

# CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



## BREAK THE STIGMA: MYTHS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

ANNE TRUJILLO ON WHY THE MISSION MATTERS

HOW THE ROCKIES ARE SUPPORTING US THIS SUMMER

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

Dear Friends,

Recently, there were some phone calls that came into St. Francis Center, a day shelter not too far from the Mission, and Denver Rescue Mission. The calls were like some others we have received in the past, where we are told that “our people on the street” are creating problems of one kind or another. (The caller meant the homeless people we serve.) FOX 31 News heard about this, and I was asked to comment.

In the interview I said, *“People that are homeless are all our people. They’re not just Denver Rescue Mission people, they’re not just St. Francis people, they’re everybody’s people. And what we need to do is continue our efforts to make sure that we take care of people who are out there experiencing homelessness.”*

Really, we are all God’s people, and he has called us to look after those who are struggling, who are poor, who are hungry, and destitute. Because of this, we are all in this together. No one organization, no one ministry, no one city department is responsible for solving the challenges surrounding homelessness. We have to keep working on this together, grinding it out and trying to impact one person at a time.

Most of us have a family member, or a friend, or know someone who has been homeless, who has lost their job or suffered from an addiction that has caused all kinds of problems. The truth is, these folks, are just like you and me. Most of us are just one paycheck or one catastrophe from homelessness. This is where we step in at Denver Rescue Mission, when there is no place else to go, we are the light at the end of the tunnel. Please continue to join us in making a difference, in providing hope to...our people, your people, my people. We are in this together.

God Bless,

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



ON JUNE 12, WE WILL HOST A SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY BBQ AT THE CROSSING TO CELEBRATE ALL OF THE FATHERS IN OUR PROGRAMS. THEY'LL ENJOY YARD GAMES, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS AND MORE!

# HIT A HOME RUN AGAINST HUNGER

Friday, June 28

Join the Colorado Rockies, King Soopers and Denver Rescue Mission for the “Hit a Home Run Against Hunger” drive.

**Please bring nonperishable or canned food items to the Colorado Rockies game on Friday, June 28 to help feed the poor and hungry in our community!**

And when you shop at King Soopers from June 23 through July 20, be sure to show your support by making a monetary donation as you check out.



For more information please contact Lisette at [Lisette@DenRescue.org](mailto:Lisette@DenRescue.org) or 303.313.2414

# BREAK THE STIGMA

FOUR COMMON MYTHS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS



# HOMELESSNESS

## MYTHS - VS - FACTS

1

### MYTH

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS  
DON'T WANT TO GET A JOB.

EXPERTS AT THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 40 AND 60 % OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE JOBS.

However, most of those jobs are entry level, minimum wage positions. In Denver, if a person is making minimum wage, he or she would have to work 74 hours a week to afford a modest, one bedroom rental home at fair market rent. Even if a person did "roll up their sleeves" and work 74 hours a week, other obstacles still remain—groceries, utilities, transportation, insurance, child care, etc. Many people in our city simply do not make enough income to afford a rental apartment or home without some form of long-term assistance. This is why we offer a program called Family Rescue Ministry, which provides first month's rent and deposit along with a mentor team. So, although research continuously shows that people experiencing homelessness have jobs, unfortunately, just getting a job isn't the end-all solution.

THE FACT IS...



2

### MYTH

HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE ADDICTS, SO  
IT'S THEIR FAULT THEY'RE HOMELESS.



THE FACT IS...

OF THE PEOPLE ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAMS,  
THE NUMBER ONE REASON THEY GIVE FOR  
BECOMING HOMELESS IS JOB LOSS.

Other common reasons people become homeless are lowered wages, a health care crisis, increased rent, or a family emergency. For those who do struggle with addictions, mental illness is often at the root of their challenges. People living with mental health disorders are particularly vulnerable to drug and alcohol use. Rather than addiction causing homelessness, it's more accurate to know mental illness can cause addictive behaviors and unhealthy coping mechanisms, which can lead to homelessness. Many of the people we serve tell us they grew up in homes with abuse, neglect and trauma. In critical development years, they never learned healthy coping skills or how to develop supportive relationships.

3

**MYTH**

**HOMELESS SHELTERS ARE JUST ENABLING HOMELESSNESS.**

**OUR SHELTER SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO PURSUE A PATH OFF THE STREET.**

Without shelters, people experiencing homelessness would not have basic resources for survival. Emergency services provide safety, dignity and hope. Places like our Lawrence Street Shelter and Lawrence Street Community Center provide these basic resources—meals, showers, laundry, drinking water, restrooms, electrical outlets, and safe places off the street and out of the elements. All of our emergency services facilities are staffed with employees who engage with guests, fostering relationships and offering information about our programs and services like Next Step, which is designed to guide people to find permanent and sustainable housing.

**THE FACT IS...**



4

**MYTH**

**HOMELESSNESS IS SUCH A BIG CHALLENGE...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.**

**THE FACT IS...**

*YOU CAN DO SOMETHING.*

**DONATE TODAY AND BRING HOPE AND LASTING CHANGE TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

Right now, more than 5,000 people in Denver are experiencing homelessness, but you can make a difference. Armed with the facts, together we can break the stigmas and obstacles that keep people from taking action. Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our donors and volunteers, Denver Rescue Mission is giving new hope to families and individuals, and empowering them to pursue a new direction.

**BREAK THE STIGMA**

**AT DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG**

## Why is it important for you to come and volunteer your time at the Mission?

I think the industry I work in can be isolating sometimes. We talk to the experts, mayors and city officials, but the people the Mission serves should be heard as well. They have feelings and thoughts and hopes and dreams, and when I volunteer here, I get an opportunity to better understand their perspective.



## You can see it on the faces of people who we serve when they meet our volunteers—the smiles, the handshakes. What does it mean to you to provide experiences like that to people?

I think it's so easy to pass by people experiencing homelessness and not look at them. But you come here, to a place like Denver Rescue Mission, and you realize that homeless people are just that, they're people. I just sat with a gentleman whose first language is Navajo and he came up to me and shared some beautiful sentences in Navajo. It was such a cool moment for both of us. You could see the sense of pride on his face, speaking his native language and sharing that part of his identity. It was just so cool.

## Why does the Mission's work matter to you?

We cannot ignore people, whether they are homeless or down on their luck, they're part of our community—an important part of our community and their voices need to be heard. They need to have opportunities to eat and drink and socialize and not feel judged, and I think Denver Rescue Mission provides those opportunities.

*Anne is an Anchor at Denver7 News, and is Co-President of the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and is a member of journalism advisory councils at University of Colorado Boulder and Metropolitan State University. Anne is married to Mike—whom she met at Denver7—and together they have two grown children.*

## 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, washing machines and dryers, 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 transitional programs	
<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	