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A mentor is someone who allows you to see hope inside yourself.

OPRAH WINFREY

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Hello, my name is **Manuel Blackmon**, I am 48 years old. I am a recovering addict who was addicted to methamphetamines for over 16 years. While I was in my addiction, I was in and out of jail and went to prison multiple times. I felt useless, like I had no self-worth. I finally got tired of hurting myself and the people I love and made the decision to become sober. I was provided with the opportunity to participate in the Lincoln County Adult Treatment Court Program. This program gave me the opportunity to connect with people that I could trust to talk to-

others who had lived the same lifestyle I had. I learned to reach out and talk; I was provided with tools to help me remain clean and sober and taught how to use them. I am currently a mentor in the program and looking forward to becoming an Alumni and a mentor for The Under Construction Peer Support Team. If you are ready to talk, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of my associates (575) 686- 9169.



My name is **Sergio Guerrero**, and I have lived in Ruidoso for 38 years. I have been married for 18 years and have 3 sons, a 20-year-old, 17-year-old, and a 12-year-old. I have been in recovery for ten years. I struggled with an addiction to alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, and pills for over 25 years. I began using drugs and alcohol to cope with the pain I experienced as a child. I finally hit rock bottom at age 36; I was ready to change and to heal my broken heart and reached out to the Lord in my darkest time. Recovery was scary, but

I had help and support from many new friends. I became a Certified Peer Support Worker (CPSW), a mentor for the Adult Treatment Courts, and a mentor for the Under Construction Peer Support Team in Lincoln and Otero Counties. I am happy to be a role model for my family, and love helping and serving our communities. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out to me or any one of my associates, (575) 937-5073.



Invitation to Join PIECE Coalition Addressing Early Childhood Services



Interested in contributing to the improvement of Early Childhood Services in Lincoln County?

If so, please join the PIECE Coalition on the 4th Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon at Region 9 Education Cooperative at 2002 Sudderth, Ruidoso.

The PIECE Coalition invites you to join us in constructing and implementing a strategic plan addressing key finding in our recently completed Community Needs Assessment. Our focus includes:

- ◆ **Childcare Awareness, Availability of Services and Non-Traditional Hours**
Improve access and availability of child care services, including extended hours.
- ◆ **Affordable Living for Low Income Families**
Address housing and transportation affordability to meet needs of low-income families who provide workforce for tourist industry.
- ◆ **Prenatal Care**
Understand barriers and availability of prenatal services. The Community Needs Assessment noted that only a little over half of pregnant women received prenatal care during the first trimester in 2020.

The Partners in Early Childhood Education (PIECE) Coalition was founded in 1999 with the mission to strengthen partnerships at the local and state level to effectively use all available resources to support early childhood services in Lincoln County. PIECE is a new and emerging Coalition under the Local Early Childhood System Building Grant. Call 575-257-2368 and ask for the PIECE Coordinator Michelle Burge - email: michelle.burge@regionix.org or visit us on <https://www.rec9nm.org/Home>.