

BY GRACE • THROUGH FAITH

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

*Looking back at a year of God's faithfulness*

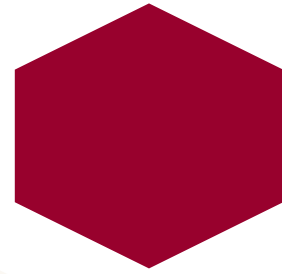


DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION



NO LOITERING  
STAY IN A PUBLIC  
AREA ONLY  
NO DRUGS  
NO ALCOHOL  
NO SMOKING  
NO GAMING  
NO PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES  
VIOLATION OF ANY  
OF THESE RULES  
WILL RESULT IN A  
FINE OF \$500.00  
OR 30 DAYS IN JAIL  
OR BOTH

NO LOITERING  
STAY IN A PUBLIC  
AREA ONLY  
NO DRUGS  
NO ALCOHOL  
NO SMOKING  
NO GAMING  
NO PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES  
VIOLATION OF ANY  
OF THESE RULES  
WILL RESULT IN A  
FINE OF \$500.00  
OR 30 DAYS IN JAIL  
OR BOTH



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who We Are	5
Impact	8
Our Supporters	20
Financials	22
Leadership	24
What's Next?	26



## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God. It's the fuel that keeps us going here at the Mission. As we begin our 128th year of service, I have realized that it's by grace, through faith that we have been able to serve our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and help guide them toward lives of self-sufficiency and fulfillment in Christ.

This year, as part of our three-year strategic plan, we worked on updating best practices for our program participants and prioritized clients' next steps out of shelter by developing strategies to reach a large group of individuals and help move them toward more stable living environments. (In 2019, 682 of our downtown Denver guests joined one of the Mission's programs!) We also accomplished renovation projects at several facilities to create more comfortable and safer environments for our program participants and guests. The transition from the streets to the Mission is not always easy, and our goal is to make it as efficient, effective and impactful as possible for individuals and families who come to the Mission for help.

In this report, you will read stories of growth and restoration among the people we serve and see the impact of what we have been able to achieve this year. It's important to remember that all of this is an incredible reflection of God's goodness and grace. He has worked through many people who have sacrificed much for "the least of these," including the time and effort of our volunteers, the hard work of our 211 Mission staff members, the guidance from our trusted Board of Directors, and the generosity of gracious partners like you.

Thank you for praying with us, believing with us and supporting us in 2019. We look forward to another transformative year of Changing Lives in the Name of Christ—by grace, through faith.



God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Meuli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "B" and "M".

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO

## WHO WE ARE

### Mission Statement:

We exist to change lives in the name of Christ by meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.

### *We do this using Four 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.



## WHO WE SERVE



"I am 11 years old and in 6th grade. My favorite thing about living at The Crossing is doing art on Thursdays and going to the Broncos Room. Before I came to live here, bad stuff kept happening. We lived in some type of apartments that were for homeless people, but they kicked us out. We were in the snow, and they left us on the side of the building. The good thing about living here is that I made friends. I get to live a good life. Before, we didn't have enough money to pay the rent and to get food, and living here now, we got back on our feet. My mom's making money and we are about to get housing."

***Jaydin, 6th grader living at The Crossing***



"I was married, my wife got very sick, and she passed away about a year ago. That came with many medical bills. I got buried financially, and then I got laid off from my job. One night, I found myself with nowhere to go and no money, so I spent the night walking around downtown. I was really scared about it, and they were very kind to me at Lawrence Street Community Center. They've put a roof over my head. They've given me three meals a day. The most important thing the Mission does is help you have faith when you have none. I've been here three weeks, and I can tell you I'm in a much better place. I had a lot of questions about why my wife passed and why it wasn't me, but being here these last few weeks has really restored my spirituality."

***John, Next Step member***

"For 26 years, I was a meth addict. I slept in parks underneath benches and bridges so nobody could see me. At that point, my addiction pretty much took over my life. It was just about using drugs so I didn't have to feel the pain of what I was going through. Now, in the STAR program, I'm at about a year and a half of sobriety. I've established relationships with my children and my mom. I've been able to maintain long-term employment and am actually trying to move up into management in my job. I've been able to pass on the word of the Lord and how much God has helped me in my life."

***Michelle, STAR Transitional Program participant***



"I remember sitting outside of the Lawrence Street Shelter one day thinking about how lost I had become. I realized the path I was on would only lead to death. The building downtown is called 'Jesus Saves.' The whole point of the Mission is Jesus Saves. I really feel that I have a much closer relationship with Jesus, and it's just doing me so well. The New Life Program has been real good. I work at a restaurant downtown. They gave me a raise already. My goal is to be a customer service agent for God—to help people learn about the gospel. I don't know what that entails, but God knows."

***Steven, New Life Program graduate***



IMPACT IN  
2019

188

CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH THE  
STAR TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

773,717

MEALS PROVIDED

92

VEHICLES GIFTED

415,091

NIGHTS OF SHELTER

67

INTERNS EXPERIENCED  
HANDS-ON WORK AT THE MISSION





# 102

NEW LIFE PROGRAM  
GRADUATES

# 208

TONS OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED



## Truth By the Numbers

### BREAKING STIGMAS AROUND HOMELESSNESS

There are many common misconceptions about homelessness. By showing the impact your support has made, we can replace those myths with truths, and together, we can continue to make a difference.

#### MYTH

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

**LAST YEAR, 155  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN OUR NEW  
LIFE PROGRAM  
GOT A JOB.**



## TRUTH

The average salary needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Denver is \$48,160.\* Our guests are often forced to choose between paying rent or buying food and other basic necessities, which often results in homelessness. Many of the participants in our transitional programs are working, but struggle to find an affordable place to live. For men in our New Life Program, we help them find and secure employment through resume building and mock interviewing.

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

**TRUTH:** Right now, 5,755 people in Denver are experiencing homelessness, but your support is making a difference. Reports show 54% of people experiencing homelessness utilize emergency shelters and 29% have been a part of transitional programs.\*\*

126

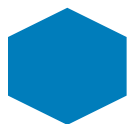
*HOUSEHOLDS MOVED INTO PERMANENT HOUSING THROUGH  
THE MISSION'S TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS IN 2019*

**MYTH:** HOMELESS SHELTERS ARE JUST ENABLING HOMELESSNESS.

**TRUTH:** Our shelter system is designed to empower people to pursue a path off the street. At our Denver shelters, the Lawrence Street Community Center and Fort Collins Rescue Mission, we provide basic resources for survival—meals, beds, showers, laundry, drinking water, and restrooms. All of our emergency services facilities are staffed with employees who foster relationships and offer information about our programs and services like Next Step and Steps to Success, which are designed to help people find permanent housing.

451

*OF OUR GUESTS TRANSITIONED OUT OF SHELTER THROUGH  
OUR SERVICES LAST YEAR*



\*Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2019 Out of Reach Report: [reports.nlihc.org/oor/colorado](https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/colorado)

\*\*Source: 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Report: [mdhi.org/pit\\_reports](https://mdhi.org/pit_reports)



## RESTORED BY GRACE

### MICHAEL'S STORY

Nearly every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m., Michael would sit in the chapel service at the Lawrence Street Shelter. He would sit in the same seat every week—the one on the second row, two chairs from the left.

When Michael first arrived, he was nervous. He'd never been homeless before and never stayed in a shelter. "I didn't know what I was going to do," he said, "but they told me about this place, and there's not a day that goes by where I don't have three meals to eat and a roof over my head."

Michael's faith is remarkable. "The moment I experienced hope was in jail," he said. "That's where God first started answering my prayers. Then, he brought me here, to the Lawrence Street Shelter. For a while, I lost sight of who God is, but He's opened my eyes."

When Michael learned about our Next Step service, he expressed interest to a staff member, enrolled and was given a bed. Next Step provides members with a consistent bed and locker space, access to life skills classes, Bible studies, and basic case-management assistance.

"The guy who did my intake was named Austin. I told him my story. I was just feeling a bit down, and one of the first things he said to me was 'can we pray?' That was the most uplifting thing I could have heard."

Soon after their first meeting, Austin and Michael sat down again and worked on building a resume and sending it out to different companies. Soon after, Michael got his first call back and a week later, he was sitting in an interview and sharing his story.

"I went in right away and told them I was a felon," he said, "and you know what? They accepted me, they gave me the job! You know, people often look at situations like mine as an ending, but this is just a start for me."



CHAPEL SERVICE ATTENDEES IN 2019

*“For a while, I lost sight of who God is, but He’s opened my eyes.”*

– MICHAEL, NEXT STEP GRADUATE



Michael (left) connects with Mission staff members outside of the Lawrence Street Community Center.

## A COMMUNITY OF GRACE

### RICK'S STORY

Every day, Rick is up three hours before the sunrise, riding his bicycle to a pond off of Interstate 76. He typically catches about eight fish a day, mainly largemouth bass. On the days he's off from work, he goes twice. He embraces this time of solitude; it's his time to connect with God.

But solitude was not always a healthy thing for Rick. A lack of community is what brought him back to Denver Rescue Mission for the second time, 11 years after he graduated from the Mission's New Life Program. "I fell away from God, fell away from everybody," Rick said. "I'd go to work, come home, get up, and go to work. And all of a sudden, I had an urge to go to the store." During this time, Rick felt a relentless temptation to start drinking again. Despite feelings of loneliness and weakness, he prayed, and he resisted.

He didn't want to fall back into his addiction. He had been sober for 11 years after being an alcoholic for 15. In the past, he sought comfort through alcohol while suffering from constant seizures caused by a tragic motorcycle accident in 1991.

In 2006, he stayed at the Mission's Lawrence Street Shelter for a night after getting kicked out of his brother's home. When he heard about the New Life Program, which equips men to overcome destructive habits and maintain healthy community, he joined right away. He graduated in 2008, landed a stable job and an apartment, and moved on.

The uplifting community—people who knew and loved the Lord—is what impacted Rick the most during his time at the Mission. It's the reason he decided to return in January 2019—because he knew he needed a strong community when he was on the verge of relapsing. He packed up his belongings, donated his furniture to the Mission and rejoined the New Life Program.

The Mission staff welcomed Rick with open arms. "I needed to be around these kind of people," he said. "They are family to me."

Rick is thrilled to have the same chaplain he had the first time, Steve Swihart, who he has stayed in touch with all these years.

"Bad things happen when you sit in your apartment alone," Steve said. "That's usually the factor for many of our guys to relapse. They go to work, but they haven't developed community. I knew just by looking at Rick that he was struggling, and I was applauding the fact that he was actually reaching out."



*“This place, it will help you if you want to help yourself.  
You’ve got to want to help yourself first.”*

– RICK, NEW LIFE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



Rick (right) spends time with his chaplain, Steve, at The Crossing.

Rick rejoined his church, Grace Church in Arvada. He works concession at Coors Field as part of the working phase of the program. When he’s not fishing or working, he’s helping out in The Crossing’s kitchen. “Rick has always had a tremendous work ethic,” Steve said. “He does so much extra around here. He’s more people-oriented now.”

After 30 years of not seeing his two daughters, Rick is back in touch with them, now 35 and 36. “I think it’s a gift from God, big time,” he said. His family plans to come visit him in Denver. The first thing he’ll do is get his six grandchildren up before the sunrise. He’ll take them to a pond off of Interstate 76, and they’ll catch some largemouth bass.



OF OUR DOWNTOWN DENVER GUESTS JOINED  
ONE OF THE MISSION’S PROGRAMS LAST YEAR

## GROWING IN GRACE

### BRANCOS ROOM

Imagine a room where once you step in, the world around you is magically transformed. It's a room where you can slay dragons with Pippi Longstocking and hitch a ride to the land of Narnia with C.S. Lewis. It's a room where you can get your hands messy and create a Crayola masterpiece of art. Some may call it the Denver Broncos Youth Center (the Broncos Room) at The Crossing. But, to those who've ever stepped into the room—well, they call it hope.

"There are many more homeless children in Denver than people realize," Joe Bermingham, the Broncos Room youth coordinator said. "To be able to create a space where kids who are experiencing homelessness can feel safe and loved—that is the Broncos Room."

The orange and navy themed room is nestled inside of The Crossing. Its walls are freckled with posters of signed Broncos jerseys and inspirational quotes. Books, computers and other necessary educational tools line the perimeter of the room. The center serves children and teens, ages 3 to 18, whose parents are participating in the STAR Transitional Program. "The Broncos Room is a kind and loving place where we learn about God and get help from people," 11-year-old Jaydin said.

From youth nights to Bible studies, there are programs to help kids and teens learn and create a space for them to be kids in the midst of their current situations. One of these programs is the Math and Reading Club, which is designed to help each child grow scholastically.

On a daily basis, the Broncos Room welcomes tutors and volunteers who invest time and effort into the kids. "It is so important for the kids to have a stable place to come to every day," said Hannah Menzies, youth coordinator. "It is a really hard situation for them to be in. The fact that we can laugh and have a lot of fun together, it's a reminder to be a kid still."



HOURS OF HOMEWORK COMPLETED LAST  
YEAR BY KIDS AND TEENS WITH THE HELP  
OF MISSION STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TUTORS







## EXPERIENCING HIS GRACE EASTER BANQUET

We believe in the redeeming power of Jesus, which is why Easter is a special time for us. At Denver Rescue Mission, we invite people to experience true beauty and grace, whether it's in the small moments—laughing and smiling—or in the big moments like a changed life and a path home. Your donations provided many moments of grace at our Easter Celebration in April.

Following Christ's example, we washed our guests' feet and, thanks to generous donations, provided them with new pairs of shoes and socks to remind them that they are loved and valued.

Amidst the chaos of homelessness, it's important to provide a quiet space where people can reflect and worship. We offer chapel services at our Lawrence Street Shelter every day, and on Good Friday, we partnered with Volunteers of America to host a special service with nearly a dozen chapel volunteers who served communion to all of our guests.

We served 815 meals that day, and the food was delicious. However, it's what happened in between the meal that was beautiful. It was the connection—the smiles, the hugs, the conversations, and the joy of a shared experience between our guests and our volunteers.



PAIRS OF SHOES AND SOCKS  
DISTRIBUTED AT OUR EASTER BANQUET

*“It’s heart-warming, heart-changing and beautiful.”*

– MELVIN, DENVER RESCUE MISSION GUEST



## OUR SUPPORTERS



### Georgina Bush

Georgina is a supporter of the Mission and a long-term volunteer (Change Maker) who serves several times a week in the Lawrence Street Community Center kitchen. She's often preparing food and busing tables in the dining area. Her favorite part about volunteering is interacting with the guests.

"I love volunteering at the Mission because I know this is a place of much caring, love and hope. I am blown away by the heartfelt, sincere and positive energy of all the staff and program candidates I have met and worked with. There is a very genuine and beautiful blessing in this place. It is a tremendous honor to be part of it."



### Jesse & Terri Sommer

Jesse and Terri Sommer are supporters of the Mission who made a financial contribution to Harvest Farm to enable renovations. They feel passionate about the simplicity and peacefulness of the rural environment the Farm offers, and they believe that an urban environment can present challenges and temptations that may be hard for some people to deal with. Hearing the testimonies of some of the men who have gone through the New Life Program at Harvest Farm inspired them to get involved.

"We are firm believers in the healing powers of nature and the therapeutic value of caring for God's creatures. Touring the Farm and meeting many of the staff really moved us. Their level of commitment and devotion to their jobs and to helping others gives us a lot of hope for humanity."

65,834  
DONORS IN 2019

\$123.20  
AVERAGE DONATION





### Security Central

Security Central is committed to impacting lives in its community and around the world. In 2016, Security Central started the Million Dollar Impact Initiative—a commitment to give away \$1,000,000 over a ten-year period to its Impact Partners, including Denver Rescue Mission. Philanthropy is embedded in the fabric of Security Central. Each year, the company hosts a canned food and cash donation drive to benefit the Mission, and employees frequently serve meals at the Lawrence Street Community Center and The Crossing.

“Serving at the Mission’s facilities is one of our favorite service projects. The Mission makes it so easy for a group like us to serve real people in a real way. It is always a heart-changing event for each team member.” – Jordan Jackson, President of Security Central



### Dustin Hailey

As the Young Professionals Committee Chair, Dustin works alongside the Mission’s staff to engage a growing group of young professionals who are passionate about helping people in need. Drawing on his experience in the nonprofit world, Dustin’s objective is to equip and empower the team to develop the next generation of volunteers, donors and advocates for the Mission. He also supports the Mission as a member of the Pathways of Hope Monthly Giving Program.

“Since getting involved with the Mission, I’ve learned that people from all walks of life struggle with homelessness, and the needs have only grown more complex. It’s been incredible meeting the men, women, children, and families receiving services at the various Mission locations. Listening to their stories and learning how the Mission staff and volunteers treated them with dignity has encouraged me to support the Mission.”

# 16,520

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

# 111,640

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

# 876

CHANGE MAKERS

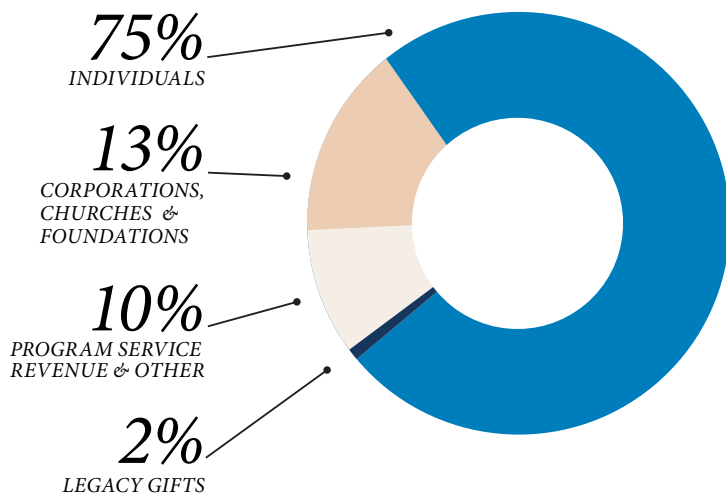
# FINANCIALS

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

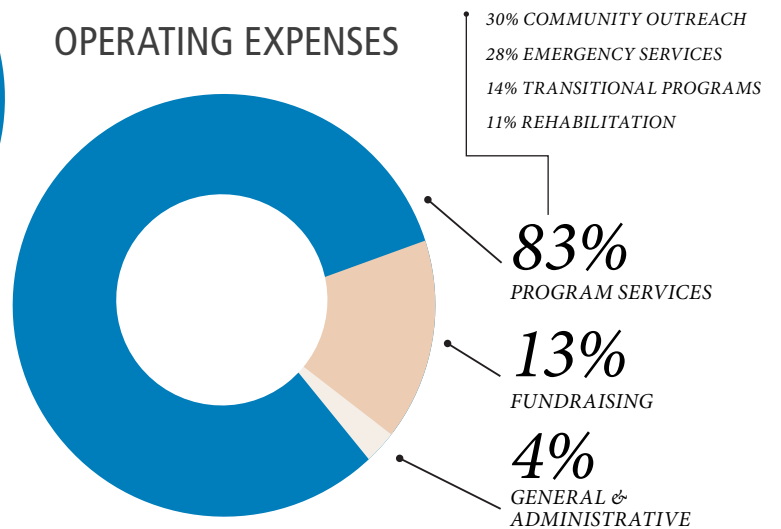
CONTRIBUTIONS	2019	2018
Individuals, Businesses & Foundations	\$19,982,049	\$19,892,101
Gifts-in-Kind	\$14,493,128	\$11,859,996
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$34,475,177</b>	<b>\$31,752,097</b>

REVENUE		
Program Service Revenue & Other	\$2,078,081	\$1,914,838
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$36,553,258</b>	<b>\$33,666,935</b>

### CASH REVENUE



### OPERATING EXPENSES



**EXPENSES**

PROGRAM SERVICES	2019
Community Outreach	\$10,839,934
Emergency Services	\$9,933,687
Transitional	\$4,997,405
Rehabilitation	\$3,853,141

**\$29,624,167***In Fiscal Year 2017-18, program services expenses totaled \$26,588,674.*

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	2019	2018
General & Administrative	\$1,432,367	\$1,883,942
Fundraising	\$4,674,805	\$4,707,872
<b>Total Support Activities</b>	<b>\$6,107,172</b>	<b>\$6,591,814</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,731,339</b>	<b>\$33,180,488</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>\$821,919</b>	<b>\$486,447</b>
Other*	<\$401,396>	\$1,794,613
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$420,523</b>	<b>\$2,281,060</b>
<b>Net Assets – Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$36,603,691</b>	<b>\$34,322,631</b>
<b>Net Assets – End of Year</b>	<b>\$37,024,214</b>	<b>\$36,603,691</b>

\*Non-operating (capital project related activities, sale of assets, etc.)

**Denver Rescue Mission** is a member of the Better Business Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recommends giving to organizations who spend at least 65% of their total expenses on program activities. In fiscal year 2018-2019, 83% of our expenses were in programs.

Download our audited financial statement at [DenverRescueMission.org/Financial-Accountability](https://denverrescuemission.org/Financial-Accountability).





## LEADERSHIP

### Leadership Team

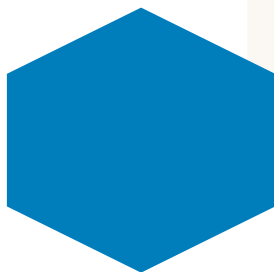
Melanie Aronhalt, *Director of Volunteer Services*  
Tracy Brooks, *Senior Director of Emergency Services*  
Debra Butte, *Director of Intake and Diversion*  
Jeremiah Conrad, *Director of Operations*  
Seth Forwood, *Director of Harvest Farm*  
Alexxa Gagner, *Director of Marketing and Communications*  
Sherri Heronema, *Senior Director of Human Resources*  
Ashley Irwin, *Director of Impact and Hospitality*  
Bradley Jessen, *Director of Philanthropy*  
Thomas Konstanty, *Director of Fort Collins Rescue Mission*  
Thomas Leavitt, *Director of Family Services*  
Rene Palacios, *Director of Emergency Services*  
Jonathan Soweidy, *Director of Residential Programs*  
Susan Stewart, *Director of Development (Northern Colorado)*  
Phillip Torres, *Director of Information Technology*  
Ryan Wickstrom, *Director of Facilities*  
Jessica Winslow, *Senior Director of Residential Programs*

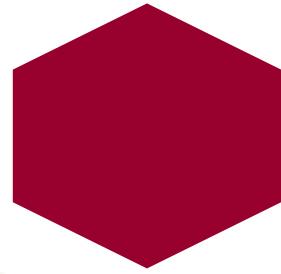
### Board of Directors

Joseph Fortna, *Chairman*  
Don Manuell, *Vice Chairman*  
Ron Gascho, *Treasurer*  
Scott Adams, *Secretary*  
Tom Athenour  
Jeff Bacheller  
Briana Bailey  
Pam Coe  
Scott Harris  
Stuart Pattison  
Teresa Stewart  
Marissa Wood

### Senior Leadership Team

Brad Meuli, *President/CEO*  
Griff Freyschlag, *VP of Development*  
Josh Geppelt, *VP of Programs*  
Kevin Mann, *VP of Finance and Administration/CFO*  
John Morarie, *VP of Operations*  
Steve Walkup, *Spiritual Director*





# DENVER RESCUE MISSION



## WHAT'S NEXT

The face of Colorado has changed drastically in recent years, and so has our homeless population. To help address their changing needs, Denver Rescue Mission engaged in a strategic planning process, which we are now proud to say we are halfway through. This process has helped our staff make intentional and strategic decisions through 16 key initiatives so we can better serve the people who come to us for help. Here's a look at a few.





1

### DEVELOPING A PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICAL SECURITY

Our staff's safety is of the utmost importance. At the same time, it's imperative that we provide low-barrier environments for guests and program participants to feel comfortable so we can help as many people as possible. We will work to enhance our security measures throughout all of our facilities to provide an acceptable level of safety and security for everyone who comes through our doors, while balancing our mission of meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need.

2

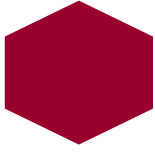
### REFINING STAFF TRAINING PRACTICES

The work we do is not easy, and our staff is what sets us apart. That's why it's vital for us to invest in them. In 2020, the Mission will implement more training opportunities to equip our staff members with safe, effective practices to apply to their day-to-day work, such as conflict resolution and mental health resiliency workshops.

3

### OPTIMIZING OUR APPROACH TO WORK READINESS

One important component of our New Life Program is work readiness, which helps our participants secure and maintain full-time employment. We instill a strong work ethic and valuable soft skills by assigning them to various jobs around the Mission in areas like food service and hospitality. This year, we will continue to partner with agencies throughout Denver to help more participants find employment that matches their skill sets. Steady employment leads to increased stability for our participants—an integral part of living a self-sufficient lifestyle.



P.O. Box 5206 • Denver, CO 80217  
303.297.1815 • [DenverRescueMission.org](http://DenverRescueMission.org)

