

MARCH 2019

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



A COMMON THREAD

FIVE COMPONENTS OF OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM

MEET OUR DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

When you get up in the morning, you just never know how God might use you. The day might seem very normal—a stop at your local coffee shop, work, and then, maybe a stop at the grocery store or the gas station on your way home. At the end of the day, you finally connect with your family for dinner and discuss the day's activities.

It may all sound so ordinary, but you probably interacted with many people along the way, never knowing what impact you made—how God may have used you to help them. You were just going through your day, you were not trying to change the world or cure cancer (unless you are a cancer researcher, then good for you!). But you were part of people's lives. You may have imparted something positive, something good that you said or did and you will never know it.

It's humbling and exciting at the same time to know that I had a small part to play in the life of Brooks, that God used me for good when it seemed like a normal day to me.

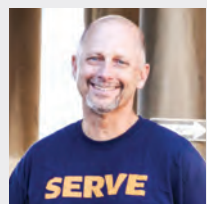
We all have a chance, no matter how mundane our lives might seem, to interact with people in an encouraging, loving and Christ-like manner. We have the opportunity to impact people for eternity. Sounds pretty important doesn't it? At the Mission, we call it *changing lives in the name of Christ*. Your donations, your time volunteering and your prayers all are making a difference in people's lives. Your compassion is changing lives. We know this to be true because of your consistent support for the Mission. Thank you for partnering with us.

When I come to work in the morning I like to say to my staff, and I want to say to you now, "Hey, let's do some good today."

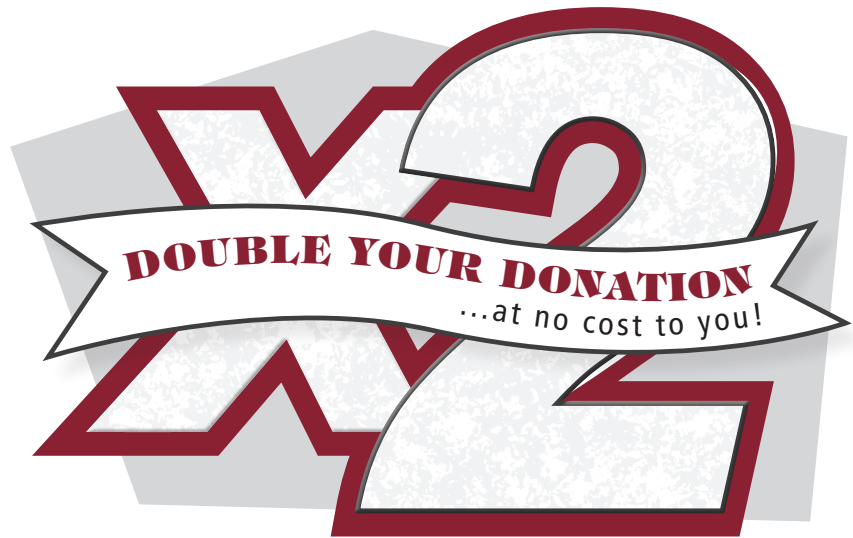
God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Up to 75% of employers offer a dollar-for-dollar match of your donations, enabling you to **DOUBLE** your impact on the lives of people experiencing homelessness.



Find out if your employer participates by visiting:
DenverRescueMission.org/Employer-Matching-Gifts

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



JONATHAN SOWEIDY
Director of Residential Programs

Jonathan was born in Los Angeles and moved to Honolulu for junior high and high school. He made his way to Colorado for his undergraduate degree in 1996, which he earned from the University of Denver.

He has been married to his wife, Tammy, for more than 11 years. They met while they were both doing ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Jonathan and Tammy have an adopted 4-year-old daughter, Rhylin, and a puppy named Captain America.

Before working at Denver Rescue Mission, Jonathan most recently worked at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus leading their Office of Case Management and Behavior Intervention teams. The opportunity to serve in a management capacity while fulfilling Kingdom purposes is what led Jonathan to the Mission 10 months ago.

"I have enjoyed these past months understanding the scope of what happens here at The Crossing and getting to know my colleagues," Jonathan said. "This is one of those beautiful jobs where you get to see hope. It's really encouraging for me to hear the stories of people in our programs, to see them form community, skills and develop a faith in God that helps them push through to the next phase of their life."

“ I HAD NO INTEREST IN LIFE ANYMORE.
I WAS DOWN, AND I WAS HURTING, BUT
DENVER RESCUE MISSION, AND THEIR
SUPPORTERS, GAVE THAT BACK TO ME. ”

— **BROOKS**



**LAST
YEAR**

84 MEN GRADUATED OUR
NEW LIFE PROGRAM

128 NEW LIFE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATING, **91%** OF GRADUATES REPORTED THEY
WERE STILL IN HOUSING

5 NEW LIFE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Men enrolled in the New Life Program reside at The Crossing or Harvest Farm in Wellington, Colorado. They spend one year working with chaplains—building life skills and budgeting to get them ready to move into sustainable housing.

“In the program, we work with adult men who are experiencing homelessness and are pursuing self-sufficiency,” says Josh Geppelt, vice president of programs. “A lot of these men need assistance overcoming some of the negative habits they have formed and developing the soft skills needed to not only get a job in today’s market, but also keep that job long-term.”



WE DO THIS THROUGH THESE KEY COMPONENTS:



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

In the first few months of the program, participants attend morning devotions, addiction classes, Bible studies, group seminars, and weekly church services. As they progress, participants are encouraged to invest in spiritual support by connecting with local churches and church-related groups.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Chaplains provide case management through weekly appointments that help participants address issues and struggles. Some of these issues may be spiritual, physical, psychological, legal, financial, medical, educational, and/or employment-related. Chaplains are the biggest advocates for our participants. They set goals, challenge participants to reach them and give each person help and encouragement along the way.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Participants explore their life story and search for how it fits into God’s larger story. One of our Licensed Professional Counselors or Counseling Interns guides conversations to promote faith and courage, an understanding of suffering and an understanding of how emotions interconnect with spiritual, psychological and physical health. It is a journey into personal wholeness for each of our NLP participants.

LIFE SKILLS, EDUCATION AND CAREER

Participants have an opportunity to further their education through our Life Skills, Education and Career Modules. The Education Coordinator assesses basic academic needs (literacy, GED preparation and basic computer skills) and creates an appropriate educational plan, if necessary. Participants also enroll in a Career Development Program through which they explore finding, applying for and keeping employment that matches their skill set and abilities.

WORK READINESS

Participants are assigned to a work readiness team where they work a variety of jobs around the Mission. They’re also assigned a supervisor who works with them to ensure they are growing in their employment readiness and skill set. In this part of the program, we aim to impart solid work ethics, positive experiences and valuable soft skills. We also help participants find meaning and value in their work and help them balance work with other areas of their life.



YOU HELPED BROOKS OVERCOME HIS PAIN. HELP MORE PEOPLE OVERCOME THEIRS.

GIVE TODAY AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE](https://denverrescuemission.org/donate).

A COMMON THREAD

If you've ever had a friend, a sibling, a parent, or a significant other, you know that people are different. We disagree; we quibble; we even get annoyed with each other. And despite all of our differences, we share a common thread. Perhaps many threads, but two in particular. We are all human—image bearers of our Creator. And because we're human, at some point in our story, we have all experienced pain.

Pain looks different for each of us. Bullying. Divorce. Debt. Cancer. Unemployment. Loneliness. Depression. Loss. No matter what our pain looks like, it's real, it's difficult and it's often one of the most defining events of our life story.

Brooks came to us eager to share his story. And why not? He just graduated our New Life Program. When we gave him the space to share, the first thing he spoke of wasn't his recent achievement or that just two weeks prior he moved into a home after being homeless. The first thing he shared was his pain and the experience that eventually led him to us.

"I'd been married a long time," he said. "When I found out she was cheating on me, I was hurt. I didn't know what to do. I mean, how are you supposed to know what to do when that happens? I started drinking, and I went down and down and down. I lost my job because all I thought about was masking the pain. I would think about what happened and start drinking. Then, I'd go to sleep, wake up and start drinking, again. I had no interest in life anymore."

Eventually, Brooks' drinking became so rampant that he started sleeping in his car. One Friday morning, he found himself standing at the corner of Broadway and Park Avenue. "I remember standing there on the corner of the street," he said. "I looked up at the sign, the 'Jesus Saves' sign. For the first time in my life, I felt like God was speaking to me, like He was inviting me inside."

Brooks went inside and he sat down in our chapel. "Well, it just so happens that there was a graduation ceremony that day," he said.

The graduation was for the Mission's New Life Program graduates and there was a man giving a speech. Brooks can't remember what the man said, exactly, but he remembers being moved. "I sat down in the chapel and listened to him talk. I remember feeling inspired; he was speaking truth. After the ceremony was over, I went up to him and started talking to him. He prayed with me and he told me about the program and encouraged me to enroll. That's how I ended up at Denver Rescue Mission. Come to find out that the man I was talking to was the CEO, Brad Meuli, and I didn't even know it!"



President/CEO Brad Meuli (left) pictured with Brooks (right) at Brooks' graduation ceremony

That was the day Brooks joined the New Life Program. And in December of 2018, he graduated. "A lot of us have fallen down, we've experienced pain and hurt, but the Mission is here to pick you back up, and that's exactly what they did for me."

A lot of us will have people come alongside and help us navigate pain well. But there are some people who will struggle to get through it, who will seek to cope with it using drugs and alcohol. Many of the people who come to us for assistance are hurting and reaching out for help in the only ways they know how.

When we're hurting, we all need a little help to get back on our feet, and that's okay. It's hard, and for some, it's a long road. At the Mission, we specialize in coming alongside people, empathizing with their pain, showing them avenues to get through it, and encouraging them along the way.

But it's not just us. It's you, too. As a supporter, you are a part of the work we do. You play a pivotal role in the transformation of peoples' lives, people like Brooks. "I had no interest in life anymore," he said. "I was down; I was hurting. But Denver Rescue Mission, and their supporters, gave that back to me."

Q. How did you get involved with the Mission?

- A. My last church regularly asked local ministries to visit and explain their programs to the congregation. That's where I first learned about the great work that is done at Denver Rescue Mission. After that experience, I started contributing to the Mission but never visited the Mission. I eventually toured the Mission's facilities and was pleasantly surprised. I was amazed at the breadth of help provided to individuals who really want a path off the street. It's not just an emergency shelter: Denver Rescue Mission is so much more. I remember thinking "Wow, this is really well run, well thought out and very effective." I volunteered more after that and when the possibility of serving on the Board came up, I said I would love to join the cause.



Q. A lot of the people we talk to for this column talk about the experiences that have led them to have a heart for less fortunate people, whether it be experiences with a family member or even a stranger. What was that experience for you?

- A. I believe that it is something we are called to do—feed the poor, attend to the needs of the downtrodden. My commitment was cemented when I saw up close the results of the Mission's programs. About eight years ago, I was moving homes and started talking with the manager of the moving crew. He had noticed a letter from the Mission on my counter and commented that he had gone through the Mission's New Life Program. He commented that Denver Rescue Mission was an amazing organization because it really helped him get back on his feet. I was surprised because he was such a young guy. He relayed his story about how he wound up on the streets and how the Mission helped him transform into a functioning, employed member of society.

Q. Why does Denver Rescue Mission Matter to you?

- A. When it is freezing outside, it is comforting to know that people experiencing homelessness have the option to find a safe place to shelter. The Mission plays an important role in addressing the issue of homelessness in Denver. In addition to emergency aid, the Mission provides successful, long-term programs that tackle the practical issues of getting someone in need off of the streets, including assisting with long-term housing and employment. The Mission also helps with medical needs and even has an on-site dental facility.

Pamela Coe is a senior officer for Liberty Media Corporation, which owns interests in a broad range of media, communications and entertainment businesses. Pam has been a supporter of Denver Rescue Mission for many years and currently serves on the Board of Directors.



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.

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

