

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE

Denver's Hidden Homeless

CBS HELPS SPREAD THE WARMTH

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AT DRM

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION



“It’s the weirdest thing, I didn’t find the strength to fight. I found the courage to give it to God.”

DENVER'S HIDDEN HOMELESS

It’s an early Monday morning in Montbello. Adine is sitting in her living room. There are two couches, a coffee table and an end table that has a book on it, the cover of the book reads Holy Bible. “God is great,” she says. “It’s the weirdest thing, I didn’t find the strength to fight. I found the courage to give it to God.”

About a year ago, Adine and her kids were living in a one bedroom apartment. They were doing well and making it day-by-day. They lived in the unit for nearly one year before Adine received a notice that her rent was being raised. “When the old lease ended, I couldn’t afford to pay the new one,” she says. “So, we had to go.”

So long is the stigma that people are homeless because they have an addiction or a disability. Of course, for some, that is true. But many single-parent families in Denver are becoming homeless because they simply can’t afford rent. And as a result, the new face of homelessness in our city is that of Adine and her children.

They’re called the hidden homeless. In an interview with the Denver Post, Barbara Duffield, policy director at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, said “It’s much more of a hidden and invisible population. The general public may not even see them or consider them to be homeless because they are not on [the street] like a single homeless adult.”

But they are homeless. Families all across Colorado find themselves living in situations that are not meant for permanent residence, many of them don’t live on the street, but they do live in motels, vehicles and shelters.

“I just hit hard times,” says Adine, “And I found myself in an uncontrollable situation. Homelessness isn’t a state of being; it’s not who I am, or who I was. It’s not about being uneducated. And I’ve never done drugs. But it still happened to me. My kids and I were homeless because I couldn’t afford rent.”

In Adine’s case, she and her kids moved into a basement of a family member’s home. And although the basement provided shelter, it was far from ideal. “It just wasn’t safe,” she says. Adine doesn’t expound on her statement, she just says it again, “it just wasn’t safe, and it wasn’t the most stable place for us to live for a long period of time.”

Adine knew about Denver Rescue Mission and The Crossing. So, when she realized she wasn’t going to be able to afford the new lease, Adine called us and began taking steps toward enrolling in our STAR Transitional Program. After thirty days of living in a basement with her children, Adine received a phone call that she’d been accepted into our program and a room was ready for her family at The Crossing.



In the STAR Program, Adine was paired with a case manager, and together, they learned that her family would qualify for the Housing Choice Voucher lottery (formerly Section 8), a government-funded program that assists low-income families.

There's a waiting list for the voucher program and sometimes the wait can be up to three to five years. Because of Adine's situation, a single mom with two kids, her wait time was reduced to only a few months. But during those months, our staff members began preparing Adine for her future, "I was working a full-time job," she says. "And I was going to classes, learning how to budget, learning how to take care of myself and learning how to be a good parent."

After four months of being enrolled in STAR, Adine and her kids were awarded housing. To help support them as they moved into a new home, our Family Rescue Ministry assisted Adine's family with their first month's rent and deposit. She's been in her new home for nearly six months. She still works a full-time job and she pays rent every month. "I've learned to focus on the positive," she says. "Times are still hard some days, but I made it through the roughest, being homeless, watching my boys go through that and questioning 'can I get through this?', but I made it. It's not perfect. It's still a struggle every day, but because of my time with the Mission, I know how to budget, how to be a good parent. And I know I can make it!"



As part of our Transitional Program core strategy, your donations are helping us provide hope to the hidden homeless in three ways:



STAR TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

In the program, families and individuals develop and practice important life skills, save money, gain the tools they need to provide for their own housing, and transition into a self-sufficient lifestyle when they graduate.



FAMILY RESCUE MINISTRY

The Mission's Family Rescue Ministry program provides families and seniors in need with mentors from the community and assistance with their first month's rent and deposit toward a long-term housing solution.



FAMILY REFUGEE SERVICES

Refugee families are paired with a mentor team who work with them to help with basic needs, community orientation, employment skills, financial skills (bilingual assistance if necessary), first month's rent and deposit, and social and emotional support.

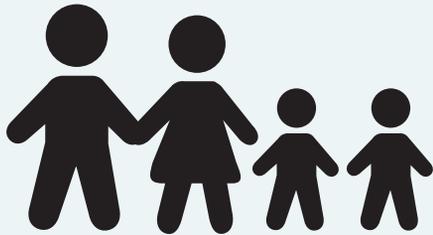
Your donations can help Denver's hidden homeless.
GIVE TODAY, AND PROVIDE A PATH HOME FOR FAMILIES LIKE ADINE'S AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE](https://denverrescuemission.org/donate).

HOMELESSNESS & FAMILIES

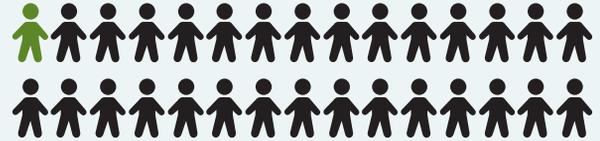
THE FACTS

In 2017,
57,971

family households in the U.S.
were identified as homeless.



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1 in 30

children in the U.S. experience
homelessness annually.



51%
are under the
age of five.

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In 2018,
26%
of metro Denver's
homeless population
were families.



*endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/children-and-families

**www.doorwaysva.org/our-work/education-advocacy/the-facts-about-family-homelessness

***2018 Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Point-in-Time Report

Dear Friends,

Too often when we think of homelessness we think of the people on street corners holding signs. However, according to the 2018 Point in Time survey conducted by the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, more than 26% of people experiencing homelessness in our city are families. This means that the single adults on street corners panhandling are not the complete representation of poverty in our city.

The hidden homeless that you are going to read about in this edition of *Changing Lives* are impossible to count through one survey.

The good news is that there is hope for these families who go unnoticed. There is hope and comfort for families through our STAR Transitional Program, our Family Rescue Ministry and our Family Refugee Services. Denver Rescue Mission is a place of hope, a place where we can enter into relationship with people who are struggling and let them know we care, God cares, and He has a plan for their lives.

Whether people are hidden or in plain view, we want to help, and you make it possible for us to provide this help. It is a blessing to partner with you as we continue to serve people experiencing poverty in our city. People's lives are truly being changed as they experience hope through you, and through Jesus.

God bless you and thank you!

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



YOUNG *at Denver Rescue Mission* PROFESSIONALS

SERVE • LEARN • CONNECT



Denver Rescue Mission's Young Professionals group is seeking passionate individuals to join its growing network of influencers. Come serve, learn and connect with us to impact the lives of people experiencing homelessness, poverty and addiction.

EMAIL YP@DENRESCUE.ORG IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MISSION'S NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP!

SPREAD THE Warmth

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION



**CBS 4 AND DENVER RESCUE MISSION
ARE JOINING FORCES TO HELP
SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS WINTER!**

As temperatures drop, food and shelter can be a lifeline for someone in need.

JUST \$10 PROVIDES SAFE SHELTER FOR ONE NIGHT AND THREE WARM MEALS FOR ONE OF OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS.

Visit DenverRescueMission.org to learn more about how you can Spread the Warmth this winter!

GET YOUR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**IN IT, YOU'LL SEE STORIES, PHOTOS,
STATS AND ALL THE WAYS YOUR
GIFTS ARE IMPACTING LIVES AT
DENVER RESCUE MISSION. VISIT**

DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/

ANNUALREPORT TO READ IT TODAY!



Sean-Casey King on *Why Denver Rescue Mission Matters*

Q. What led you to get involved with an organization that helps people experiencing homelessness?

A. When I first moved to Denver, I worked downtown. I would walk by the same homeless guy nearly every day, and he would be selling newspapers. I'm from a small town in Nebraska where I knew homelessness was an issue, but did not encounter it on a daily basis. Interacting with that man was my first real experience with homelessness. I would buy a newspaper from him once a week, and those small interactions led me to want to make a more consistent and bigger impact for people experiencing homelessness.



Q. Why did you choose to support Denver Rescue Mission?

A. We have a saying in our family—"Action Jesus." It might sound kind of silly, but it means that Jesus was a man of action, and He wants us to take action as well. We really want our daughter—she's 11—to understand the importance of caring for widows and orphans, single parents and people without homes, shelter or clothes. And when we volunteer and meet the people who Denver Rescue Mission helps, we see how their lives have been changed. At the Mission, I know people are getting a warm place to sleep. I know they're getting meals and have access to warm clothes. They make a direct impact, and they do it all year round. And it doesn't stop with the people they help. When we go and serve meals, we are so impressed with the Mission staff members, people who dedicate their life's work to serve and truly be "Action Jesus" in our city.

Bio: Sean-Casey and his family continually support the Mission through the Pathways of Hope Monthly Giving Program. Sean-Casey, Amy and Lydia King live in Aurora, where Casey is a Regulatory Consultant for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Amy is a music teacher at Buffalo Trail Elementary School. Lydia is a 6th grader at Falcon Creek Middle School. They are members of Augustana Lutheran Church in Denver and enjoy participating in the music programs. Casey and Amy grew up in Nebraska and moved to Colorado in 2003.

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



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.

More Ways To Make A Difference!



Become a member of our monthly giving program! Each month, the members of this community receive email updates on Ben's journey, a program participant in the New Life Program. Join Pathways of Hope and follow Ben's story, too!

Sign up at DenverRescueMission.org/PathwaysOfHope.



LEGACY GIVING

Build a legacy that will forever impact your family. Request our free brochure to get started. Check the box on the enclosed reply card to receive your copy!

LOCATIONS

- Lawrence Street Community Center:** Meals, restrooms, showers, washing machines and dryers, clean drinking water, and access to Mission staff for encouragement and guidance
- Lawrence Street Shelter:** Overnight shelter for men, chapel and health clinic
- Holly Center:** Overnight shelter for men assigned weekly and lockers for storage
- The Crossing:** Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men
- Harvest Farm:** Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins
- Fort Collins Rescue Mission:** Meals, shelter and transitional programs
- Ministry Outreach Center:** Central warehouse facility including food, clothing and furniture distribution
- Administration & Education:** Entry point for Mission transitional programs and home to the Mission's administrative and development staff
- 48th Street Center:** Overnight shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



CARING CONNECTION



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