



Climb
W Y O M I N G

Inspiring stories and updates
from around the state that
you help make possible!



Nicole's family story

A graduate pays it forward to start a career as a social worker and help Wyoming families thrive.

What does it mean to combine your passion with your profession? For Nicole, it has involved a lot of hard work to forge a career that melds successful employment with a strong desire to help people facing hardship.

Since overcoming addiction several years ago, Nicole has wanted to find a way to work in social services or drug and alcohol counseling. Her Climb Wyoming training in 2016 was the first chapter in this journey, a critical step that she says took her from working at a grocery store where she had a tough schedule to a job placement at a law office.

"Getting that job was such a big deal for me, especially since I'd been convicted of a felony years earlier," Nicole says. "If you have a criminal record, it can feel like a lot of doors close to employment opportunities. It was monumental that Climb helped me get past that background to work in a legal setting."

With a job that offered great benefits and a more sustainable salary to support her family, Nicole began working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology. She eventually transitioned to a new position as the office manager at the Counseling Center in Gillette, where she finished her degree and learned more about the field of mental health.

"I want my clients to know that change is possible and that they don't have to be stuck where they're at. What defines us is who we become, not who we were."

Now Nicole has started her next chapter as a social worker with the Wyoming Department of Family Services, conducting intake assessments and helping families access counseling, financial assistance, and housing.

"I want my clients to know that change is possible and that they don't have to be stuck where they're at," says Nicole. "What defines us is who we become, not who we were, and if it wasn't for Climb, I wouldn't be where I'm at today. It has given me the strength to keep moving forward."



Photos: (Above) Nicole at her Climb training eight years ago holding up a sign that says, "I am becoming a person who is less insecure about my past and more of an inspiration to my children." Today, her oldest daughter (left) is in high school. After seeing her mom earn a degree in psychology and become a social worker, she wants to be a counselor someday.

Your *support* makes all of this (and more!) possible.



Climb's current Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program in Casper is using special "simulation" kits provided by the **University of Wyoming's Center on Aging** that help demonstrate what it feels like to have dementia and other age-related diagnoses. The kits build job skills and empathy as moms prepare to work in nursing homes, assisted living, and hospice. According to the American Health Care Association, 98% of nursing homes face issues hiring new staff, and each year Climb graduates help fill these critical shortages in Wyoming.

The **Wyoming Public Radio show "Open Spaces"** aired a story on Climb's strong statewide outcomes. In the segment, Korin Schmidt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Family Services, says inter-generational programs like Climb have powerful, long-lasting impacts. "[Moms] become part of a wonderful cycle of learning that helps to give all the children living in the home the opportunity to see what it's like to be successful," says Schmidt.



LISTEN TO THE STORY HERE:



Founded almost 40 years ago, Climb continues to be part of national-level conversations on how to help vulnerable families find economic security, health, and well-being. Ascend at the Aspen Institute recently named Climb part of its **2Gen Accelerator Community**, a group of organizations selected to codify and document their multi-generation approaches so that more can be done across the country to strengthen families.

The trauma and toxic stress of living in poverty can impact the way our brains function, but Climb's psychologically informed approach means graduates make great strides in improving their mental well-being for success in work and life. **Seventy-five percent of participants report improved executive functioning skills** post-program, including planning and decision-making, emotional regulation, and organization.



FEATURED EMPLOYER

Partnership

A service provider for the trucking industry finds the perfect employee to help drivers succeed in finance and business.



Photos: (Left) Alysha during a check-in with ATBS's Doug Roehrkasse and (right) speaking at Climb's commencement.

When Alysha left her job at a truck stop off I-80 near Laramie to start the Climb program, she never imagined it would lead to the professional career of her dreams.

Doug Roehrkasse is ATBS's Laramie General Manager, and his team hired Alysha as a Business Consultant to assist truck drivers in creating budget plans and calculating how many miles they need to drive each week to meet revenue goals.

Alysha's job at the truck stop helping handle breakdowns and maintenance issues meant working on the weekends and was hard on her three young kids. She really hoped Climb could help her find a job with higher wages, a better schedule, and benefits for her family.

"We're thrilled that Alysha can speak the language of the trucking industry from her previous job," says Doug. "We're also really interested in the support Climb provides as employees are new on the job. We haven't ever seen this before and the ongoing coaching and feedback have created a real structure for success."

Climb's training focused on skills that are specific to office careers, like customer service and Microsoft Office®. When the program concluded and it was time for job placement, our staff found the perfect fit for Alysha at ATBS, a company that helps truck drivers with taxes, bookkeeping, and business solutions.

Doug says ATBS is excited to help a mom in the community become financially stable and hopes to hire more Climb grads in the future. "With Climb, we know that we'll get employees who are well-trained and motivated."



VISIT [CLIMBWyoming.org/Employers](https://climbwyoming.org/employers) TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT CLIMB'S EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS



WYO GIVES

Can you help us reach **200 donors** on WyoGives Day 2024?

This year, we can unlock a **generous donation** if 200 people give to Climb. We also have match opportunities to help maximize your gift.

DONATE ON JULY 10, 2024 AT WYOGIVES.ORG.



Brighter futures *begin today!*

Leaving a Legacy for Families in Need

One of the greatest legacies we can leave behind is a gift that changes lives for generations to come. You can join a group of donors who, like you, believe that every family deserves the opportunity to overcome poverty.

There are a variety of ways in which you can make a significant gift to Climb Wyoming as you plan for your retirement years and for the future distribution of your estate.

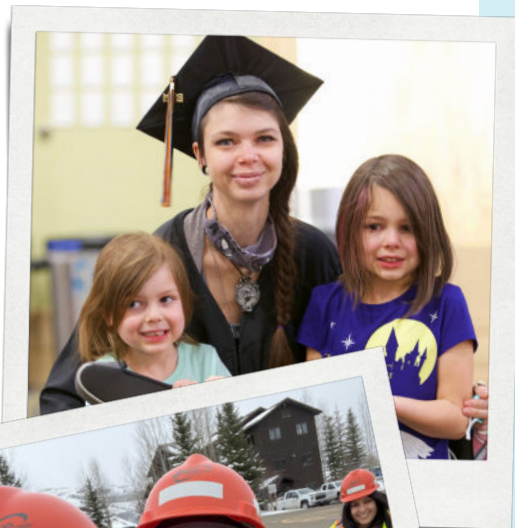
Benefits of including Climb in your will or trust and the gifting of stock or retirement assets can include:

An opportunity to leave a major gift that may not have been possible in your lifetime due to financial commitments.

Making an impact and leaving a meaningful legacy for yourself and your family.

Securing the tax benefits of planned giving for yourself and your heirs.

If you're interested in making a designation for Climb in your estate plans or have already done so, please contact Jean Lewis, Climb Wyoming's Director of Development, at **307-413-0623** or jean@climbwyoming.org.



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MISSION

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

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