

# CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



## BE THE EXAMPLE

WHAT A CHAPLAIN DOES FOR THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM

GET INVOLVED IN THE RINO 5K

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION



**“BE THE EXAMPLE—  
THAT’S THE BEST  
WAY I CAN HELP  
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS.”**

- STEVEN

# BE THE EXAMPLE

**365—THE NUMBER OF DAYS STEVEN HAD BEEN SOBER. AS HE SAT ON THE BUS BACK FROM HIS 12 STEP FELLOWSHIP MEETING, HE RUBBED HIS ONE-YEAR CHIP BETWEEN HIS FINGERS AND CONTEMPLATED HOW FAR HE HAD COME IN THAT TIME TO OVERCOME HIS ADDICTION TO COCAINE.**

He had been in the Mission's New Life Program (NLP) for 10 months and had found a temporary job. He felt fulfilled in the work he was doing, but was told a week prior that his time at the company would be ending soon. Steven had just accomplished something incredible—an entire year of being sober—yet, the thought of his job ending was weighing heavily on his mind as he took the bus back to The Crossing.

In the midst of all his thoughts, he hopped off the bus to catch the next connecting bus back. When he got off the bus he saw an old friend of his smoking cocaine.

"I'm watching him, and I knew that bus was notorious for drugs," Steven said. "I went up to him and said 'man, let me have just one hit of that.' Of course, when you take one hit, it flips the whole script."

Steven didn't return to his room at The Crossing that evening. Instead he spent the next three months using drugs, sleeping at the Lawrence Street Shelter or his car, and staying on the streets. He found himself once again at a low point in his life, not sure which direction to take.



Steven holding his six-month chip.

"I remember sitting outside the Lawrence Street Shelter thinking how lost I had become. I thought, I'm better than this, a homeless crackhead. I realized the path I'm on will only lead to death," Steven said.

Steven tried several other programs around Denver since he left, but always felt Jesus pulling him back to the Mission. After a great deal of thought, Steven was determined to re-enter the New Life Program. He admitted that his first time in the program his mindset wasn't clear and he was simply just going through the motions.

"It's all about Jesus," Steven says. "You know the name of the Mission's building downtown? It's 'Jesus Saves.' That's it—Jesus saves us!"

Feeling humbled by the past three months, Steven applied for the program and was accepted back in

November of 2018. The Park Hill neighborhood, where The Crossing resides and where Steven was headed back to, was one he was all too familiar with—one he had known since he was five-years-old. Steven's childhood home sits nestled only blocks away from the program he was about to re-enter. It was at that house where Steven grew up, where he had his first smoke of marijuana, and where his life began to turn toward a path of drugs and addiction. However, heading back to this neck of the woods would be different this time around.

This time, he was set on being successful in all aspects of the program for himself, his family, but most importantly for his relationship with Jesus. He had seen really big miracles from people who followed the program. And, he was determined to be one this time around. In fact,

in 2018, 84 men graduated from the New Life Program.

Since Steven's back in the program, he's worked diligently in all aspects of the NLP to better himself by staying sober, learning how to become self-sufficient and becoming closer to Jesus. The computer, resume and authentic manhood classes are several learning opportunities that Steven says have helped him as he moves toward the life he has always envisioned. More importantly Steven says his relationship with his chaplain, Dan, is something that truly helped him become successful this time around. Steven often says, "I couldn't have gotten this far without my chaplain."

In April, Steven entered the working phase of the program and secured a job at a restaurant in downtown Denver—something he could only dream about several months prior as he sat outside the Mission addicted to drugs. When he's asked about how he overcame so much hardship, he doesn't skip a beat and says, "The New Life Program."

With four months left in his program, Steven is embracing his new job opportunity and the expertise the NLP staff has to offer. He has high hopes of being the best version of himself in order to be the example for others who went through the same life experiences as he did.

"Be the example—that's the best way I can help people experiencing homelessness," Steven says. "If they see me doing good and they know I was out there on the streets with them...maybe someone will say, I can do it too. To someone who is struggling—there is a solution."

The New Life Program is helping men be the example every single day. This encouragement all starts with YOU.

Give today at  
[DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG!](http://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG!)

# A Chaplain's Care

For many of the men in the New Life Program, having access to a chaplain to lead and guide them is key to their success. Steven says he wouldn't be where he is today without his chaplain, Dan Dilley. Learn more from Dan about how a chaplain plays an integral part in a participant's journey.

## HOW DO CHAPLAINS BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEW LIFE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS?

The chaplain gets to spend literally hours and hours with the person, discussing things, as they are comfortable, at every end of the spectrum. In doing this we start to build trust and relationship. People don't care what you know until they know that you care.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR A PARTICIPANT TO HAVE A CHAPLAIN AS PART OF THIS JOURNEY?

The chaplain prays for the participant on a regular basis. We like to say, "I can't give you a new life but I know the One who can, and I'm going to point you to Him. His name is Jesus!" Plus, the chaplain is engaged in helping the men with important things like getting an ID, getting a Driver's License, getting teeth, getting glasses, obtaining needed services, dealing with debt, dealing with legal issues, and the like.

## WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING STEVEN'S CHAPLAIN?

Being a chaplain is the purest form of ministry I've ever been involved in. There are people waiting in line to allow us to tell them about the One who can give them a new life! That is amazing. What a privilege and honor to do this! Lord, help us to do this in a way that brings glory to Your Name!



Steven pictured with Chaplain Dan Dilley.

Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the great honor of being asked to give the benediction at Denver Seminary's graduation. I used a Franciscan Benediction that I believe is appropriate for a seminary graduate but it speaks to what we do at the Mission. This simple prayer has come to mean a lot to me, and I wanted to share it with you:

*Franciscan Benediction*

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection and starvation, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.*

*And May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.*

*We ask these things in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

At Denver Rescue Mission, we are those committed people who believe that God uses us to make a difference in people's lives for eternity. We believe that Christ can do what others think cannot be done. Thanks for believing too! Together, we are Changing Lives in the Name of Christ!

God Bless,

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



**FOR TREATING MORE THAN 100 OF OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF TO WHITewater RAFTING!**

Participants in our programs spend most of their days in classrooms and hard at work, investing in becoming sober and self-sufficient. The opportunity to get away for a day and enjoy Colorado's beauty is much appreciated. *Thanks, Wilderness Aware!*

## COME RUN WITH US!



We're teaming up with the RiNo 5K and running through the heart of the River North Art District and historic Curtis Park. Course is fast and flat.

**\$35**  
REGISTRATION FEE

*Five percent of all registration fees are donated to Denver Rescue Mission*

REGISTER AT  
**Rino5k.org**

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

My parents raised me to help others and they led by example. My dad could not pass a stranded car or a hitchhiker and if my mom knew that someone needed something, she made sure they had it. Getting somewhere on time was not my dad's chief concern nor was our family budget my mom's chief concern. The well-being of our family and other human beings was their chief concern. I suppose you could say that I was conditioned to be comfortable in difficult situations and life's difficulties were not hidden from me. Perspective comes from exposure and I was exposed to a lot. Having this upbringing and finding the Lord's grace as a college student brought everything full circle for me. When I realized that I needed grace, my perspective changed. Helping those experiencing homelessness is a natural, Spirit-led response to the realization that you have received Jesus' grace in abundance.



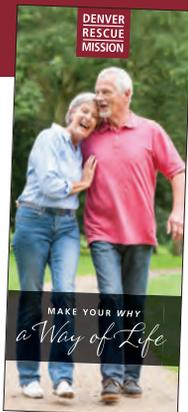
## How has your life changed since becoming the Mission's board president?

I've become more courageous. I am not a risk taker by nature and Brad Meuli often talks about having courage and trusting God. During my first term on the board, I figured out where he gets his courage from. Watching God bless the organization and make seemingly impossible things happen over and over creates courage.

## Why does the Mission matter to you?

I was born at St. Joseph's hospital in Denver in the late 70's and love my city. The city is changing and the Mission changes with it, looking for new ways to serve people. In seminary I learned about a concept called common grace. In regards to serving the homeless and families that need help to get back into housing, I would define common grace as helping someone get through a difficult time. It's different than saving grace, but the point is that common grace can point someone to saving grace through Jesus. It would be easy enough to look at the challenges that the needy in our city face and just throw up your hands. The employees at Denver Rescue Mission don't view life's challenges as insurmountable. They have hope in great measure, share common grace daily and make the most of every opportunity, one life at a time.

*Joe Fortna is an Executive Vice President at FirstBank and is also a seminary trained pastor. Joe has been a supporter of Denver Rescue Mission for many years and has served on the Board of Directors since 2010. He is currently the Mission's Board President.*



## LEGACY GIVING

Many popular motivational gurus talk about "finding your WHY." But have you thought about how sharing your WHY with others could impact their lives? For instance, do your loved ones know:

- WHY they mean so much to you?
- WHY you embrace faith?
- WHY you have certain personal values?

Request our free brochure to discover unique ways you can communicate your WHY to those you love most.

Visit [DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving](http://DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving) to learn more.

## 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.

## LOCATIONS

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