

RHIANNON'S STORY



Rhiannon is a mother of two wonderful boys, an active volunteer, an artist, and a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines Engineering Physics program. She began her journey with JPP in 2015. She had just moved back to Colorado to be closer to family and enrolled her youngest son into Head Start in Wheat Ridge.

"Head Start felt like a community, and JPP was an extension of that community."

Rhiannon's first goal was to complete her associate's degree, but she felt very overwhelmed with the idea of navigating the university system. JPP coaches were there for Rhiannon every step of the process, from completing paperwork, re-testing, FASFA, and filing taxes to enrolling in courses and paying for tuition, rent, and books.

"When I enrolled at Red Rocks, I was fortunate to have supportive teachers who encouraged me to continue my education and complete a four-year degree in science and physics. JPP and Red Rocks worked together with the School of Mines to secure a transfer scholarship to make that possible."

Rhiannon's persistence and determination, along with the support of family, friends, and local organizations have helped her design and achieve lofty goals while caring for her children and giving back to the community. **Rhiannon is passionate about encouraging others to push through obstacles, surpass their limitations, and become all that they are made to be.**

In 2023, Rhiannon graduated from the School of Mines with her Master's in Applied Optical Physics and accepted a position at Lockheed Martin. Her goal is to work locally in the optics industry while continuing to volunteer at her church and stay involved in both of her boys academic and extracurricular pursuits.

One day Rhiannon would like to teach high school math and science, where she hopes to find opportunities to mentor kids who need a little help believing in their potential.



RYNN'S STORY

Rynn Sango strongly commits to helping others improve their life circumstances and how they perceive their self-worth. She holds a high belief that all people have the power to change and mold their situations into whatever they want them to be. Maximizing others' potential by empowering and inspiring them to be their best through skill-building and intrinsic motivation are top priorities. Community collaboration and engagement will always be a part of her plan of action for advocacy.

Rynn has over 10 years of experience working with children and families as a parent support provider through programs like Jeffco Head Start and SafeCare Colorado. She is a Program Director of The Family Tree-GOALS program, where she partners with families experiencing homelessness, assisting them as they begin on their paths to self-sufficiency.

Rynn recently graduated from Metropolitan State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Rynn is trained in trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, protective factors, servant leadership, and two-generational models.

She has contributed to Aspen Ascend Institute conferences and frameworks, the child support commission board, the Preschool Advisory board, Inclusiveness committee, and Chair of the parent advisory board for Jeffco Prosperity Partners. She is a current member of the NAACP Branch of Aurora, and has recently joined the board for a community program called MetroDEEP, which focuses on increasing the social, economic, and well-being of communities of African descent. At Family Tree, she has taken many leadership roles to continue conversations and efforts on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Some of Rynn's future goals include furthering her education, supporting her husband's dream of providing accessible mental health services to the community, buying a home, and being involved in more community engagement opportunities. Rynn is always seeking new ways to grow, both personally and professionally, and will continue to seek development opportunities and access her areas of growth. She is most proud of her children and seeing her son become a high school graduate. **Rynn is most grateful for her husband, the JPP community and coaches, and friends who have continued to support her through her journey.**

LEAH'S STORY

I have been a member of JPP for nearly six years now. I was skeptical when I first joined JPP, as that is just my nature to move into anything new. Rikki, my coach, changed my mind pretty quickly in that first meeting when she asked me to describe to her my ideal life.

I was so surprised to be asked that kind of question! **I felt like I was being seen as a real human being and not just a case number.** I told them I planned to get my certification in medical billing and coding because I knew that it had remote options, and I wanted to have a flexible work schedule as a single parent of two young boys. She asked about my prior education, and I mentioned that I had been pursuing a degree in interior design, before having kids. She encouraged me to, "just see how much you lack to get your degree." I only needed about 12 credits.

With Rikki by my side, I went to meet with financial aid and see what it would cost to finish my schooling. She also talked me back into it after discovering the cost, and helped me work out a plan to pay as I went.



JPP even connected me with grants to help pay for my schooling, and I graduated with my Bachelor's with no added debt (aside from what I already had from attending before when I was more naive and didn't have such amazing guidance).

I am now working in the field I love, at a job I adore, with people who feel more like a family than coworkers. It's amazing! I am now, with Rikki's support and encouragement, working on saving to buy a home. I think the thing I love most about JPP is that they treat me like a person, like Leah. They didn't just throw resources my way and wish me luck. They asked me, "What do YOU want? How are YOU going to accomplish that? And what can WE do to support you? And once that goal is completed, there is much celebration followed by a **"What's next?"**

It's like having a group of friends who are constantly pushing you to move out of your comfort zone and into your true potential.

CARRIE'S STORY

Let's celebrate the incredible journey of Carrie, a remarkable JPP graduate, and an inspiration to us all. As a devoted mother to three wonderful children, Carrie joined JPP in 2019 with a burning desire to create a stable and prosperous life for her family. Since then, she has embarked on an extraordinary path of personal and professional growth that has brought remarkable achievements.

With unwavering determination and resilience, Carrie tirelessly pursued her dreams. In 2021, she landed her dream job with the Veterans Administration, a testament to her hard work. Since then, Carrie's dedication and exceptional performance have been recognized with several raises and a well-deserved promotion. Her commitment to her career and professional growth is truly admirable.

Not only has Carrie focused on her career, but she has also taken significant strides toward her financial goals. Recently, she accomplished a major milestone by purchasing her first-ever vehicle.



Additionally, through careful financial management and smart decision-making, Carrie has increased her credit score by over 100 points, reaching an impressive score of nearly 800. We applaud her commitment to financial stability and growth.

Carrie's success extends beyond her achievements; her entire family is thriving under her guidance and care. We are immensely proud of the remarkable progress she has made over the last several years. As she continues her journey, Carrie has set her sights on even greater aspirations, including homeownership, continued personal and professional growth, and further advancements within the Veterans Administration.

Carrie's story demonstrates the transformative power of determination, hard work, and the support provided by JPP. Her accomplishments are a source of inspiration for everyone within our community, and we are honored to be a part of her incredible journey.