



A PATH HOME

Annual Report 2018



**We exist to
change lives
in the name of
Christ by meeting
people at their
physical and
spiritual points
of need with the
goal of returning
them to society as
productive, self-
sufficient citizens.**

FOUR CORE STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



EMERGENCY SERVICES

People are invited inside, off the street where their immediate needs are met and critical relationships are built with Mission staff.



REHABILITATION

Men living with an addiction are equipped with work readiness skills, receive help to overcome destructive habits, find permanent housing, and begin a new life.



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Families and individuals in need receive case management, develop life skills and save for permanent housing.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

People struggling in our community receive assistance with food, clothing, furniture, household items, and holiday meals.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

This year marks our 127th year of serving people (that's a lot of years!). In my time as the President/CEO, one of the most important lessons I've learned is that God is in control, and I pray that He uses us as a vehicle for His grace and mercy upon the people we serve. As an organization, we've learned that people experiencing homelessness have needs that are ever-changing. Of course, there are some basic needs that will forever remain the same—food, shelter and safety. But as factors such as Denver's housing market, the nationwide opioid epidemic and family homelessness become more complex, the faces of homelessness are beginning to change, and so too do the needs.



That's why, in 2018, we invested a lot of prayer and collaboration to better evaluate and improve our Mission programs and services. We're calling it our strategic planning process, and this year, we started implementing our plan!

It's a new and exciting day at Denver Rescue Mission. Whether it be the men who sleep at our three emergency shelters, the people who use the Lawrence Street Community Center every day, or the men, women and families who live at The Crossing, your gifts are providing a path home for the people we serve.

More than anything, this annual report tells our story in 2018, and that story has been written because you took the time to give, volunteer and share the work that we do. And that work is not possible without you. Thank you for being a part of our story and for making it possible for the people we serve to find a path home. Thank you for supporting our mission in 2018!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Meuli".

Brad Meuli
President/CEO

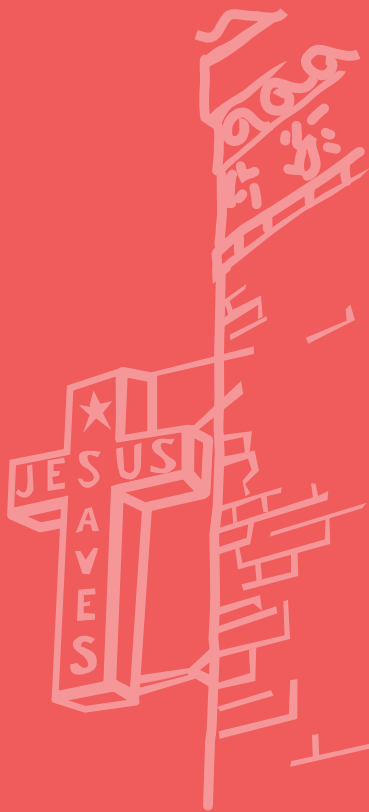


TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE SERVE	6
IMPACT	8
STORIES OF US	10
OUR SUPPORTERS	18
FINANCIALS	20
LEADERSHIP	22
OUTREACHES	24
WHAT'S NEXT	26



WHO WE SERVE

“I’m 67 years old. I’d like to live in my own place one day. Right now, I’m just taking it day by day. I’m kind of a shy person, so I don’t make friends quickly. But the Mission has been kind of a sanctuary for me. There’s a sense of community and genuine love for participants.”

Dave, STAR Transitional Program participant



“I messed up. I admit it. I was addicted to alcohol. Before, I did everything that I shouldn’t have done. I want to change; I don’t want to be homeless. I have an interview on Monday. I’m hopeful about that.”

John, Lawrence Street Shelter guest



“...the Mission has been kind
of a **sanctuary** for me.”



“From the age of 15 all the way to 30 I was in a gang. I was looking for a family, but that kind of ‘family’ isn’t for people. My real family was always there for me. I was raised in a church home and my father did the best he could. I just chose a different lifestyle and ended up in prison. After a few months of being at Denver Rescue Mission, I didn’t look back. For the first time in my life, I have a genuine relationship with my son and I have goals to move into my own place.”

Dwight, New Life Program participant

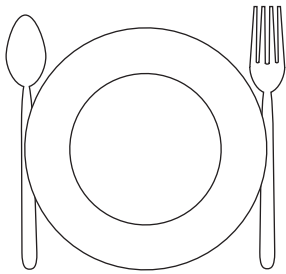


“I used to live in a duplex, but when they raised the rent, I couldn’t afford it. I’ve been homeless for nearly two years now. I’m on an affordable housing list. I keep busy; some days I go through things that make me want to give up, but I know that’s not the answer. The answer is to help someone move forward. And, if I can do that, I think I’ll move forward, too.”

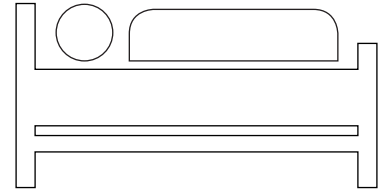
Margarita, Lawrence Street Community Center guest

**“For the first time in my life, I have a
genuine relationship with my son...”**

IMPACT IN 2018

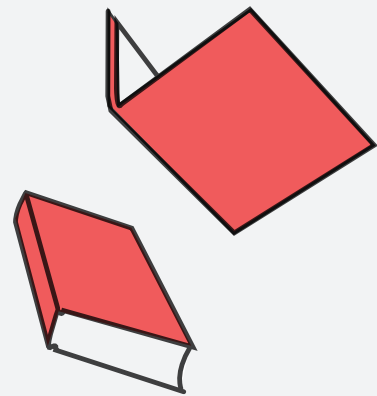


907,125
MEALS PROVIDED

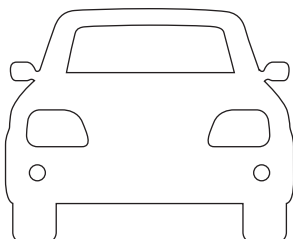


400,550
NIGHTS OF SHELTER

22 CHILDREN MATCHED WITH A MENTOR

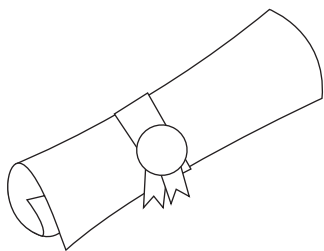


152 CHILDREN COMPLETED **3,720**
HOURS OF READING AND WRITING CLUB



98
VEHICLES GIFTED

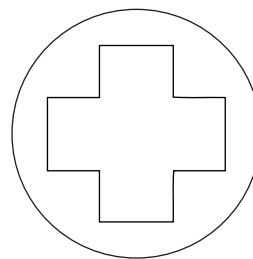
TO SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES



84

NEW LIFE PROGRAM

GRADUATES



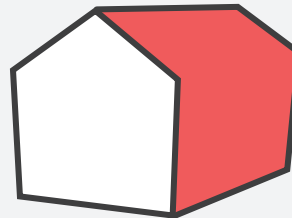
4,966

CLINIC SERVICES



76

**INTERNS EXPERIENCED HANDS-ON
WORK AT THE MISSION**



162 HOUSEHOLDS MOVED INTO
PERMANENT HOUSING



185

TONS OF CLOTHING

DISTRIBUTED

STORIES OF US





DONALD'S STORY

Every time the welfare check showed up, Donald's stepfather was the first to take it, using it for drugs. As soon as he was able, Donald left that environment and joined the military. He found success there, but his success was tainted with a lifestyle he knew all too well, from his stepfather. While in the military, Donald began using drugs. After being honorably discharged, he moved back home with his mom. And just six months later, his mom died. Her death wrecked Donald's world and he turned to the only other "comfort" he knew—drugs.

From 1985 to April of 2018, Donald's substance abuse was so rampant that he spent much of that time homeless. Then, on April 15, Donald decided to change. As a veteran, he knew he had access to several services, so he began calling around. But everywhere he called had a waiting list. "I didn't have anywhere to wait," says Donald. "I was on the street."

Six days later, Donald found Next Step, a service we provide for men staying in our emergency shelters. Each member of Next Step is assigned a case worker and a permanent bed. Members work with their case worker to prepare a plan tailored toward permanent and sustainable living situations. For Donald, he and his case worker located a Veteran Affairs program that will provide him with affordable housing. "I should be accepted into the program within a few months," says Donald. "For now, I'm just thankful for Denver Rescue Mission. I'm here in Next Step working with my case worker, working a full-time job and saving money." Donald has also been working on one more thing, too, his sobriety. "I've been sober for over four months!"

**Last year, 686 of our downtown
Denver guests chose to enroll in a
Mission program or service.**

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



THE HOUSTON FAMILY'S STORY

Last summer, Wayne and Jeanette got married. Wayne was a single dad of five daughters. He was forced to raise them on his own, because, one day, unexpectedly, his first wife left. Jeanette was a single mom to one daughter when she and Wayne met. After they got married, they moved into an apartment together. They paid about \$1,200 a month for rent at the time. But then, Wayne lost his job because work was slow and cuts had to be made. Without a steady income, Wayne and Jeanette couldn't afford rent and the family of eight lost their home. Wayne, Jeanette and their six daughters were homeless for nearly two years.

One day, after her mom told her about Denver Rescue Mission, Jeanette decided to call. Shortly after, Jeanette, Wayne and their daughters were accepted into our STAR Transitional Program and started living at The Crossing.

"STAR is teaching us to develop better habits," says Jeanette. Wayne and Jeanette have almost reached their goal, to save up \$1,000 in an emergency fund. And they are well on their way to achieving their next target—renting an apartment to call home.

They are also parents of one more child, Alexcia. She's the first biological child that they've had together. "She's special to us—but all our kids are special to us—we're a family," says Jeanette.



In 2018, 22 families and individuals found permanent housing through our STAR Transitional Program.



One year after graduation, **91%
of New Life Program graduates
maintain their housing.***



NELSON'S STORY

When he was 15 years old, Nelson was addicted to alcohol. Most days, he would carry a thermos full of vodka with him to school and sip on it throughout the day. After high school, he joined the military and became a dad. But his old habits, drinking and violence, would lead him to prison, twice—once at the age of 30 and again at 50. For nearly 30 years, “addict” became Nelson’s identity. In the spring of 2018, Nelson was released from his second stint in prison. As he stood there, alone, some 50 feet from the exit doors of the federal prison, something happened. “I just decided I wanted to change my life,” says Nelson.

And with that decision, he moved to Denver, Colorado. He heard about Denver Rescue Mission and was accepted into our New Life Program. As Nelson worked with our counselors and chaplains, the question he wrestled with the most became evident, “Who am I?” “Apart from being an addict, who is Nelson?”

While in the program, Nelson has been connecting with his past experiences, exploring them and beginning to realize that his identity is in something greater than alcohol. “In the New Life Program, I’ve found my identity in Christ,” says Nelson. “There used to be this gap. It was right in the center of my chest. I tried filling it with drugs and alcohol. But now, that gap is filled with God.” Nelson’s passion is painting; he’s still navigating his recovery. “I’ve found my purpose,” says Nelson. “I finally feel like I belong. And I don’t feel worthless anymore.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



BEATRICE'S STORY

Experiencing homelessness is hard. And, during the holidays, it's even harder. For many of our guests, the Mission's Community Outreach events are the only celebrations they receive. Whether it's our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, our Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box event at the Denver Broncos Stadium at Mile High, our Broncos Holiday Party at The Crossing, or our Easter Banquet (and there's so much more), our Community Outreach efforts go beyond the buildings of Denver Rescue Mission and into the city, helping families and individuals who need it most. This past year, while at the Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box event, we asked Beatrice about her experience. "We had \$50 left in our bank account after buying groceries. Now, we'll have a Thanksgiving. This is a tremendous help!"



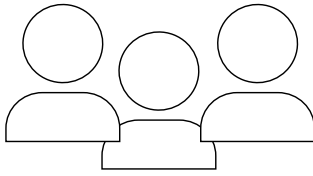
Because of you, we gave **13,120** turkeys to organizations, individuals and families throughout Colorado for Thanksgiving.

OUR SUPPORTERS

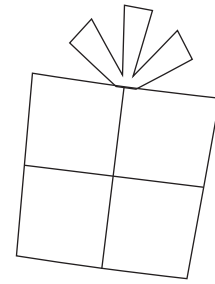


OUR 16TH STREET HEROES: PLANET FITNESS

The newest Planet Fitness location is on Denver's 16th Street Mall. Because of their location, they interact with our neighbors experiencing homelessness often, and they've gone above and beyond to accept and acknowledge them. Earlier this year, Planet Fitness staff hosted a clothing drive to provide warm gear for our friends on the street, volunteered with us to serve meals and supported our efforts through generous donations. Their Judgement Free Zone[®] is a place where everyone, no matter their situation or appearance, is accepted and valued. And we find this to be true in the way they treat people experiencing homelessness, too. We're so grateful for Planet Fitness!



70,374
DONORS IN 2018



\$121.86
AVERAGE DONATION



17,893 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



118,858 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our supporters mean the world to us.
Many have been with us for years and
others just learned of our work in **2018**.
We're thankful for all of you, because
without you, we wouldn't exist.

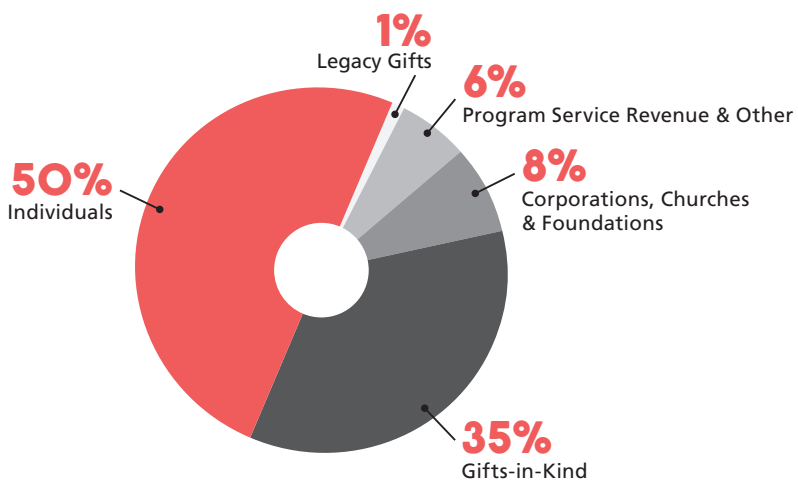
FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

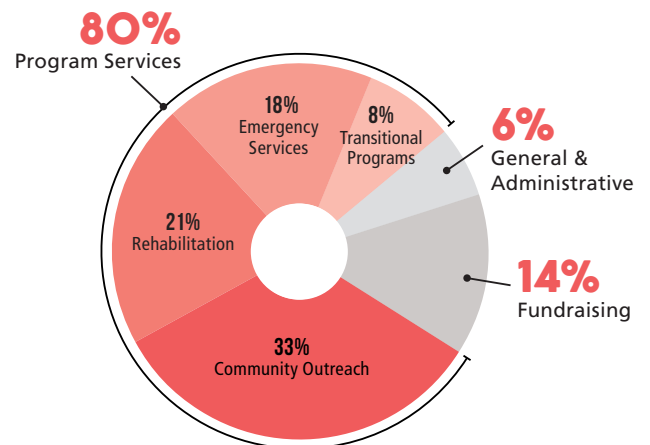
Contributions	2018	2017
Individuals, Businesses & Foundations	\$19,842,101	\$19,368,664
Gifts-in-Kind	\$11,859,996	\$12,732,388
Total Contributions	\$31,702,097	\$32,101,388

Revenue		
Program Service Revenue & Other	\$1,914,838	\$1,688,907
Total Support & Revenue	\$33,616,935	\$33,789,959

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



EXPENSES

Program Services	2018	2017
Ministry Outreach Center	\$11,212,631	\$11,591,716
The Crossing	\$7,144,911	\$7,132,100
Lawrence Street (Shelter & Community Center)	\$4,236,168	\$3,802,262
Harvest Farm	\$2,183,013	\$2,402,946
Fort Collins Rescue Mission	\$1,093,650	\$1,135,184
Champa House & Holly Center	\$718,301	\$742,318
Total Program Services	\$26,588,674	\$26,806,526
Supporting Activities		
General & Administrative	\$1,883,942	\$1,675,068
Fundraising	\$4,707,872	\$5,009,790
Total Support Activities	\$6,591,814	\$6,684,858
Total Expenses	\$33,180,488	\$33,491,384
Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$436,447	\$298,575
Other*	\$1,844,613	(\$72,665)
Change in Net Assets	\$2,281,060	\$225,910
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$34,322,631	\$34,096,721
Net Assets – End of Year	\$36,603,691	\$34,322,631

*Non-operating (capital project related activities, sale of assets, etc.)

For four years in a row, **Denver Rescue Mission** has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Denver Rescue Mission is a member of the Better Business Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recommends giving to organizations who spend at least 65% of their total expenses on program activities. In fiscal year 2017-2018, 80% of our expenses were in programs.

Download our audited financial statement at [DenverRescueMission.org/Financial-Accountability](https://denverrescuemission.org/Financial-Accountability).



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Fortna, Chairman

Cathy Goss, Vice Chairman

Julie Reusser, Treasurer

Nathan Hoag, Secretary

Scott Adams

Tom Athenour

Pam Coe

Ron Gascho

Don Manuell

John Miller

Dr. Brad Strait

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brad Meuli, President/CEO

Dave Schunk, VP of Administration and Finance/CFO

Griff Freyschlag, VP of Development

Josh Geppelt, VP of Programs

Hugh Burns, VP of Operations

Steve Walkup, Spiritual Director

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nancy Allen, Director of Human Resources

Melanie Aronhalt, Director of Volunteer Services

Tracy Brooks, Senior Director of Emergency Services

Debra Butte, Director of Intake and Diversion

Jeremiah Conrad, Director of Operations

Seth Forwood, Director of Harvest Farm

Alexxa Gagner, Director of Marketing and Communications

Jeffrey Hollett, Director of Facility Maintenance

Ashley Irwin, Director of Impact and Hospitality

Brad Jessen, Director of Philanthropy

Thomas Konstanty, Director of Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Thomas Leavitt, Director of Family Services

Brent Meyer, Director of Support Services

John Morarie, Senior Director of Operations

Jonathan Soweidy, Director of Residential Programs

Susan Stewart, Director of Development (Northern Colorado)

Phillip Torres, Director of Information Technology

Jessica Winslow, Senior Director of Residential Programs

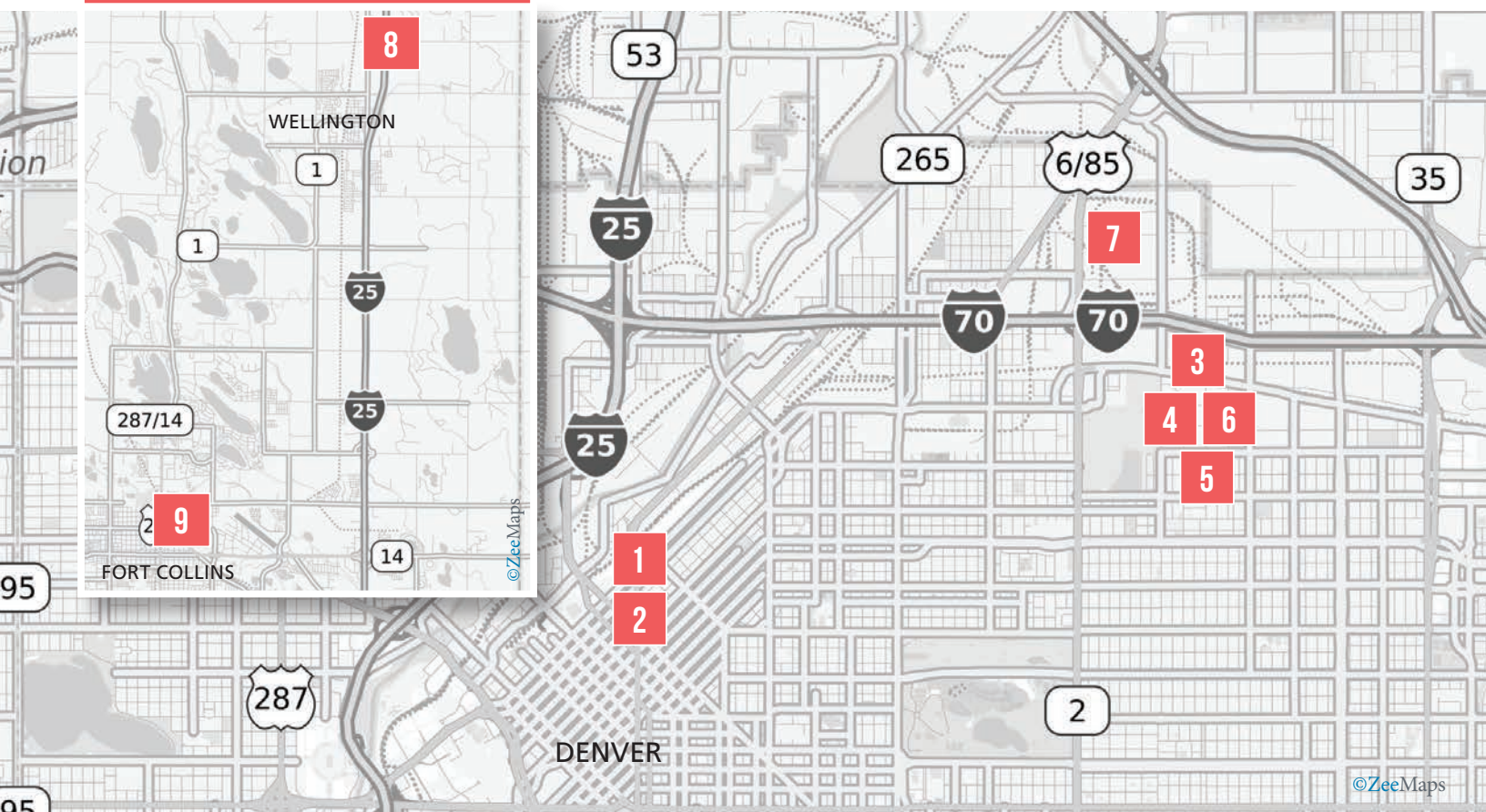
Chiyoko Yokota, Controller




OUTREACHES




NORTHERN COLORADO




1.....Lawrence Street Shelter 
1130 Park Avenue West


2.....Lawrence Street Community Center 
2222 Lawrence Street

3.....The Crossing 
6090 Smith Road

4.....Ministry Outreach Center 
5725 E. 39th Avenue





5.....Holly Center 
5725 E. 39th Avenue

6.....Administration & Education 
6100 Smith Road

7.....48th Street Center 
4330 E. 48th Avenue
(Operated in partnership with the City of Denver)

8.....Harvest Farm 
4240 E. County Road 66
Wellington, CO

9.....Fort Collins Rescue Mission 
316 Jefferson Street
Fort Collins, CO

 **Emergency Services**
 **Rehabilitation**
 **Transitional Programs**
 **Community Outreach**

WHAT'S NEXT

It's a new day at the Mission, a new time with different challenges, and we are changing to more effectively and compassionately serve Denver's homeless. In 2018, Denver Rescue Mission engaged in a strategic planning process with the goal of improving our programs and services.

As part of that process, below are three of 16 initiatives that support our goal to continue meeting the ever-changing needs of the people who come to us for help.

UPDATE NEW LIFE PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES

Already in progress, this initiative is seeking to ensure that the men in our New Life Program are being provided with the best avenues to develop life skills, find a sustainable job, form positive relationships, and ultimately, move into permanent, sustainable housing.

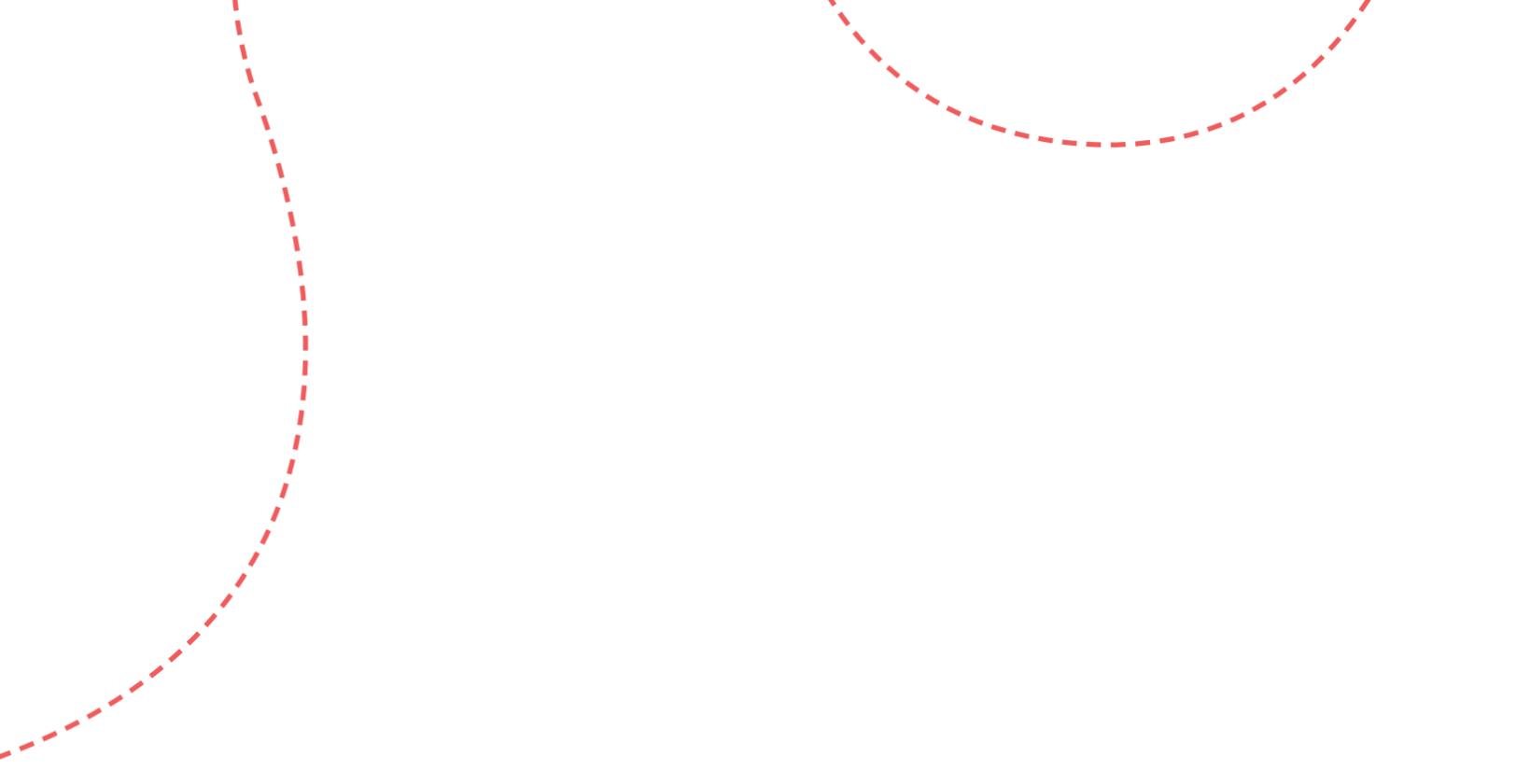
PRIORITIZE CLIENTS' NEXT STEPS OUT OF SHELTER

Also in progress, this initiative aims to help men who utilize our emergency shelters, encouraging them to join our Next Step service, informing them of long-term programs, job opportunities and housing services, and providing resources that will help them get off the street.

RESTRUCTURE FAMILY PROGRAMS

The most vulnerable demographic we serve is families. And because of that, we're equipping our staff to serve families and individuals in more dynamic ways. We'll focus our efforts on providing a path home for families experiencing homelessness. To do this, we've begun to restructure our Family Programs, which consist of the STAR Transitional Program, Family Rescue Ministry and Family Refugee Services.





**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

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DenverRescueMission.org

