



Leticia Chavez-Paulette an over-comer, a woman in long-term recovery and a believer in Christ. Leticia grew up in poverty. She determined in her heart that she wanted more out of life at a very early age. She excelled in school and even served six years in the NM Army National Guard, but life took a wrong turn. She became addicted to cocaine and lost everything including her marriage and most importantly her parental rights to her only son. She spent years in prison – five of them behind bars. But God had other plans for her.

She credits correctional officers, staff and volunteers for their contributions in her life, to her success both in and out of incarceration. One staff member encouraged her to recognize that prison did not define her and to use the time to equip herself for a better life after release. The volunteers were instrumental in modeling selfless community service, and she strives to always remember where she came from and give back to the incarcerated and newly released populations.

After her release from incarceration August 2002, she faced challenges in obtaining employment because of her felony conviction. However, networking in her church landed her a job. She stayed with the company until she felt she was being called to ministry to women released from incarceration. In 2004, she was blessed to be used as an example of “change.” Her testimony was submitted to congress to implement Celebrate Recovery in prisons; she had lunch with President G.W. Bush March 2004. That same year John Baker gave her the opportunity to testify of what the Lord had done in her life at the 2004 Celebrate Recovery Summit. Later President Bush claimed her to be one of his most memorable people during his second presidential term in his commencement address at Texas A & M University in 2008. God has restored all in her life. She has been married to Robert since 2003 and she and her son, Isaac have a very good relationship. In November of 2005 she co-founded A Peaceful Habitation. She has been the executive director since it’s foundation and is involved in every aspect of the operations of the non-profit organization; from interviewing the prospective participants to implementing creative and evidence-based programming. APH, Inc. provides workshops, wellness services, mentorship, evidence and faith-based services for justice and marginalized women in NM. She was employed as the Coordinator of Volunteer and Faith-based Services with NM Corrections Department for two years, and returned to APH, Inc. February 2021.

Past and current certifications/memberships in the following organizations: Certified Peer Support Worker, CPSW Trainer, CSW, PED, IFOC Chaplain, Advisory Committee of Christian Association of Prison Ministry-Detroit and Correctional Ministries and Chaplain’s Association, Chicago; Fellowship of Companies for Christ International; Appointed member of Governor’s House Memorial 3 Task Force; Reentry and Recidivism Task Force; New Mexico Corrections Department Re-Entry Steering Committee; Housing Leadership Group of New Mexico; Impartial Review Committee BoS; Kairos Prison Ministry and Prison Fellowship Ministry; Volunteer Missionary with AMG International and Joni and Friends.