

Climb

NEWSLETTER 2019



Amber (top) recalls when her son's friend told him, "Girls can't drive trucks," so he stood up and said, "Yes they can! My mom does!" Now Amber's daughter (bottom) also works in the construction industry.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK...

Thanks to friends like you, Amber has climbed up and up in the construction and trucking industry... and she's still going!

"I was in tears sitting behind the wheel for the first time," recalls Amber of her Climb Commercial Driving (CDL) training in 2005. "I was scared. It was just a big blur of truck parts in my mind as I drove down the road. I kept missing gears. When you are so broken in life that something as small as missing a gear breaks you, you know you need help."

In addition, says Amber, "my house and car were being repossessed, my life was in shambles. I didn't know what I was going to do, I just knew that I needed to feed my kids."

That persistence got Amber through her first day driving a truck and has since led her to set and scale one career goal after the next. After Climb, Amber worked in positions driving, flagging, and working at the scale for Intermountain Construction. Then she got a call to be a salesperson at Drive Train Industries before returning back to work at Intermountain Construction and Materials as a receptionist. She was promoted to a job cost assistant and then again to a customer service/ marketing and promotion rep.

She's now branch manager in Gillette for FleetPride, a national truck and trailer parts distribution company, earning a nice salary, a big jump from her pre-Climb wage of \$2.80 an hour plus tips waiting tables.

"It's okay to start at the bottom and work your way up because that's how you learn," Amber says of her determined career climb.

Amber remarried several years ago and owns a new custom-built home. Her daughter is also starting a career in the construction industry.

"I love my life, and I owe it all to Climb. I was completely lost, and Climb reminded me that I CAN shift those hard truck gears in life. It shows you how strong you really are."

UPDATES FOR YOU:

YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE ALL THIS (AND MORE) POSSIBLE IN RECENT MONTHS!



Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) participants experienced what it's like to be the patient during a **mass casualty incident training** with Laramie County Community College and the Cheyenne Veterans Affairs Medical Center. After role playing as victims, the moms gave input for a final report, gaining valuable lessons in patient care, emergency room procedures, and more to use in their own medical careers.



For the first time, **Climb has placed graduates with southwest Wyoming iron mines** Tata Chemicals and Genesis Alkali after offering training in the software program Systems, Applications and Products (SAP). Both companies had a strong need for SAP-trained employees in order to innovate with new technology. "It's challenging—in a good way," says Climb grad Aubrey of SAP. "It's stimulating. I am hungry for this knowledge, I'm motivated to succeed."



For Climb's single mothers, learning the skills to advocate for yourself—and your children—means gaining the confidence and knowledge to ensure your family has what it needs to thrive. Parenting classes in Laramie's latest training included **tips for the moms on how to connect with community resources**, from mentoring programs to the school district and more, that will help their children succeed in life, too.



Seven out of eight participants in Climb's recent Teton Area program were **hired in job placements before commencement**. Three local businesses—Farm Bureau Financial Services, Wyoming Landscape and Jade's Heating and Plumbing—had hired graduates before and were eager to again, while several others were led to Climb after hearing how past graduates have contributed skilled, motivated, quality employees to the local workforce.



THE POWER OF GROUP

At 45, Tiffany was starting over in life—and discovering that when it comes to learning and growing together, age has no limits.

“My daughter died in a car accident two years ago, and then my husband left, so I was alone raising my two young grandchildren and my other daughter who was in high school. At first, I was so nervous to be with 20-year-olds at Climb who said to me, ‘I can’t believe how strong you are.’ I replied that I had no choice but to be strong and keep my head and do what I needed. So I hope I showed them that no matter how hard a situation is, there’s always a positive.

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AGES OF CLIMB
PARTICIPANTS IN 2018

Age doesn’t matter—you can start over at any age and be okay. We brought so much to each other. We all just clicked. We had the same goal in mind—to do better for our children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren.

We showed each other that there are people there for you in life. Yes, horrible situations arise, but if we join together, we can get through anything that life throws at us.”



Tiffany’s Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) group in Casper included a wide range of ages—from 20’s up to a participant raising her great-grandchildren. Tiffany (back row, second from the right) is now working in the home health industry and plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

“Working for an economic development organization, I see Climb as part of the bigger picture in creating a healthy community. Climb’s impact can be tracked so far down the road—there’s no greater investment than changing lives. For me, monthly giving is a way to step up and say that I believe in Climb’s mission. The dollars I invest go a long way because the organization does such a good job leveraging and stewarding my money. It feels powerful to know that my financial contribution has an impact!”

—Trey Sherwood



Trey Sherwood is the director of Laramie Main Street, which strives to preserve historic Downtown Laramie while enhancing its economic and social vitality.



Every monthly gift holds the promise of a brighter future. Sign up online at climbwyoming.org or return the enclosed envelope.

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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

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

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THANKS TO FRIENDS LIKE YOU, CLIMB GRADS ARE WORKING HARD TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

“Not very long ago, my life was hopeless. Now I am a powerful, confident and fearless single mom with a more than bright future ahead of me.

I have worked very hard to get to where I am today. I have also been given the opportunity of a lifetime.

My time at Climb has given me so much knowledge and confidence. Now I can be successful and now my children can be proud to call me mom.

Thank you, Climb!”

Aubrey reading the speech above during Climb's commencement ceremony. Her job placement is with Genesis Alkali, a trona mine in southwest Wyoming.

