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 long-term 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.

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

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

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.

“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)
“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.”

**WHAT’S INCLUDED**

- **Life Skills**
  - Tools to manage life outside work, including parenting, conflict management, and budgeting

- **Mental Health 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

**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.**

**95% graduation rate in 2019**

**Christina | 2 Children**

**Commercial Driving (CDL) | Teton Area**

**Wages before and after climb:**
- $1,275/month (part-time administrative) ➔ $2,570/month, Bus Driver, Sublette County School District #1

**“Having the other women in my group encourage me was really important.”**

Christina
Climb has the unique flexibility to respond to Wyoming’s ever-changing economy and quickly 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.

“I was unemployed before Climb and had to quit 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 warm clothing to wear on the job. That kind of support makes it possible to push forward through the hard things.”

— Megan, District Manager, AmeriGas

“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

“Now I work a regular daytime schedule that’s better for my son and make twice as much money.”
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. It feels great to be able to give them what they need.”

ANELISE | 2 CHILDREN
PIPEFITTING | CHEYENNE
WAGES BEFORE AND AFTER CLIMB:
Unemployed ➔ $4,115/month, Plumbers &
Pipefitters UA Local 192

INCREASE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGES

TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS FOR 2019 GRADUATES

$785,319
Application
$2,436
2 years post program
$3,327
3 months post program
$1,151
Application

$2,936,895
Program end

WAGES BEFORE: $1,151
WAGES AFTER: $2,436
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.

“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 go back. Climb said, ‘yes you can!’ Now my kids get to see how hard work pays off.”

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.”

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

Food stamp usage by supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) participants

Percentage of graduates on public health insurance

Percentage of graduates on private health insurance

Applicant 3 months post program 2 years post program

Applicant 3 months post program 2 years post program

45% decrease
194% increase
0% decrease
87% decrease
If you spend your entire childhood in poverty, you are 5 times less likely to graduate from high school.

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 are now 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 of me. It’s not just about the money. I am more secure now. My kids have the same things I had when they were young. I am proud of what they’ve achieved. They are working hard to achieve their dreams. I grew up in poverty, so it was me being brave and bold to create a more hopeful future for my children after feeling so lost for a long time." - Carrie, Mother of 4

"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."
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 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 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.”
For more information about becoming an employer partner, investor, or program participant, contact:

CLIMB’S HOME OFFICE
1001 W. 31st Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 778-4126
info@climbwyoming.org

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

FAMILIES SERVED TO DATE
- CASPER: 502 + 915
- CHEYENNE: 911 + 1,489
- GILLETTE: 321 + 681
- LARAMIE: 299 + 551
- SWEETWATER AREA: 211 + 432
- TETON AREA: 235 + 440
TOTAL: 2,479 + 4,508
MOMS  CHILDREN

SITE OFFICES

CASPER
(307) 237-2855
casper@climbwyoming.org

CHEYENNE
(307) 778-0094
cheyenne@climbwyoming.org

GILLETTE
(307) 685-0450
gillette@climbwyoming.org

LARAMIE
(307) 742-9346
laramie@climbwyoming.org

SWEETWATER AREA
(307) 382-0771
sweetwater@climbwyoming.org

TETON AREA
(307) 733-4088
teton@climbwyoming.org

STAY CONNECTED!
climbwyoming.org
For moms: climbready.org