

OCTOBER 2019

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

PEER NAVIGATOR GRANT TO BENEFIT SHELTER GUESTS

\$2 OFF ADMISSION TO THE FALL FESTIVAL

Dear Friends,

Just so you know, our New Life Program (NLP) is hard. It is really hard. Addiction is a horrible thing. I cannot overemphasize this. An addiction can come to mean more than anything else to a person experiencing it. This is what makes our rehabilitation program hard. People have to really want to change. As Kaileb, our NLP participant featured in this issue states, *"It's not for the weak-minded. It's not for those who aren't willing to change their lives."*

Just a few weeks ago, we had a man graduate from our program who did so on his third try. We are so thankful that he made it, but his journey has not been easy.

How can our program participants find their way out of addiction? What is the difference between our rehabilitation program and others you hear about? Most of our program participants point to one thing: Jesus Christ. He is the one who helps them stay in a program where they have to examine their lives—where they need the strength that a human cannot provide. He provides the strength—the power they need to see the change in their lives. God provides the courage we all need to keep "suing up and showing up," one day at a time.

We are proud of the 102 NLP graduations we celebrated last year. But make no mistake about it, we know it is Jesus who changes lives here. Without His love, His power and His strength, we could not have done this for 127 years, nor would we be able to do this work in the future.

We want to keep helping people like Kaileb today, tomorrow and every day after that. Please continue to partner with us. God is at work here!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President and CEO



Do you want to give a charitable donation that gives back to you?



A Charitable Gift Annuity with Denver Rescue Mission meets your need for financial security and can provide tax advantages. Ultimately, your generosity will help support the Mission's legacy while ensuring you a return.

Learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities

Contact Cindy Hendricks at: CHendricks@DenRescue.org or 303-313-2441 or visit DenverRescueMission.org/Legacy-Giving

DENVER PEER NAVIGATOR COLLABORATIVE

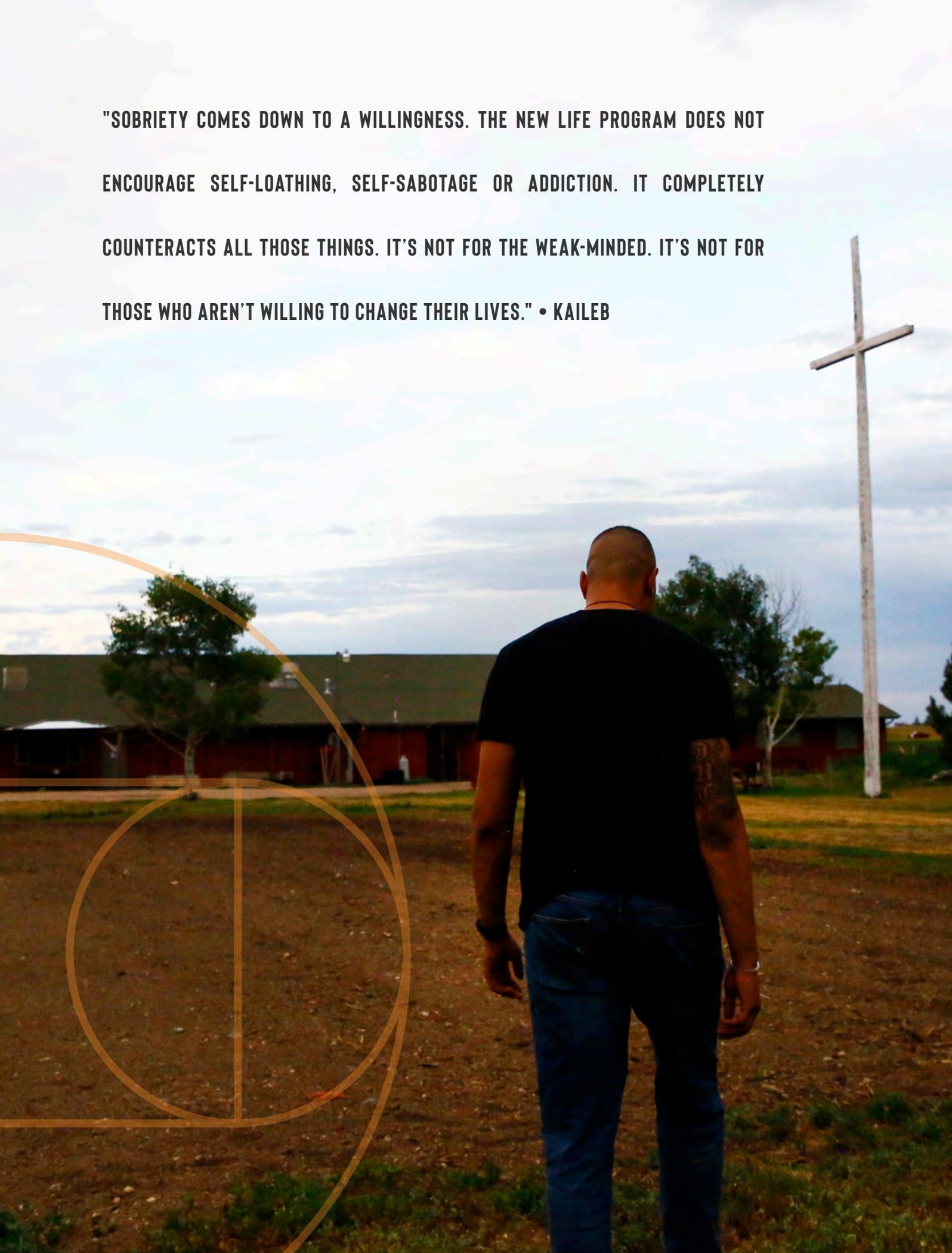
Denver Rescue Mission is thrilled to announce we've been awarded a 17-month grant by Denver Human Services to launch a new Peer Navigator Collaborative. The Peer Navigators, who have personally experienced homelessness and successfully transitioned into housing, will engage with guests entering our shelter system for the first time. Through this peer-to-peer relationship, they will help reduce barriers to housing, connect people to service providers and assist with referrals to area agencies—all with the end goal of creating a pathway out of homelessness for people who come to us for help.



Learn more about the Denver Peer Navigator Collaborative at DenverRescueMission.org/Blog

The grant provides funding for a Peer Navigator Manager and three Peer Navigators to offer support to those accessing services at the Lawrence Street Community Center, Lawrence Street Shelter, 48th Street Center, and Holly Center. "It's going to help us reach those people who are new to homelessness and the shelter system," said Jordan Smith, Peer Navigator Program Manager. "Because of their previous experience, our Peers will relate to our guests in ways that traditional staff may not be able to."

"SOBRIETY COMES DOWN TO A WILLINGNESS. THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM DOES NOT ENCOURAGE SELF-LOATHING, SELF-SABOTAGE OR ADDICTION. IT COMPLETELY COUNTERACTS ALL THOSE THINGS. IT'S NOT FOR THE WEAK-MINDED. IT'S NOT FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES." • KAILEB



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

"All throughout my life, whenever I was comfortable, I wasn't making progress. I wasn't growing—spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically. The number one thing I'm trying to really base my life around now is being uncomfortable for the right reasons."



For the majority of his life, Kaileb, a staunch, six-foot-nine former collegiate basketball player, found his identity in being an athlete. He knew he was born to play ball.

But his zeal and commitment to the sport, and to life, didn't develop until his mid-twenties after battling years of destructive addictions and consequentially joining the New Life Program at Harvest Farm.

At the age of 12, Kaileb received news that led to deep confusion. He found out the father he grew up with was not his biological father and his brother was his half-brother. "It was a really emotional thing," he said. "It fueled my fire all of a sudden...to be reckless and to be wild."

That same year, he tried his first beer in a friend's basement, and one curious sip eventually escalated to binge drinking. At 15, he tried marijuana.

During his freshman and sophomore years at Thunder Ridge High School in Highlands Ranch, the college offer letters started flooding in from schools across the nation.

At 17, he signed an offer to attend the University of California, Berkeley and received a full-ride basketball scholarship. "I have pictures of the day I signed," Kaileb said. "I just looked absolutely miserable. I didn't know how to feel."

The summer after he turned 18, he tried cocaine. At that point, he was drinking heavily and smoking every day.

When he arrived in Berkeley, the lack of fulfillment in his identity as an athlete resulted in a search for more. He went to practice and weight training high. He used his stipends on drugs and alcohol and went from being a starting player to a bench player.

Kaileb attended four schools in his five years of playing college basketball. "I would go to a school, get in a lot of trouble with drinking and drugs and then burn the bridge with that coach and move on to the next," he said. "That was the beginning of letting go of the opportunity I had."

The high that he sought from drugs and alcohol led to many low points: a night he almost overdosed on Xanax; a day that he sat in a park with three knives, two handguns and 100 rounds of ammunition in his backpack with suicide on his mind.

After college, his drug and alcohol addictions evolved into an obsession with collecting firearms. He left home after having a falling out with his parents and lived in his car for about three months with eight guns in the trunk. After a continual downward spiral, he eventually found himself in jail for two and a half months.

"I came out of that and was just absolutely broken," he said.

His mother and grandmother contacted Harvest Farm, and in September of 2018, he arrived at the Farm with only a few belongings and many feelings of uncertainty.

For his first 30 days in the program, Kaileb started each day with

devotions, followed by work therapy on the Farm. "I would pick up manure," he said. "It gave me time to think and process and allow myself to understand."

A few weeks after he arrived, he was assigned to work at the annual Fall Festival at the Farm, and he embraced the task with confidence.

"When I was working the Fall Festival, I got to see a lot of real, genuine happiness—untethered, untouched, authentic happiness—and I was like, I want that, I want to harness that. I want to be a part of that."

Kaileb said his experience at the Fall Festival had a big impact on his willingness to stay at the Farm.

"I think that was the first step toward trying to find myself again, because I realized I bring a lot to the table when I'm sober," he said.

Peter Keohane, who works with Kaileb as his program chaplain, said that by participating in the Festival, men can see that just because they've had substance use difficulties, doesn't mean they aren't accepted by others. "I think by having thousands of people come out here, men begin to realize that they haven't been ostracized," he said.

With the help of mentors like Peter, Kaileb was able to get brutally honest with himself and pursue his true identity in Christ. "He's come to this place where basketball's still a part of his life, but it's not who he is," Peter said.

Kaileb will be back at the Fall Festival again, but this year with a fresh perspective and a ready heart. He is on track to graduate from the program at the end of October.

He currently works as a warehouse assistant for Fort Collins Heating and Air Conditioning and is following a training program with hopes of pursuing a career in basketball, whether it's playing professional ball, coaching or becoming an agent.

"I've been so desperate for fulfillment and success throughout my entire life and then I realized that fulfillment and success doesn't always have to be on this grandiose scale," he said. "I want to use my testimony in a big way, and that's the beautiful thing about testimonies—no one can tell you it didn't happen."

By supporting Denver Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm, you are providing opportunities for men like Kaileb to overcome addiction. Together, we can help people find their identities in Christ.



17th Annual Fall Festival & Corn Maze
Harvest Farm

Join us at this year's Fall Festival at Harvest Farm

OCTOBER 4-27
FRIDAYS | SATURDAYS | SUNDAYS

where you'll get an opportunity to take a wagon ride with the men in the New Life Program to hear them share their stories—stories like Kaileb's of healing and redemption through life on the Farm.

Present this coupon for **\$2 off** One Admission

MUST HAVE THIS COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE AT EVENT ENTRANCE. NOT VALID ONLINE. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

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Exit 278 from I-25

HarvestFarm.org

Give today at
DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

Lance Bublitz on *Why Denver Rescue Mission Matters*

What inspires you to keep coming back to the Fall Festival each year?

Bedrock BBQ is going on its fourth year vending at the Fall Festival at Harvest Farm. The Farm is a beautiful place, and we enjoy the fall-like atmosphere, all the fun things to do, and seeing all the happy families enjoying themselves. It also makes us feel good that we can help out the Farm by donating a portion of our sales to Denver Rescue Mission.



Why do you think Harvest Farm's New Life Program is important to these men?

We have had some great conversations with the men at the Farm and their families. We feel that the New Life Program is a great way for these men to get their lives back on track. Many have had been in unfortunate situations or have taken a bad road in their lives, but going through the program helps them get back on track while being mentored by other men who have gone through similar experiences.

Why does Denver Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm matter to our community?

Denver Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm matter to our community by giving men who are in need of a change in their lives a place where they can get the help they need to turn around their outlook and path through life.

WANT TO EXPERIENCE BEDROCK BBQ FOR YOURSELF?



Bedrock BBQ started as a backyard barbeque and went on to compete in 2009 at Loveland Loves BBQ, Bands and Brews, winning an award for its meat. It has been competing and judging in Kansas City Barbeque Society Sanctioned Events for the past decade and has been a part of the food truck scene in Northern Colorado for the past eight years.

COME GIVE IT A TRY AT THIS YEAR'S FALL FESTIVAL!

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

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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