

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



MAGIC IN THE MAKING

HOW TO DONATE A VEHICLE

DENVER BRONCOS SUPPORT THE MISSION'S YOUTH

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

Dear Friends,

When I see children with their parents panhandling on the streets of Denver, it just tears me apart. I wonder what has gone wrong that this family is now in the position of having to beg for money. As we know, there are many reasons for becoming homeless, so I can only imagine what might have caused this.

For a child, this experience is hard to overcome. There has been a lot of research that shows if you have experienced poverty or homelessness when you are a child, then there is a much higher propensity to repeat this cycle of poverty again unless someone intervenes to help you.

Breaking this cycle is what we are all about at Denver Rescue Mission and at The Crossing in particular. Our love for youth through the Denver Broncos Youth Center is a strong example of our commitment. We want kids, and parents, to know they are loved and cared for—that this is a safe place where children can learn, be encouraged by committed and compassionate adults, and just be kids. Please read more about this in this edition of *Changing Lives*.

This transition from the streets to our Mission is not always an easy one, but we do all we can to share Jesus' love with these children while they are with us. We need your prayers, your willingness to volunteer and your financial support to see permanent changes made in the lives of the children who come to us. Thanks for making a difference!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



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Denver Rescue Mission created the Vehicle Donation Program to provide transportation for individuals and families who graduate from our rehabilitation and transitional programs. These men, women and families require dependable vehicles to maintain employment and contribute to their communities. Provide the gift of reliable transportation by donating your vehicle today.

Call today to learn more: 303.331.2938

DID YOU KNOW?



THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS TO GET YOUR
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- EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS
- WORKPLACE DRIVES
- VOLUNTEER GRANTS

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DenverRescueMission.org/WorkplaceGiving for more info.

“These kids have
hope in the future.
We help instill that
hope through
the power
of God”

- Hannah, Youth Coordinator



Magic in the Making



Imagine a room where once you step in, the world around you is magically transformed. It's a room where you can slay dragons with Pippi Longstocking and hitch a ride to the land of Narnia with C.S. Lewis. It's a room where you can get your hands messy and create a Crayola masterpiece of art. It's a room where you can be transformed through a virtual reality as you conquer math problems and continue to learn.

Some may call it the Denver Broncos Youth Center (the Broncos Room) at The Crossing. But, to those who've ever stepped into the room—well, they call it hope.

“Usually when people think about homelessness, they think about the people on the street corners with signs,” Joe Bermingham, the Broncos Room lead youth coordinator, said. “However, there are many more homeless children in Denver than people realize. To be able to create a space where kids who are experiencing homelessness can feel safe and loved—that is the Broncos Room.”

The orange and navy themed room is nestled inside of The Crossing. Its walls are freckled with posters of signed famous Broncos jerseys and inspirational quotes. Books, computers and other necessary educational tools line the perimeter of the room that welcomes in the young scholars. The center serves children and teens, ages 3 to 18, whose parents are

participating in the STAR Transitional Program with their families.

“The Broncos Room is a kind and loving place where we learn about God and get help from people,” 11-year-old Jaydin said.

The room is the epicenter of all the programs for the kids and teens. From youth nights to Bible studies, each individualized program helps them learn and helps create spaces for them to be kids in the midst of their current situations. One of these programs is the Math and Reading Club, which takes place Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

“It is so important for the kids to have a stable place to come to every day and to see Joe and I. Their families love them so much, and it is a really hard situation for them to be in. The fact that we can laugh and have a lot of fun together, it's a reminder to be a kid still,” Hannah Menzies, youth coordinator, said.

The after school club has three half-hour sections: free time, tutoring and reading. Each section is designed to help each individual grow scholastically, emotionally and spiritually. On a daily basis, Joe and Hannah have five tutors and volunteers to help them invest time and effort into the kids.

THE A-B-C'S & 1-2-3's ABOUT

THE DENVER BRONCOS YOUTH CENTER

A

The Denver Broncos organization donated the youth center in September 2005 with a contribution of \$150,000 over three years to fund the center and its activities.

B

Past and present Broncos players have played a fundamental role in the center, including Champ Bailey, Shane Ray, Chris Harris and more. They've done everything from attend the Broncos holiday party to donating backpacks! #GoBroncos!

C

The center features the official Denver Broncos logos and team colors: navy blue and orange.

"I love the Broncos Room because I love to learn and have free time with my friends," 6-year-old Jeriyah said.

PART 1: FREE TIME



4:30 to 5 p.m.

The Broncos Room doesn't stay quiet for long after the doors open for the day. The kids are greeted by the smell of fresh cut oranges, popped popcorn and other delicious after school treats. After grabbing a snack the kids fan out to different areas in the room for free time.

Laughter and smiles fill the air as some kids run to their favorite volunteer and pick up a game of their choosing; others eye the art materials and begin to paint a picture. On sunny days, they have the option to go out to the playground. Free time is the portion of the day for kids to do what they do best—be kids!

PART 2: TUTORING



5 to 5:30 p.m.

At 4:55 p.m. transitional music starts to play. The kids pick up their games, close down their computer applications and put away their art supplies. They line up and are assigned to a tutor for the next portion of the program.

The kids work alongside their tutors on their homework or focus on areas they specifically need guidance in. The program recently implemented a program called Smartick. The iPad application meets kids where they are at scholastically, and each child's curriculum is created specifically for his or her learning needs.

The tutoring time is also an incredible opportunity for Joe, Hannah and the tutors to really dig in deep and help invest into the kids' futures by providing them with educational tools, support and a sense of community.

These dreams all start with Math and Reading Club. In 2018, tutors helped 152 children complete 3,720 hours of the program!

"Our volunteers and our tutors are investing in these kids' lives," Hannah said. "These kids have amazing dreams. And, they believe these dreams will happen. This program and this room brings hope into their lives when the world says those dreams can't be possible."

PART 3: READING & ART



5:30 to 6 p.m.

From listening to exciting stories to getting their hands dirty creating art, the day always ends on a creative note. Staff members or a volunteer do a special story time. Kids gather around on the carpet to hear exciting tales and adventures read aloud to them.

Every Thursday, Joy from Art Garage volunteers her time, supplies and expertise to the kids. She helps them create cool posters, pots, paint pictures, and more—the sky is the limit when it comes to what the kids will create next!

"How incredible is it for kids to sit, listen and use their imagination? It's been amazing to see the kids attentive to the stories being told," Joe said.

BY SUPPORTING THE DENVER BRONCOS YOUTH CENTER, YOU ARE HELPING SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE KIDS & TEENS WE SERVE AT THE CROSSING. DONATE TODAY AT DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG.

What is it about Denver Rescue Mission that drew you to volunteer here?

For me, it is all about the opportunity for the gospel. Everything else is just a temporary treatment of the symptoms. Every one of us has the same problem—sin separating us from God. The only solution to that problem is to know the Savior Jesus Christ who paid for our sins on the cross.



When we repent and believe, He saves us and changes us from the inside with a new heart.

When I first met with the Chaplains in the New Life Program, I could see the desire they have for leading these men to Christ and seeing the real life-change that only Christ can provide. I want to be a part of bringing the good news of Jesus to those in need!

Why is it important for people in the Denver community to help those experiencing homelessness?

The men and women who are experiencing homelessness are valuable and precious in the sight of God. Through some combination of bad decisions and bad circumstances, the Lord has brought so many of them to a vitally important crossroads when they find themselves homeless and facing decisions about seeking help or not. I have no doubt that Jesus would look to help and serve. I just want to be like Him!

What has been the most impactful moment you've had volunteering at the Mission so far?

There have been several instances with different men, but they are all the same thing—it is when they say that God has saved them and they are growing closer to Him through the program and Cornerstone. I can hardly believe how the Lord uses all of us unworthy servants!

Dorian Christian is the pastor of Cornerstone Chapel, which is one of the churches partnering with the New Life Program. The church hosts Bible studies at The Crossing and they have a group of NLP participants attend church on Sunday mornings. Dorian goes above and beyond and personally mentors several of the men in the NLP. Dorian and his church encourages NLP participants to be a part of the church family so they have personal relationships with the community after they graduate.



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, laundry, 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 programs toward achieving self-sufficiency	
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	