

GANGS TO JOBS

HOPENOW
2022
IMPACT
REPORT



**Two steps and
you're up.**

A job and caring relationships lifts a gang member from the streets and into transformation, belonging, and generosity.



Dear Friend of Hope Now,

Thank you for your generous support for Hope Now. Without you, we would not be able to provide dignity and hope to the young men and families in our community. 2022 has been a year of changes and growth. We welcomed two new key staff members and started Hope Now's first two social enterprise ventures. Because of your partnership we have been able to navigate these transitions and emerge stronger than ever.

When Hope Now was founded in 1993, it was merely the dream of a small group of faithful Fresnans and a few men and their families in our community seeking a better way of life than gangs. Through grit, ingenuity, the generosity of so many, and lots of prayer, their dream became a reality. Today, 30 years later, we are still bringing hope, transformation, and empowerment to thousands through our workforce development program.

Together, we stand as a testament to God's grace. Hope Now has worked with over 400 local businesses and a band of supporting donors to provide over 2,250 men with workforce training and job placements. This year, from March to November, we passed out 27,047 recruiting fliers to increase awareness. handed 1,125 business cards to new connections, invested 1,313 hours of mentoring into 39 Hope Now clients, which led to 18 being placed in jobs. That is 18 lives, 18 families, 18 seeds of community transformation that will multiply over and over.

As we move into 2023, we are excited to continue to amplify our impact by forming new workforce development partnerships and boosting our new social enterprise initiatives. This year, we believe Hope Now is in the best position to bolster our mission providing real hope to more men and their families than ever before.

We are grateful to continue to witness God using Hope Now to transform lives. We invite you to (no return) continue to be a part of what God is doing through us. Together, the impact we are making echoes throughout Fresno and beyond.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val".

Vanna In
Executive Director | Hope Now



A COMMON THREAD

2022 has been a year of transition, surprises, and launching two new social enterprise businesses. A common thread is always emerging in all of these stories. It has been for the last 30 years now. It is why Hope Now exists... the gospel of Jesus Christ.

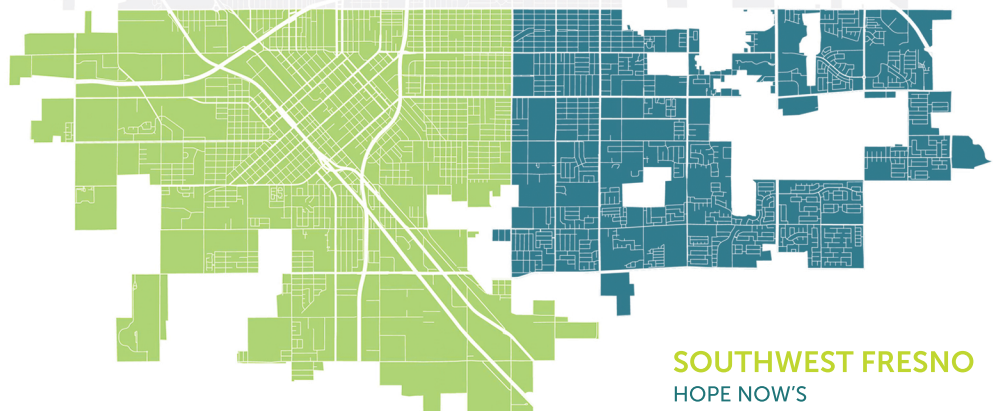
We have been witnessing Jesus transforming the hearts of even the most hardened gang members for three decades. In fact, all of us on staff at Hope Now have experienced these changes personally in our own lives. We have walked the streets as gang members and ambassadors for Christ's saving grace. Our hearts are full of gratitude getting to see so many of God's miracles first hand.

"From the thug life to the good life."

It may not sound like the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, but it truly is, just in our own words. It energizes us every time we go out into the streets to meet men where they are at, invite men to Hope Now's workforce development program, take late-night phone calls from guys in need, or organize camping trips where guys can experience the freedom and divine connection of God's creation. The Spirit of God is working through all of us. The men's stories speak for themselves.

In February, Hope Now hired Rudy Marquez as our first ever Food Service Manager. Rudy brings a strong background in the restaurant business and culinary arts. He is managing the launch of Hope Now Street Food, our new food truck operation.

2022 also saw Hope Now expanding our presence into our city's south side neighborhoods. Rob Lowe is Hope Now's Southwest Fresno Outreach Coordinator. Rob Lowe also came through Hope Now as a young man and has overcome incredible tragedy on his path to success. He's focused on recruiting, community relationships, and establishing referral systems with schools, employment agencies, and other community benefit organizations.



SOUTHWEST FRESNO
HOPE NOW'S
EXPANDED GANG OUTREACH

BUILDING A FUTURE

This past year, Hope Now has ignited its social enterprise initiative with two new ventures: Hope Now Carpet Cleaning, a carpet and floor cleaning business; and Hope Now Street Food, a mobile food truck business. We will be able to immediately train men for the workforce, add new sources of revenue to fund future growth, raise awareness about Hope Now in new communities, and impact men's lives at scale. We are excited to serve more customers in 2023, and are working on improving our presence and operations.

These social enterprise ventures provide Hope Now with:

- Valuable workforce development
- Sustainable sources of revenue
- Higher community awareness

After completing 4-8 weeks in our job training program, we have found that some men need more mentorship and experience before entering the workforce. These social enterprises provide us opportunities to directly oversee and train for extended periods of time, while ensuring the men are earning much needed income.



Book now! Call **(559) 237-7215** or email info@hopenow.org

OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

49

PARTICIPANTS

enrolled in Hope Now's
Job Training Program

1,443

HOURS

of mentoring and training
invested into men

21

JOBS

for men placed in
employment positions

28,577

CARDS & FLIERS

handed out to men
during street recruiting



FEED THE HUNGER



Rudy grew up in the wide-open, farmland fields of Caruthers, CA. All he knew was the circle of impoverished immigrants working in the fields from dawn until dusk. When he was 12 years old his family moved to the city of Fresno in search of better opportunities. Life in the city was difficult to adjust to.

At a young age, Rudy began noticing the fresh clothes and nice shoes the kids in his neighborhood were wearing. He had never owned or dared to ask for nice things, but he so badly wanted what they had. His family did not have the money or the means to buy them. He was determined to change that. Rudy wondered how these poor kids came by all this good stuff? He soon discovered the truth... they weren't buying it, they were stealing it.

At age 13, Rudy joined a gang. He had found a group of guys who were all poor and seeking a way to make it in a world that seemed against them. To Rudy, being a part of something was better than not being a part of anything at all, even if it was dangerous. For the next five years, Rudy ran the streets and chose to leave his schooling behind. His homies told him that school would make him money down the road, but the gang can make you money right now. For the son of a farm laborer whose family struggled to make ends meet, this was extremely enticing.

During his teen years, Rudy was deeply involved in street life: fights, robberies, stabbings, drug deals, shootings... everyday occurrences. But one day something stopped him dead in his tracks. The birth of his baby daughter caused Rudy's thoughts to shift to what her life would be like if he wasn't there. Death was a real threat because of his current lifestyle. To survive and care for her, he needed to change everything.

Rudy's brother-in-law, Joey (a Hope Now graduate), invited him to come see about getting a job. Because of Joey's success in the program, Rudy put his trust in Hope Now to help him find an honest living. Through Hope Now's guidance and Rudy's own drive for a better life, he landed that job and quickly rose to a management position. He even began hiring other promising Hope Now graduates.

"I felt it was my duty to give back to Hope Now."

In February, Rudy became Hope Now's Food Service Manager. With years of experience in the culinary arts and his entrepreneurial mind, Rudy is leading Hope Now's first food truck social enterprise venture: Hope Now Street Food. "Making great food is in my DNA and I'm excited about the possibilities." He sees this becoming a way for young men to develop dynamic job skills and give back to the organization that helped them out. Rudy has gained the experience to really help these men who come through Hope Now's doors. "I know I can help these individuals if they are seeking change from their old way of life."

RUDY MARQUEZ

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER



FILL THE GAP

Rob grew up in Fresno's westside, jumping from school to school nine different times before the age of 17. Change was the norm Rob grew accustomed to.

Rob's dad was not around during these formative years. His mom had to manage the role of a mother and a father while raising her children. This led Rob to believe he didn't need a father. "Growing up, all I knew was my mom. She was everything. I celebrated her on Mother's Day and on Father's Day." She provided the best upbringing she could on her own, but not having a dad left Rob with a deep desire for the guidance and support a father provides.

Rob came to Hope Now looking for direction in his life. Scrolling onto one of Hope Now's Facebook posts. Without hesitating, he dialed the phone number. It was a divine moment where all things come together for good. Johnny, Hope Now's Director of Social Enterprise, took the call and invited Rob to join Hope Now.

The level of support he received from the team and the camaraderie that existed between men from all walks of life and ethnicities made an unforgettable impression on Rob. He gained wisdom and values from Hope Now's program that he proudly admits he still uses. Like the catchy acronym: W.O.L.F.: Work Hard, On Time, Learn Fast, and Friendly Worker. Hope Now helped Rob build up the confidence he needed in himself and God to become successful.

For the first time in his life, Rob saw happily married men who really enjoyed spending time with their kids. Hope Now staff members Paul and Johnny embraced the role of fatherhood in their families, and inspired Rob to start becoming the father he always longed for.

"I'm grateful for Hope Now teaching me the skills I needed to show up every day and become the father I never had."

Now that he has joined Hope Now, Rob is most grateful for a schedule that allows for more time at home with his three children. Rob's legacy as a parent will be giving his kids all the love and support they need to be successful in life. "They know I will always be there for them. After school, I can actually be there to help with their homework and cook dinner."

Rob believes his purpose at Hope Now is to be present in young men's lives so their eyes can be opened to the possibilities and opportunities in front of them. "They can do it, too, if they trust Hope Now's process." Rob was excited to see Hope Now extend the age range to 39 this year. "Gang life affects men in that age group dramatically," he says, "they are often bound by the justice system, and have a wife and family to look after."

Rob's vocational goals are to earn a bachelor's degree and pursue a career in healthcare. His position at Hope Now may finally give him that opportunity. Rob's vision is already expanding. "As a youth it was like looking through a microscope, but on staff I can see the whole horizon."

**ROB
LOWE**

**SOUTHWEST FRESNO
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF
GANGS-TO-JOBS WITH HOPE NOW

GRACE WINS *Banquet*

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

5:30PM DOORS OPEN

6:30PM DINNER PROGRAM BEGINS

CLOVIS VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

808 4TH STREET

CLOVIS CA, 93612

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