

CHANGING LIVES

128 YEARS OF SERVICE



Sharing the Harvest

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER." — PSALM 107:1

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

MISSION GUESTS SHARE WHAT THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR

A MISSION TRADITION: THANKSGIVING BANQUET-IN-A-BOX

Dear Friends,

I was listening to a podcast recently and Dawn Gilman, CEO of Changing Homelessness in Jacksonville, Florida, was interviewed. She said something that impacted me in a powerful way that I want to share with you. Jacksonville, like Denver and many other cities, has a memorial service for people who were homeless who have passed away. This year, it will take place on Winter Solstice, which is on December 21. Denver's memorial takes place on the steps of the City and County Building in the evening, and anyone can attend. I hope you might think about joining us. Candles are lit, and the names of those who have passed are read out loud. It has been my honor to have read some of those names over the last few years.

Before Dawn reads the names at the memorial in Florida, she reminds everyone that there are six types of people experiencing homelessness:

- Someone's mom
- Someone's dad
- Someone's sister
- Someone's brother
- Someone's son
- Someone's daughter

When I heard her words, I thought of my own family and how much they mean to me. You probably do too. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve the people we serve. They are someone to somebody. They are people who God loves too. This Thanksgiving, in the face of this pandemic, I am so glad that we can offer a Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box to families and a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to those who enter our doors.

We are grateful, thankful, appreciative, and blessed by your support, which enables us to serve someone's loved one.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



HOPE TO THE HUNGRY

2020 KBCO & DENVER RESCUE MISSION RADIOTHON



On **Thursday, November 12**, we're partnering with **97.3 KBCO** to take over the air waves and share stories from the Mission to raise money for people experiencing homelessness.

Tune in, and listen to how your gifts are changing lives!



HOPE STARTS WITH A VEHICLE

DONATE YOUR CAR.
TRUCK. VAN. SUV.

Changes Lives • Free Pick-up • Fast, Easy • Tax-Deductible

Denver Rescue Mission created the Vehicle Donation Program to provide transportation for individuals and families who graduate from our rehabilitation and transitional programs. These men, women and families require dependable vehicles to maintain employment and contribute to their communities. Provide the gift of reliable transportation by donating your vehicle today.

To learn more, visit DenverRescueMission.org/Give-a-Vehicle.

THANKSGIVING BANQUET-IN-A-BOX

SHARING THE HARVEST: 60,000 POUNDS OF TURKEY & TRIMMINGS



It's the week of Thanksgiving. Freezer trucks are filled with frozen turkeys. Three thousand boxes are stacked, all filled with food items. After months of counting, sorting and planning, Denver Rescue Mission staff and volunteers are ready to **share the harvest** by distributing the most eagerly awaited meal of the year.

The Mission has been distributing food boxes for Thanksgiving since the late 1990s. It all started with an influx of turkeys donated by the community through the Mission's annual, renowned Turkey Drive.*

"I just remember in 1997 around the fall, we started receiving turkeys," said Steve Walkup, spiritual director for the Mission. "You can only use so many turkeys to cook meals, so we wanted to redistribute them. When we had all these turkeys that we started distributing, we said, **'wouldn't it be nice if people could have an entire meal?'**"

As the number of donated turkeys increased each year, we continued to



hand out more food boxes. Fast-forward about 10 years to what is now known as the Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box (TBIB) program and since then, come rain, shine or blizzard, the Mission has never missed a year.

As part of TBIB, we distribute 3,000 Thanksgiving meal boxes to families and individuals in need. Cars start lining up at 7:30 a.m. at Empower Field at Mile High with families who are eager and excited to receive their boxes and



▶ Juanita, a Denver local, received a box for the first time in 2019. She was able to make a meal for her boyfriend and two daughters, six and 11, on Thanksgiving Day.

"We were grateful because we got to actually have a meal for Thanksgiving. [It was] just a rough time. We probably weren't going to buy a turkey or anything or have the money to do it, so we were thankful to get help with that. It's important to us because I want to show my kids that just because sometimes people don't have the money, it's still a holiday and you can still get help from somewhere and be grateful for what you have."

turkeys. “There are a lot of people—hardworking people out there—who really could use a box so their families can have a nice meal during Thanksgiving,” Steve said.

It’s no secret that this year has been hard for our country, city and community. But as we reflect on the many years that God provided enough turkeys through generous donors like you, it’s proven that when we come together, we can support the most vulnerable among us. The Mission is grateful to be able to once again host our annual TBIB giveaway in partnership with the Denver Broncos and Venture Sports.

“What the Mission tries to do is give everybody who wants to love on other people an opportunity to show kindness in the name of Jesus,” Steve said. “Then, it becomes contagious. Love is contagious. Generosity is contagious. What we want to do is have that spirit of giving go out across the city of Denver. We sure need that this year.” ■

**Denver Rescue Mission’s Annual Turkey Drive brings the community together to collect turkeys (including donations of cash and frozen turkeys) for families and individuals in need.*

All photos were taken at the TBIB event on November 27, 2019.



Every Thanksgiving, your support allows us to ensure individuals and families in need receive a special holiday meal.

JOIN OUR FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AT

DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES

PROCESS PRODUCTS POUNDS

PROCESS

STEP 1: In June, staff at the Ministry Outreach Center (MOC), the Mission’s 50,000 square-foot warehouse, starts sorting through donated goods to identify items and quantities that still need to be ordered. The goal is to ensure that every box has all the items needed for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

STEP 2: About a week before the event, volunteer groups pack the boxes.

STEP 3: The day before the event, the MOC staff rents freezer trucks and loads them with turkeys. On the morning of TBIB, the staff starts setting up the facility at 6:30 a.m. to be ready by the time cars start lining up.

PRODUCTS

Each 14.5-pound turkey is paired with one box, which includes instant potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, fruit, and of course, a pumpkin treat.

POUNDS

ITEM	QUANTITY
Turkey	14.5(lbs)
Trimmings	5.35(lbs)
Total (per box)	19.85(lbs)
Total boxes distributed in 2019	3,000
Total TBIB turkeys and trimmings distributed in 2019	59,550(lbs)

IN EVERY THING Give Thanks

At our Thanksgiving banquets last year, we served 1,105 meals to individuals and families experiencing homelessness at our facilities in Denver and Fort Collins. Some of our guests shared what they were thankful for:



I'M THANKFUL FOR...
THE STRENGTH OF
MY SOBRIETY

I'M THANKFUL FOR...
A place to land after
my world was
destroyed, and I
became homeless
Thank you, Rick

I'M THANKFUL FOR...
this day of
love

"I am not supposed to be here. Every doctor will tell you there is no way I should be alive. There is one thing I believe in, and that is God. I never thought I would ever need this place. But you are thankful when it is there for you. Thanksgiving isn't just about being thankful for the food or the people. It's [being] thankful for **being alive**—to be awake and have a cup of coffee. To some people that's routine. Tomorrow isn't promised. You aren't guaranteed to wake up tomorrow. I tell people that is a blessing. That is God waking you up."

- John, Guest at Lawrence Street Community Center Thanksgiving Banquet (pictured above)

While this year's Thanksgiving gatherings will look differently with social distancing requirements, we are still planning to make a traditional meal for our guests.

VIR



Why is it important to MegaStar Financial to support the Mission's Thanksgiving initiatives?

It is important to us to give because of the thought of our fellow Americans and their children not having the opportunity to enjoy a warm meal on a day that is so important to our country.

What was your team's biggest takeaway after volunteering at the Thanksgiving Banquet?

They learned that many of the recipients are warm and loving people, who for various reasons have struggled.

How has this partnership with the Mission impacted you and your team at MegaStar?

We have had the opportunity to experience how we each share the gratitude for our blessings. I am grateful for my blessings and my health, both physical and mental, for the family I was born into, and that God gave me compassion to know to be grateful.

Anita Padilla-Fitzgerald is the Founder/President/CEO of MegaStar Financial.

TURKEY DRIVE

A TURKEY ON EVERY TABLE

Special Thanks!

We are so grateful for the generous support of our 2020 Turkey Drive sponsors. The following local businesses and organizations are making this Thanksgiving special for individuals and families in need:

America's Most Trusted Mortgage Company®

Building a better working world

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 Avenue Center:** Overnight shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver 🏠