

25th
ANNIVERSARY



Christian Women's Job Corps Makes an Impact through Bridge to Hope: Portales, New Mexico

For the past 25 years, countless volunteers have given their time to serve through Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC). As the first pilot site began in 1996, and additional sites began shortly after, the ministry has grown in ways those involved from the beginning could have never imagined, including expanding into men's ministry with the addition of Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC). Each day the lives of women, men, and their families are impacted through the ministry of nearly 200 CWJC/CMJC locations in the United States and throughout the world.

For Bridge to Hope in Portales, New Mexico, the ministry has been life changing for many. Bridge to Hope began in 2014 as a ministry of the New Mexico Baptist Children's Home. Connie Dixon, national WMU president, said she "has seen Bridge to Hope and CWJC transform lives in Roosevelt County." She shared that Randy Rankin, president of New Mexico Baptist Children's Home, "has a heart for CWJC and believes in the program so much." Transformation has been seen in the lives of women in the program and the children served through the children's home.

Bridge to Hope offers classes in life and job skills. They also have a clothing room and food pantry that assists the participants with basic needs. One unique aspect of the ministry is that they offer classes at the

county detention center. In addition, Bible study and mentoring is a vital part of how Bridge to Hope serves the women in its program.

Participants at Bridge to Hope share they have gained so much from their classes and feel understood by the volunteers. They shared they will greatly miss their time when they graduate.

Through the last year, there has been much change for all CWJC sites as they have navigated the impact of COVID-19. Bridge to Hope is trusting the Lord and has seen God as faithful through it all as it continues to serve its community.

CWJC continues to grow throughout the state of New Mexico. Currently there are eight registered/certified sites in the state. Teresa Howard, site coordinator at Bridge to Hope and national CWJC/CMJC trainer, shared, "The passion for CWJC/CMJC is very strong in our state. Working with the COVID shutdowns has slowed the growth, but we continue to pray for opportunities to minister to those in our communities throughout our state!"

God is a work through CWJC/CMJC. To learn more about how you can be involved, visit wmu.com/compassionministries.