

CHANGING LIVES

128 YEARS OF SERVICE

TEACH

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

PSALM 145:4

EQUIP

SUPPORT

LOVE

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

HARVEST FARM FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE

HOW MISSION STAFF TEACHES KIDS MONEY MANAGEMENT

Dear Friends,

Teach, equip, support, and love. When I think of the people who did these four things with me in my youth, another word comes to mind: relationships. Because my teachers, family, coaches, and Young Life leaders were willing to develop a relationship with me, I am the man I am today. This is what our youth leaders and volunteers do in the Denver Broncos Youth Center. They develop relationships with the kids. They are willing to stand alongside our youth no matter how difficult their lives have been or may become. It is not always easy to develop a relationship with a child who has been hurt and is having trouble trusting adults. What Joe and Hannah, our youth leaders at Denver Rescue Mission, do is nothing short of an inspiration to me.

Breaking the cycle of poverty is not an easy thing, but it is what we are trying to do every day. Education is a big part of this. George Washington Carver said, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." That is why our Math and Reading Club and the work of our volunteer mentors and tutors is so important.

To be free from poverty, I believe, starts with the relationships we build. We let our youth know that we love them and that we are behind them. We teach them that no matter what happens, God loves them and has a purpose for their lives.

We are changing kids' lives at The Crossing. As we guide our young people in the Broncos Room to a life of freedom—a life of love and acceptance through Jesus—we are lifting them up to be all that they can be. Join us in this great work as a volunteer, a donor, or in prayer for each child who enters our doors. Whatever way you choose to be a part of forming this next generation, we need you and your compassionate heart to make this happen. It is hard work, but it is so worth the effort.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



2020 fall Festival

CANCELED

Every October, we look forward to welcoming you to Harvest Farm at our Annual Fall Festival & Corn Maze. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the event this year.

We are working on plans to connect our beautiful farm with you and your family in some way this fall, so stay tuned!

For updates on upcoming events and ways to stay involved, visit [HarvestFarm.org](https://www.harvestfarm.org).

How Your Family Can Impact the World



Did you know you can add **Denver Rescue Mission** as an additional "child" in your Will?

This simple yet significant act known as "Child Named Charity:"

1. Meets practical needs
2. Ensures others experience love, belonging and wholeness
3. Helps Denver Rescue Mission plan for future ministry impact

For more information, visit [DenverRescueMission.org/legacygiving](https://www.denverrescuemission.org/legacygiving).

MAKING CENTS OF MONEY MANAGEMENT

BRONCOS BUCKS

The Mission's youth program offers a special incentive that teaches children about money management, the importance of saving and the concept of working hard for their earnings. Inside the Denver Broncos Youth Center (the Broncos Room) at The Crossing, kids can earn "Broncos Bucks" by attending youth center activities, doing homework, bringing in their report cards, helping clean up the room, and more. They can then "purchase" toys and school supplies that were donated to the Broncos Store to achieve a sense of accomplishment and ownership. Here's more about how it works:

1.

Shop, but not 'till you drop! The Broncos Store is only open for shopping once a week, which teaches the kids that it's not necessary (or a good idea) to shop every day.

2.

The more you save, the better your shopping experience will be. If the kids decide to save their Broncos Bucks one week, they earn five extra dollars, which teaches them the importance of saving and how it can build up interest.

3.

Be responsible with your spending. If the kids' accounts drop below five Broncos Bucks, they can't buy anything that week.

4.

Keep track of your bank account. The kids can check their "receipts" so that they know what they've bought in the past and how many Broncos Bucks they have left.



CRUZ

Cruz is super diligent about participating in activities and helping with chores in the Broncos Room. He usually saves up his Broncos Bucks to buy something that he's been wanting for a while. One of his favorite memories is the day he was finally able to buy a bike for 75 Broncos Bucks!

RISE UP.

HOW WE BUILD UP OUR YOUNGER GENERATION

INSIDE THE WALLS OF THE BRONCOS ROOM IS THE NEXT GENERATION OF POTENTIAL LEADERS, DOERS, ENTHUSIASTS, ACHIEVERS, ENTREPRENEURS, DISCIPLES, AND WORLD-CHANGERS. DENVER RESCUE MISSION EQUIPS THESE CHILDREN TO RISE UP AND BECOME THEM.

When the doors to the Broncos Room open at 4:30 p.m. sharp, an 11-year-old boy with big, brown, eager eyes and excitement at his core is usually the first in line waiting to go inside. "There's Cruz," Joe Bermingham, youth coordinator for the Mission, usually says at 4:25 p.m. "You've got about five more minutes, buddy!" Cruz, who is heading into sixth grade this month, loves going to the Broncos Room and rarely misses a day.

The Mission's youth center, a hub for children and teenagers whose parents are part of the STAR Transitional Program, was sponsored by the Denver Broncos in 2005 to create a place for them to learn, play and grow.

The space provides opportunities for Mission staff and volunteers to pour their time, skills and passion into our youth—teaching them that they were created in Christ's image, they are precious in His eyes and He has mighty plans for their lives.

TEACH

The youth program offers Math and Reading Club, Bible studies, movie nights, art and music lessons, group outings, and more. Cruz said during Math and Reading Club, the volunteer tutors taught him how to do fractions. "When I didn't get it or when I got it wrong, they helped me with it," he said.

During Bible study, the kids each get a Bible to learn and highlight the passages. At Bible study, Cruz learned that Jesus saved him. "When we have our Bible studies, and in the Broncos Room in general, we just want everybody to feel like they belong," Joe said.

In the midst of the daily activities of homework, tutoring, art, story time, and free time, are opportunities for Joe, along with the Mission's other youth coordinator, Hannah Menzies, to instill deeper life lessons. The three fundamental rules in the Broncos Room are to be responsible, respectful and safe.



EQUIP

At the end of the summer, the Mission provides backpacks and school supplies for the children as they prepare to head back to school. "The last thing we want them to do is go to school feeling like they are any different," Hannah said.

This year was a notable example of one generation carrying another during a time of need. The Mission's Young Professionals (YP) group, a network of influencers in their 20s and 30s, raised nearly \$3,500 through a crowdfunding campaign to provide school supplies for the kids.

Elisabeth Podhaskie, head of the YP Fundraising Committee, said that in addition to providing school supplies, the group also funded activities such as coloring books and games to keep the kids engaged throughout the summer months, which was especially important because of the quarantine and social distancing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While you can look at these tangible things that we're giving them as just items, I think that it provides stability—it provides support for kids who probably can't process a lot of this emotionally complicated stuff that's going on with COVID," Elisabeth said. "I just felt it was really important that we help the most vulnerable within the most vulnerable."

SUPPORT

Joe and Hannah lead support groups for pre-teens and teens to give them opportunities to spend time in fellowship. "They are going through that age of trying to find themselves," Joe said, "and we help them explore that."

During Hannah's group, she often gives the girls something to do, like a puzzle or an adult coloring book, while they talk, creating a safe space for them to share. "It's amazing how much someone is willing to talk if you just give them something to do—about their feelings, emotions, insecurities, doubts, fears or past trauma," Hannah said. "It all comes out, but in a really healthy way—not forced. Sometimes it's super deep, and some weeks I'm just checking in to make sure they feel heard and known."



Eleven-year-old Jeremiah was excited to return to school last year after receiving a new backpack and supplies thanks to generous donations.

The Mission's greatest goal through the youth program is to show children and teens the unconditional love of Christ. "We can give them the Broncos Room, tools and support groups," Hannah said, "but the coolest part is that we can give them Jesus, and that will last for eternity."

Cruz's mother, Erica, said their family is in a much better place, both spiritually and mentally, since joining the STAR program. "We ended up losing everything," Erica said, "and I feel like it was a blessing for us to lose everything because now we're a lot closer and a lot closer to God."

Beyond the games, homework and projects inside the walls of the Broncos Room, is a deeper, intangible impact.

"Cruz is a perfect example," Joe said. "You can see a sweet kid absorbing—absorbing by watching people and building relationships in here. He may forget about the games he played, but he will remember the relationships." ■



David, 11, plays an educational computer game with Holly, a summer intern, in the Broncos Room.

MEET THE YOUTH LEADERS!

As the doors to the Broncos Room open, the kids are greeted by two passionate, fervent leaders from two different generations who teach, equip, support, and love them.



Joe, a kindhearted youth pastor from Springville, New York, has been at the Mission for 12 years and has been instrumental in the development of our youth program. "I really felt that kids who were in tough situations are the kids that God was calling me to work with," he said.



Hannah, a compassionate and enthusiastic leader from Naples, Florida, holds a master of social work and has worked for our youth program for about two years. "To come alongside children as they grow and learn is one of my favorite gifts," she said. "They continually remind me to find joy in the small things and to seek hope in the hard things."

We value the importance of building up the next generation so that they can carry out the bright futures that God has in store for them. You can invest in the lives of the children and teens living at The Crossing by giving today.

[DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://denverrescuemission.org/ChangingLives)

The McDonald family has been involved with Denver Rescue Mission for multiple generations. Will you share about your family's heart behind supporting the Mission?



The seed was planted by my parents years ago when I was a kid. It probably goes back to the '70s or early '80s. My mom and dad were involved with the Mission and felt the calling to serve. We'd serve during Thanksgiving or Christmas depending on when we were needed. Their example planted a seed in myself and my brothers. There are five boys in the family and at some point, all five of us have been involved in some way.

How is your family involved with the Mission currently?

About 15 years ago, my wife, Stacey, started volunteering at the Mission regularly on Tuesdays. We took my daughter and my sons to serve at different times, during Easter and Thanksgiving or during their summer breaks. There's been a lot of exposure for my kids, and hopefully that's something that will grow over time like it did for me with having those seeds planted at a young age. From my own experience, just having an example of our elders showing us what giving and serving looks like is huge, because you can talk, but if you don't model it, it doesn't really have an impact.

How has your experience volunteering at the Mission impacted you?

The first time Stacey and I volunteered together, we learned that a lot of the clientele the Mission serves are people who have a college education and had a good job. There are so many people who are living paycheck to paycheck, and if they miss one or two paychecks because of a medical crisis or something happening with their marriage, all of a sudden, they don't have the resources they need. To me, that was eye opening.

How has McDonald Automotive Group supported the Mission's Turkey Drive in the past?

Our corporate slogan is "Doing Right Comes Naturally." We have a committee at the dealership called the Doing Right Committee who decided to donate turkeys for every car we sold during the month of November to contribute to the Mission's Turkey Drive. It was a company-wide initiative, and we saw a lot of involvement and enthusiasm around it.

Why is it important to you personally to stay involved with the Mission?

I think from a basic level, people need to understand that they are loved. Being the example of Jesus, serving them, encouraging them, and letting them know that they are loved regardless of their circumstances is probably the simplest and greatest message we can give them. Then, you have to follow up with practical ways of what that looks like, and that's a really important thing that the Mission is doing. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to partner with the Mission in whatever ways we can.

Jim McDonald was born and raised in Littleton, and after graduating from the University of Oklahoma, he went to work for his family's business, McDonald Automotive. Jim and his wife, Stacey, have three children, Jackson, Charlie and Molly, who are a part of the third generation serving with Denver Rescue Mission. They attend Wellspring Church in Englewood.

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 and chapel	
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	