

DADS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Empowering Wyoming Dads, Strengthening Wyoming Families



Welders to Join the Workforce

The Dads Making a Difference program is proud to introduce the graduating class of August 2014 in Structural, Pipe, and TIG Welding from Wyoming Welding Tech. The ceremony was held on August 6th, 2014 at the Wyoming Dept. of Transportation Auditorium at 5300 Bishop Blvd.



WELDING – A Bright Outlook!

There are 175 job openings listed in Wyoming at Work for Welders or jobs that require welding skills. Wages in Wyoming are well above the National average as indicated in this chart.

Wage Information: Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers

Chart Created

Yearly Wage Chart | Hourly Wage Chart | 2013 Wage Table



- "High" indicates 90% of workers earn less and 10% earn more.
- "Median" indicates 50% of workers earn less and 50% earn more.
- "Low" indicates 10% of workers earn less and 90% earn more.
- "N/A" indicates the data is not available.

Lighting It Up!

Any man can be a father.
It takes someone special
to be a dad.

~Author Unknown

And We Walked

Despite the sore feet and aching backs of our dads and staff, our Relay for Life team managed to walk the entire 18 hours for this year's event. The Dads participants raised over \$1,000.00 for the cause. Families camped out, walked, played games, walked, enjoyed good food, walked, napped, and walked. Everyone had a great time and left with such a proud sense of accomplishment.





A message from one of our Alumni

"I am writing this to express how grateful I am to the DADS program and how much the program impacted my life. Prior to May 18, 2012, I was severely addicted to meth and had nothing positive in my life. On that day, I checked myself into rehab and began my recovery. While there, I learned of the DADS program and began to research it. To make a long story short, the DADS program gave me a reason to pursue a new and better life. I went from living a negative life to living better than I ever dreamed possible. The DADS staff provided good, easy to understand ways to live better. Along with that, I was learning a trade (welding) where the sky's the limit. I have much better relationships now, and in my opinion, have transitioned into the middle class! I went from living broke or pay check to pay check, to living comfortably. I'm making \$27.00 an hour plus \$535.00 a week per diem. All thanks to the Dads Making a Difference program!"

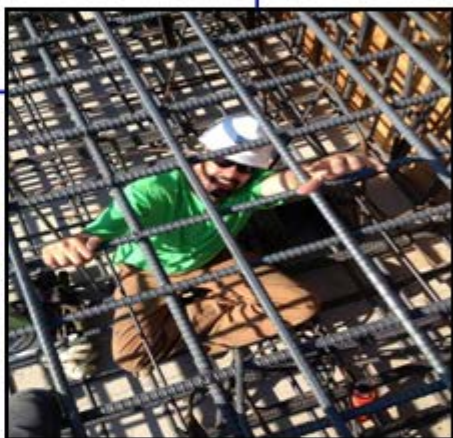
Thank You
Jeremy Ward

**"The greatest
barrier to
success is the
fear of failure."**

Our
Trainer



Wyoming Welding Tech is a professional and accredited welding school program. At Wyoming Welding Tech, students are provided with the most current curriculum along with detailed hands-on experience in all core areas of the welding profession. At Wyoming Welding Tech students learn all of the latest techniques used in the industry today while being taught by certified welding instructors in a 3,000 square foot state of the art training facility located in the heart of Cheyenne. The staff have over 30 years of experience in the field of professional welding and are certified by the American Welding Society (AWS). Their professional program utilizes the 3 step SENSE program developed by the AWS, which has become the industry standard by accredited welding schools across the globe. Wyoming Welding Tech believes that a solid education is the key to a successful career.



**"Thoughts
Become
Things"**



RE-ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), each year more than 650,000 men and women are released from federal and state prisons and return to their communities. Currently, there are about 2,100 inmates in Wyoming. It is estimated that unemployment rates among ex-prisoners are between 25-40%. Experts agree that these high unemployment rates are a key factor in recidivism; the U.S. one-year post-release recidivism rate is 44%. At 24.8%, Wyoming has the second-lowest recidivism rate in the nation. Those ex-offenders who complete the DADS program have an even lower recidivism rate. During the 2013 program year, 82% of the participants served in the DADS program were ex-offenders. Our recidivism rate for the same year was only 8%. This can be attributed to the DADS program's intense case management and therapeutic support, honest and caring support for each other, the program culture of giving back, and the life changing job opportunities. One participant said upon completion of the program, "It's never too late to change your life."

