Sharing the Harvest

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

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
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.**

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JOIN OUR FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AT DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES.
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 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.
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.