

SEPTEMBER 2019

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



THE GIFT OF A DRIVEN HEART

COLORADO 10TH HIGHEST IN U.S. HOUSING COSTS

HOW WE HELP PROVIDE HOMES

HOUSING HARDSHIPS IN DENVER*



10

COLORADO RANKS TENTH
HIGHEST IN HOUSING
WAGES IN THE COUNTRY**

ANNUAL INCOME
NEEDED TO AFFORD A
ONE-BEDROOM HOME:

\$48K

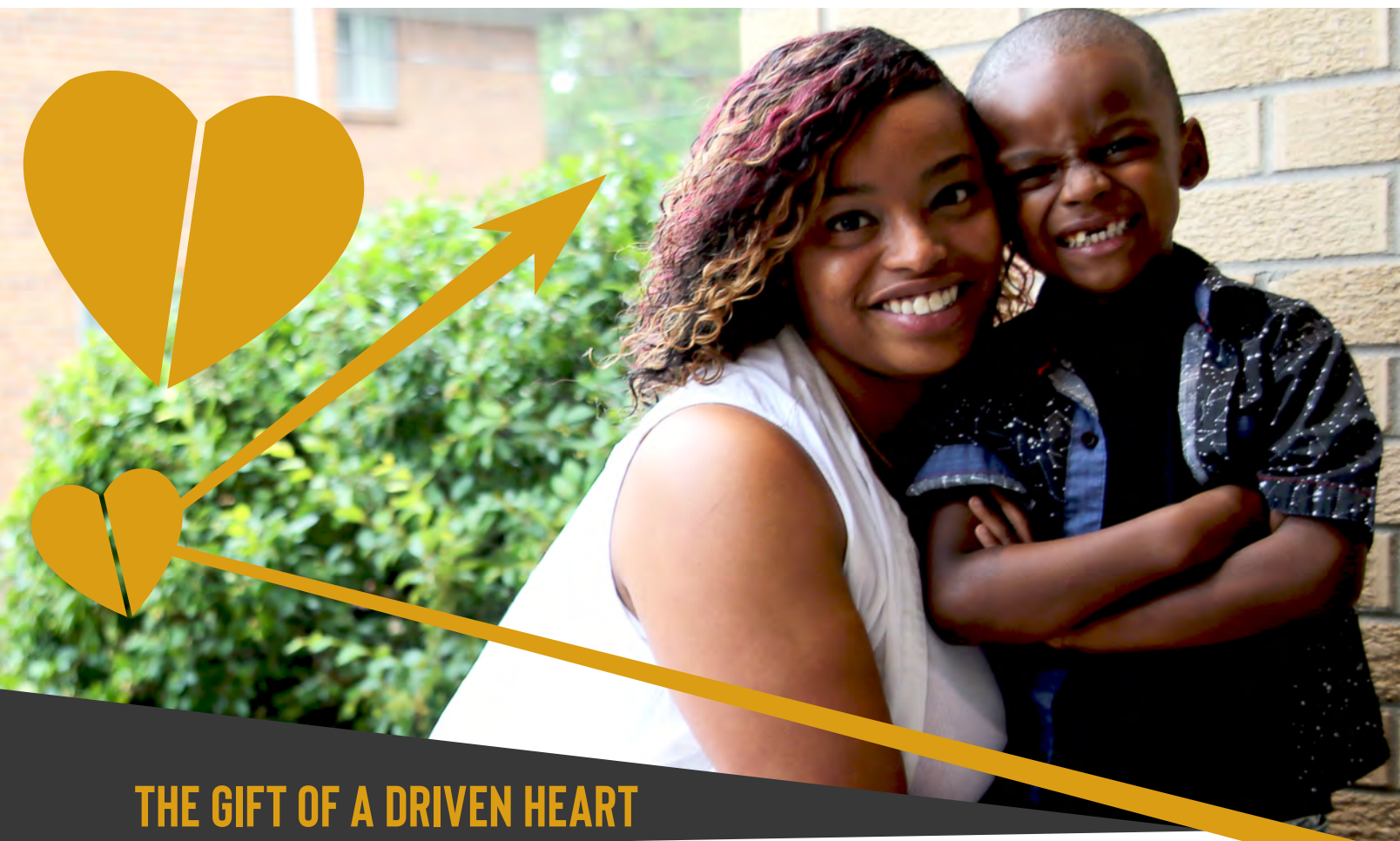
83

WEEKLY HOURS NEEDED TO WORK
AT MINIMUM WAGE (\$11.10/HR) TO
AFFORD A ONE-BEDROOM HOME

*THE ABOVE STATISTICS REPRESENT
THE DENVER-AURORA-LAKEWOOD MSA

**HOUSING WAGE IS THE HOURLY WAGE A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE NEEDS TO AFFORD A REASONABLE RENTAL
HOME AT FAIR MARKET RENT WITHOUT SPENDING MORE THAN 30% OF HIS OR HER INCOME ON HOUSING.

SOURCE: NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION'S 2019 OUT OF REACH REPORT: [REPORTS.NLIHC.ORG/OOR/COLORADO](https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/colorado)



THE GIFT OF A DRIVEN HEART

It was a frigid winter's day. Tiffany was waiting at a bus station near Smith Road with her two-year-old son, Quincy, nestled under her coat. She was shivering from the rain that had turned into snow and felt like she was on the verge of getting frostbite. In that moment, she thought to herself, *I cannot wait to have my own place to call home. I cannot wait.*

That was the same day that her case manager, Donna Shelton, called with news that changed her story forever. She had been chosen for the Section 8 voucher program, a program of the Denver Housing Authority that enables families to rent an apartment that they otherwise cannot afford.

"WHEN I CALLED HER, SHE SCREAMED AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS," DONNA SAID. "SHE WAS SO HAPPY!"

Tiffany didn't get the voucher by chance or by luck. Tiffany was chosen to receive the voucher because of her drive, determination and go-getter attitude.

"She was doing really fantastic in our program, so it was

a no-brainer for me that she get one of those vouchers," Donna said.

Tiffany became homeless about two months after Quincy was born after walking away from an abusive relationship. She attended Job Corps in the Midwest but got kicked out because of the inability to control her anger. After bouncing around to different family members' homes, she decided to move to Denver.

"Denver was a whole different world," she said. "And it changed me. It changed a lot."

The first time Tiffany and Quincy arrived at Champa House, a former residential program for single mothers offered by Denver Rescue Mission, she failed her drug test and consequently wasn't accepted. One year later, she returned with hopes of a different outcome. "The second time, I was clean," she said. "I'm here to stay. I'm here to give my all."

Tiffany could have easily just skipped the program and given up after getting denied.

"That's just not what resonated in her spirit," Donna said. "Something else was pulling at her. That was God. The gift was in there. He just needed it to get to the surface."



During her time at the Mission, Tiffany started to overcome the deep feelings of anger that caused many setbacks in her past. "The biggest transformation was watching how angry she came in—she seemed like she was mad at the world," Donna said, "and she just blossomed into such a light-hearted, loving and cheerful woman. God had definitely just calmed her spirit and said, 'I made you this way, and this is what the world needs to see.'"

As Tiffany began to heal, so did Quincy.

"The more he saw his mom working through difficult situations and talking to people she had disagreements with," Donna said, "the more we saw a change happening in Quincy."

After dropping out in 11th grade, Tiffany later finished her high school education online and advanced her GPA from a 1.1 to a 4.0. While in our program, she attended Community College of Aurora and pursued the Patient Care Technician program while also working. She maintained a strong GPA and received multiple scholarships, enabling her to surpass her savings goal.

God amplified Tiffany's determination to provide for herself and her son. "I really just admired her drive and encouraged her to pay attention to what God has in store," Donna said. "He didn't give her this gift for nothing."

Within a month after receiving a Section 8 voucher, Tiffany found an apartment—her own place to call home that she dreamt about on that cold winter's day—just for her and Quincy.

Family Rescue Ministry (FRM), a program at the Mission that helps working families who are experiencing homelessness secure stable housing, covered Tiffany's security deposit.

"It was unbelievable," she said. "I got my own place."

After moving in, Tiffany frequently met with her mentor through FRM, Stephanie Jones. Together, they created a budget and a savings plan. Stephanie helped her set career goals and talked through ways to cultivate her relationship with Quincy, now four years old.

"She's an incredibly goal-oriented person," Stephanie said. "I realized that about her the moment I met her."

Tiffany found a PCT job shortly after graduating college in May 2019. She has lived in her apartment for about a year and loves its convenient location, which is walking distance from Quincy's preschool.

When Tiffany and Quincy are out and about, Quincy would rather be home than anywhere else.

"I wonder if it traumatized him a little bit," Tiffany said. "I think it did, but at the same time, he knows who he is. He knows who his mom is. He knows where his home is." ■



MORE ABOUT FAMILY RESCUE MINISTRY



90%

The percentage of families who received assistance from FRM and remained in housing after a year

234

The number of adults and children who moved into housing with the support of FRM last year

10

The number of Section 8 vouchers that Denver Rescue Mission receives from Denver Human Services each year

The above statistics represent Denver Rescue Mission's Fiscal Year 2018–2019.

By supporting Family Rescue Ministry, you are helping provide homes. Together, we can help create stable and comfortable living environments for families in need.

Give today at [DenverRescueMission.org](https://denverrescuemission.org).

Dear Friends:

When hardships happen, we often turn to God in prayer and ask Him to give us strength. During difficult times, I am reminded of the many lives that I have seen changed at the Mission. I am reminded of the hundreds of families God has sent to us to help at The Crossing and the families who have been able to move into stable housing through our Family Rescue Ministry.

In the 20 years that I have had the great blessing to be at the Mission, I have seen God work miracles in people's lives, changing them from the inside out. As staff, we have had the opportunity to see Christ reunite families, help people overcome addiction, take steps to lift people out of the cycle of poverty, and open doors for the participants in our programs that seemed to be nailed shut.

This happens year after year, God touching people's lives and caring for us as staff and volunteers with his encouragement—providing the courage to keep "suing up and showing up." God's financial provision, through generous donors like you, makes this all possible and keeps us constantly trusting Him for the money that is needed to continue this work. Thank you for partnering with us! God is doing great things here, and together, we are steadily gaining ground!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President and CEO



Round up your family and friends for an unforgettable time at Harvest Farm! From wagon rides to pig races to a 10-acre Colorado-themed corn maze, the festival offers fun-filled activities for the whole family. Festival proceeds support the men in our New Life Program recovering from chronic homelessness and addiction.



HarvestFarm.org/Fall-Festival

970.568.9488 • 4240 East County Road 66, Wellington, CO • Exit 278 from I-25



DENVER RESCUE MISSION STAFF SPOTLIGHT

TOM LEAVITT • Director of Family Services and Community Ministries

I've been at Denver Rescue Mission for 23 years, and I started as a case manager and church liaison. The Mission is like my second family. The community of people I work with has been really supportive and I believe in our message, "Jesus Saves." This message continues to impact my life every day and has become more real and transforming with time.

As Director, I'm leading my team to move even more into community ministries where we're connecting with churches, agencies and nonprofits and asking how

we can collaborate. The Denver housing market, affordable and available housing, is a huge challenge, so we need to get out in the community and connect with apartment complexes and landlords who can work with and rent to our families.

There's always something new and exciting in our department—vibrant ways to build and develop programs, expand out, and reach more people. It's always in motion; never stagnant. God's been faithful all these years and I know He will continue to be. ■

How do Denver's Road Home and Denver Rescue Mission work together?

Denver's Road Home deeply collaborates with Denver Rescue Mission to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness. We consulted in the concept and creation of the Lawrence Street Community Center, provide bus transportation service to nearly 700 shelter guests at the Mission's programs every night and morning, and now, the Mission has taken up programming in a city-owned facility currently operating as the city's largest overnight shelter, known as 48th Street Center. They are much more than a shelter agency—they offer a variety of programs designed to provide support, resources, navigation, and patience to help people move out of shelter.



What stands out about Denver Rescue Mission that encouraged this partnership?

Denver Rescue Mission is organized, intelligent and adaptable, while holding itself to high standards of hospitality and compassionate care. It is fully committed to its service-based mission, and we approach challenges together, identifying mutual responsibility to our work. The Mission is clear about when and where they can help and when and where they need help. This delivers us a partnership that is not just transactional or contract-based, but one that is built from the common vision of ending homelessness each day.

How has working with Denver Rescue Mission impacted you?

There are people working at Denver Rescue Mission each day who have built themselves strong reputations for compassion, care, hospitality, and kindness among those facing homelessness. I am humbled by their legacies and feel grace for the idea that my work might be important to each gesture of kindness and support they can create in the lives of our vulnerable neighbors. I've been rewarded tremendously by seeing the success of the Mission's guests and the staff who have supported them. With their partnership, I feel we can do so many good things.

Chris Conner is the Director of Denver's Road Home, the City of Denver's signature agency on homelessness service response. He started with the agency as an Administrator in 2011 after several years of working as a Street Outreach caseworker in the nonprofit sector.

Read Chris's full interview to learn about his experience staying at the 48th Street Center as part of the Shelter Immersion project:

[DenverRescueMission.org/Blog](https://denverrescuemission.org/blog)

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

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

