

March 2021 marked one year of global lockdown. Over the past year, we've experienced challenges like never before. We acknowledge the tough circumstances and want to assure you all that you have our support!

ALUMNI GATHERING

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH
10AM - 12PM PST**

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow Success Stories alumni Sunday, April 18th from 10am-12pm PST! Coach and Alumni Coordinator, Hugo Gonzalez, will be leading folks through a Top 5 check-in and sharing of resources like job opportunities, financial support, and personal care; this is also a great chance to network with like-minded individuals.

RSVP at <https://forms.gle/hvddZuw7f4kvjR4UA>

ALUMNI RESOURCES

Life post-graduation is not always easy and it doesn't always go as we imagine. Our Alumni Network has been created, **for you and by you**, to continue building the communities and support we created during the 12-week program. We know that people's needs post-graduation are different and we want to connect you to the resources to help you meet all of your needs.

If you're in need of any kind of resources – financial, educational, personal care, support – please check out our website: successstoriesprogram.org/resources.

If there are resources you need and don't see on our website, or ones you'd like to share, please email kiki@successstoriesprogram.org

EXCITING NEWS



Chris Johnson



Roy Duran, Jr.

Our team spent many years in prison with Chris Johnson and Roy Duran, Jr. These two supported us through some of our toughest moments. It brings us immense joy to inform you that both Chris Johnson and Roy Duran, Jr. have been found suitable for parole! Both Chris and Roy will continue to work for Success Stories Program upon returning home. Welcome home, brothers!



Pictured: Craig Lujan, Hugo Gonzalez, and Jorge Salazar

Congratulations to Alumni Jorge Salazar and Craig Lujan! After just under two years of being home, these two men have fulfilled their dreams having homes of their own. Jorge and Craig are an inspiration and remind us that anything is truly possible.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? WRITE TO US AT:

Success Stories Program 1175 East Baker Street E-19 Costa Mesa, California 92626

SUCCESS STORY

Graham Finochio



Success Stories Coach and Coach Coordinator, Graham Finochio is a prime example of transformation and what our work is all about. After serving the majority of his 37 years in group homes, county jails, and prison, Graham sat down and reflected on how life has changed since his release in 2019.

Graham is an incredible coach who works in prisons, youth centers, and treatment facilities with the main goal of addressing harm through dialogue that challenges toxic masculinity and patriarchy. He connects with others in an authentic way, sharing his unique experiences and utilizing the relate - investigate - recreate model.

"I never thought I would ever be working for Success Stories," Graham shared. Joining the Success Stories team has allowed him to sit with deep thoughts, considering what's most important to him, and reflecting on his choices have allowed him to honor his Top 5.

When asked what motivates him to do this work, Graham humbly expressed,

"It feels good to finally be my true self. I now believe in myself and I want to pass that on."

He didn't want to end the interview before acknowledging those inside. "Understanding that it gets tough in there and sometimes change is easier said than done. To all my brothers and sisters incarcerated I want to remind you, **challenge yourself to be yourself and surround yourself with good people that will hold you accountable in being the best YOU that you can be.**"

OUR RECENT GRADUATES

An amazing group of youth from Project Bridge graduated this past quarter. It was a pleasure to witness them having the space to express their truest thoughts, feelings, and dreams.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



STIMULUS ELIGIBILITY

If you are a U.S. citizen and no one is claiming you as a dependent, you may qualify for the stimulus payment. To determine your eligibility, please visit: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>