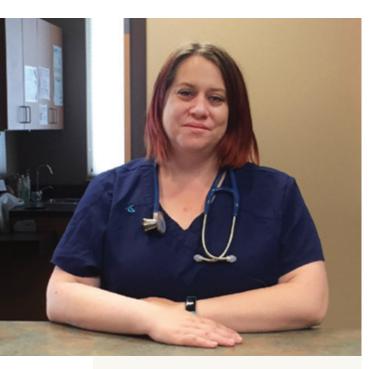


**FOR 2019 GRADUATES** 



# THE PATH TO INDEPENDENCE MOVING OFF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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. In addition, the state of Wyoming sees a significant savings as these families move off public assistance.



JAMIE | 2 CHILDREN

INTRO TO MEDICAL CAREERS | LARAMIE

WAGES BEFORE AND AFTER CLIMB:

Unemployed \$2,080/month,

Family Physicians

of Laramie



"Now I have medical insurance for the first time in 15 years. I'm back in school to become a nurse."

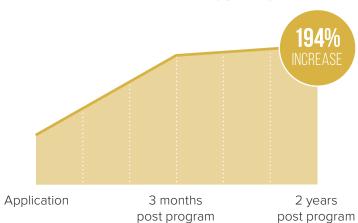
"I was stuck before Climb. We were on all the government assistance you can get, including subsidized housing. We went without a lot of necessities, and I had to make some tough choices about what and how we were eating. I had no medical insurance for myself so went without prescriptions, doctor visits, and being able to take care of some health issues I had at the time. Now I have medical insurance for the first time in 15 years. I'm back in school to become a nurse. I always wanted to be in the medical field but didn't finish college and didn't think I could ever go back. Climb said, 'yes you can!' Now my kids get to see how hard work pays off."



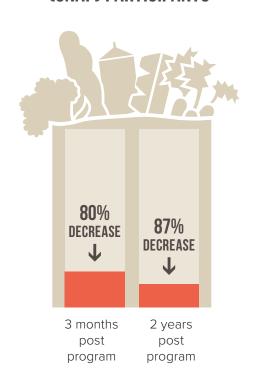
## PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES ON PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE



## PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES ON PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE



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



Wyoming saves \$871,464 annually from decreased food stamp use among graduates.

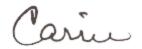
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# GENERATIONAL POVERTY BREAKING THE CYCLE

Poverty that is passed down from one generation to the next creates significant barriers to job success, trapping low-income single mothers and their children in a cycle that Climb participants are ready to break. When you help a single mother get back on her feet, the effect lasts for generations.



"My kids are extremely proud of me. I work in an enormous warehouse with engines of all sizes. Before, my kids were always worried about how I would pay for things. Our worries now are alleviated—little ones and big ones, too. I can now buy them school clothes that aren't on sale or second hand. I have one daughter enrolled in school to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. They're more settled because I am. It rubs off—my kids are sad when I'm stressed out. They see how hard I've worked to get to where I am today. I grew up in poverty, so it really was me being brave and bold to create a more hopeful future for my children after feeling so lost for a long time."





"I grew up in poverty, so it really was me being brave and bold to create a more hopeful future for my children after feeling so lost for a long time." If you spend your **entire** childhood in poverty, you are 5 times less likely to graduate from high school.



## THE TWO-GENERATION LINK BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Children benefit when parents increase their education and income. They have greater access to academic and extracurricular activities, more stable schedules at home, and role models for career success.



## YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## 2019 FINANCIALS

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2019 INVESTORS (OCTOBER 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2019)

Elaine T. Kukla

This year's Climb programs would not have been possible without generous contributions from our donors.

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Kate Finley

Ruth Case

Marilyn Burgesor

Val Burbidge

Nancy Binks-Lyman



TONJA | AGE 25 | 2 CHILDREN WAREHOUSE TECH | CASPER **CURRENT OCCUPATION:** 

Bulk Plant Operator, Rock Hard Cementing

"When I moved my family to Casper, the only thing I had was the kids and our clothes. I was really scared about what was happening and where we would end up. Climb saved us. I had been working in fast food and was ready to get out of that and a string of dead-end jobs that wouldn't support my kids. Climb taught me a lot that I didn't know about the workforce I had never done a resume or had a formal job interview. I'm in my dream job now. I've earned several raises as my company has seen my skills and work ethic. I have a lot of responsibility as I run the plant's operations. I feel great that when my kids are older and they've seen all my hard work, it will help them when they go through hard times. We're really moving up, and it's exciting."

**INCREASE IN ANNUAL WAGES** 



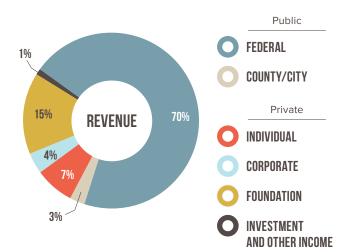
**CLIMB INVESTMENT** IN TONJA

### **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

Year One 3.1:1

Lifetime\*\* 124.7:1

PROGRAM **EXPENSES** FUNDRAISING ADMIN 81%



Cost per participant varies depending on training type.

\* Lifetime earnings assume retirement at age 65 and no wage increase.

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

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### Gifts made IN HONOR OF:

Gene and Frances Wilson

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All moms All the great women at Climb WY! Betty Ainsworth Penne and Scott Ainsworth Dora Anselmi Valerie Arias Erin Arnold Barkley's birthday Mildred Badgley Susan Bates Georgia Befus Virginia Bell Nancy Beyer

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### SOURCES:

2019 data reference Climb's fiscal year (Oct. 2018-Sept. 2019). All other data represent Climb's most recent 5-year cumulative outcomes.

Page 3: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017

Page 3: Kids Count Data Center, 2017

Page 13: Children's Defense Fund, Annie E. Casey Foundation

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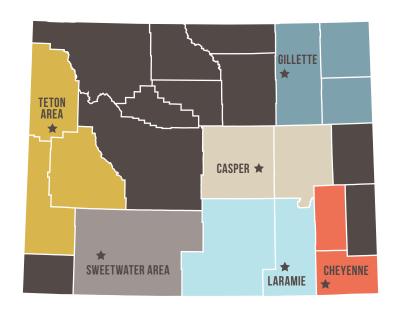
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