

CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE

"Be devoted to one another
in brotherly love."

—Romans 12:10—

Thank You
for

**BLESSING OUR
BROTHERS**

HOW LIVING AT THE CROSSING RESTORED MARK'S CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

ROCKIN' RESCUE NIGHT OUT EVENT SUPPORTS MISSION DURING HOLIDAYS

Dear Friends,

What is the best Christmas you have ever had? Was it when you were little and received the gift you had been wanting? Perhaps something special happened when you were in high school or your parent came back from a military deployment right before Christmas. That would be a Christmas to remember! Although I'm not sure which Christmas is my absolute favorite, I have a grandson who was born two years ago on Christmas Eve, and not much can top that!

For many of the people we work with, like Mark featured in this month's newsletter, Christmas does not have that Norman Rockwell warm family feeling. Christmas for those in need doesn't mean much more than any other day. In fact, for many of those experiencing homelessness, it can be a very sad reminder of the family and home they no longer have because of their circumstances.

This is why we strive to make the men in our New Life Program feel like they are special with the Bless Our Brothers Christmas dinner and a gift from generous donors. One wrapped present and a meal may not seem like much, but this simple expression of love does so much to encourage and lift up our men. This is our way of saying, "God loves you and has a plan for your life, and by the way, we love you too! We know that you can do this!"

Through the Bless Our Brothers event, we have the opportunity to act like Barnabas from the Bible, as an encourager and as a cheerleader. Who does not need more encouragement not only this Christmas, but every day? Thank you for partnering with us as we encourage men in our New Life Program to not only see Christmas differently, but to see themselves through God's eyes as His beloved.

Merry Christmas to you! May this be your best Christmas yet!

Brad Meuli
President and CEO



TURN ASSETS INTO EMPHASIS

Did you know that one out of 10 Americans rent offsite storage, making it the fastest growing segment of the commercial real estate industry over the past four decades? The US is known for our tendency toward excess—holding on to assets we don't actually need.

Have you ever thought about giving away retirement assets to a ministry like Denver Rescue Mission? Now that the Charitable IRA Rollover has been signed into permanent law, it's a great time to give—and reap the benefits!

Visit DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving or contact Cindy Hendricks at CHendricks@DenRescue.org or 303.313.2441 to learn more.



**DENVER RESCUE MISSION
STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

KEVIN BAKER • Denver Food Services Manager

I am responsible for all things food related for our facilities within the Denver area, including the transportation and delivery of food from the Ministry Outreach Center to the Lawrence Street Community Center and The Crossing. I am also in charge of ensuring all our practices follow food safety guidelines. My goal is to guide the chefs and food services team to make quality meals, so

that when guests come to the Mission, they'll have meals that are healthy and sustainable, and they'll receive them in a manner that makes them feel important. We meet people at their lowest points in their lives. We greet them with a "hello" and treat them with dignity and respect. We're here to change lives in the name of Christ. We're not giving people a handout, we're building them back up. ■



“IF YOU LOOK THROUGH THE MINISTRY OUTREACH CENTER, YOU CAN REALLY FIND SOME NICE THINGS, LIKE THIS SHIRT HERE. I LOVE THIS SHIRT! THIS IS THE SHIRT I WEAR TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY. AND I GOT THIS JACKET AT THE WAREHOUSE, TOO. THEY REMIND ME OF WHAT THIS PLACE HAS DONE FOR ME.

It's done a lot.”

MARK





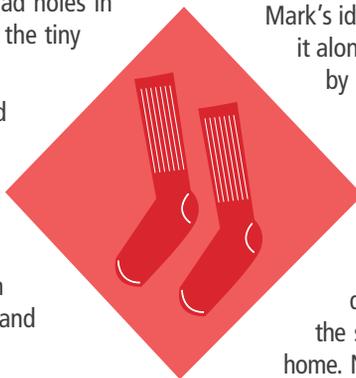
A MILE IN MARK'S *socks*

Growing up, Mark didn't have a lot, but he always had enough. Christmas time was spent with his family—his father, mother, three brothers, and many relatives. He always had plenty to eat, and there was always enough for seconds. Whenever his socks had holes in them, his parents would simply sew them up. He'd feel the tiny sewn bumps when he walked, but he got used to them.

Despite having a happy childhood, when Mark moved out on his own, his ultimate goal was to never live with holes in his socks again.

He fulfilled that goal for the first part of his adulthood. However, when financial stress resulted in an end to his marriage, he turned to drinking, which turned into 10 years of alcohol addiction, depression and separation from his only son.

Mark spent two and a half of those years on the streets, going from shelter to shelter and spending his days looking for food and clothing. One of his lowest points was the night he was assaulted—kicked by a steel toe boot above his right eye. All of his belongings were stolen, and he had to walk, bleeding, to the hospital.



"I was possibly going to die out there on the streets," he said. "I didn't want the last people who knew me in life to hear about me in the newspaper."

Mark's idea of Christmas became grim and warped from spending it alone on the streets. "Sitting on a bus bench or a park bench by yourself and hearing church bells in the background is devastating," he said, "it really is."

During the holidays, and every day, the hardest memories for Mark were being helplessly withdrawn from this family.

"My mother, I came up to her apartment and rang the doorbell, and she wouldn't answer the door," he said. "I saw the shadows through the peephole, so I knew somebody was home. None of my relatives wanted to talk to me. At that point, I knew I needed a change. I was back to having holes in my socks."

Mark's younger brother helped him get connected with Denver Rescue Mission, and in November 2018, he joined the New Life Program at The Crossing.

BLESSING OUR BROTHERS

Living at The Crossing for the past year has meant the world to Mark. He doesn't have to worry about someone stealing his belongings. He has a warm bed to come home to after working long shifts at Walmart. He knows there's a warehouse of donated clothing available to him. And he always has plenty to eat. There's always enough for seconds.

"If you're still hungry, you can get more," he said. "There's always plenty of food, and that was the way I'd grown up."

Last year, Mark once again spent Christmas without his three brothers. But this time, he was surrounded by more than 100 brothers in Christ. Each year, the Mission hosts an event called Bless Our Brothers, a festive Christmas dinner for New Life Program participants. Mark said he'll never forget the delicious steak dinner that was served that night. "It pretty much brought tears to my eyes that they cared that much to serve us all that," he said.

"IT FELT GREAT THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO REALLY CARED—WHO KNEW OUR HISTORIES AND KNEW OUR STORIES—AND TOOK US IN WITH OPEN ARMS."

The Mission helped restore Mark's sentiment about Christmas, from memories of pain and loneliness to memories of joy and camaraderie. "Having Christmas here just restrengthened my thoughts of the good Christmases I had and what still could be—family, friends and just being at ease and being happy," he said.

Every year at the Bless Our Brothers event, participants receive a gift—typically something they wrote on their wish lists. When Mark opened his gift, he got exactly what he wanted: 12 new pairs of plain white tube socks.

In October, Mark graduated from the New Life Program. He has reconnected with his family and friends, and this year he plans to cook and host his mother, brothers and other relatives for a festive Christmas dinner in his new apartment. ■



Mark with his friend, Big John, at the Bless Our Brothers event in 2018. Mark enjoyed doing bible studies with Big John while they were together in the New Life Program.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SPORTS RADIO 104.3 THE FAN, LISTENERS HELPED PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO THE MEN IN OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM. MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVEN'T HAD THE JOY OF UNWRAPPING A GIFT IN YEARS.

THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, YOU CAN PROVIDE A LIFE-CHANGING CHRISTMAS TO SOMEONE WHO HASN'T HAD A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS IN YEARS. GIVE TODAY AT

[DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES.](http://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES)

Will you describe the Rockin' Rescue Night Out event and how it supports Denver Rescue Mission?

Rockin' Rescue Night Out (RRNO) brings people together to remember that each and every person could be in the same place as those who are less fortunate. The night includes a silent auction, various fundraising activities and drinks and appetizers. One hundred percent of the event's contributions are donated to the Mission.



What inspired the event's launch, and how has it grown and evolved?

Dan: For me, it started more than 20 years ago. I lived downtown and saw firsthand those experiencing homelessness. I wanted to do something and give back, so in 1997, I started the first RRNO in a warehouse on Larimer Street. Eight people showed up, and I raised \$80. I hosted the RRNO with my wife off and on for several more years, and after partnering with Robert and friends with businesses who could provide support, it became an annual event. We now have a steady group of incredible volunteers and are always looking for new people to join.

Robert: Dan convinced me of the value and difference we are able to accomplish with our corporate partners. The initial events were the heartbeat that gave us ideas that have been revised each year. The goal for this year's event is to welcome more than 250 attendees and raise \$35,000.

Why does the Mission matter to our community, particularly during the holidays?

We recognize the stress and hardships that can occur with the holidays, and our goal is to add some cheer to the lives of those in need by assisting the Mission.

How has this partnership with the Mission impacted you personally?

Dan: Putting a face to people experiencing homelessness and making it a front and center issue has become my new cause. Christ said the poor will always be among us. I want to make sure that, as a community, we are not afraid to serve those in need. Through RRNO, we see people softening their hearts toward people experiencing homelessness, and we are able to provide another channel to help people. I have been blessed in so many ways, and the Lord has shown me a meaningful way to help the less fortunate.

Robert: The Mission has opened my eyes to its role in our community. Without its support, many individuals would not be able to cope and survive. From immediate care to transitional support, the Mission's caring attitude inspires me to do more for our community.

Dan Davis is a regional sales manager for a power quality company. He grew up in Bethesda, Maryland and has lived in Denver for 29 years. He is a parishioner of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish in Denver and he has two daughters.

Robert Pywell was born and raised in Vancouver Island, British Columbia and moved to Denver in 2000. He has a daughter and a son. A former professional soccer player and coach, Robert currently works in preconstruction for Braconier Plumbing & Heating Company, Inc.

JOIN ROCKIN' RESCUE NIGHT OUT DECEMBER 5
No RSVP necessary. For more info, visit: Facebook.com/RockinRescue

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	

P.O. Box 5164 | Denver, CO 80217 | 303.297.1815

