

# CHANGING LIVES

128 YEARS OF SERVICE



FINDING **Joy** &  
SPREADING SUNSHINE

GRANDPARENTS EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS TOO

THE HEART BEHIND OUR HOUSEWARMING BOX PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

As we all prepare for Christmas, we are now in the tenth month of the coronavirus pandemic. When this started in March, I think it would be safe to say that we had no idea the implications or struggles we would all face. Certainly, at Denver Rescue Mission, we have had to learn how to persevere through hardship and uncertainty. It has taken courage, flexibility and most importantly, trust in God to continue to navigate this crisis. What would we do without our hope in Jesus?

A Bible verse that has encouraged me during this time that I hope will encourage you as we walk through this pandemic comes from 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* At the Mission, our staff and volunteers have continued the battle—working hard to meet the needs of those who come to us for help. I am so moved by the resiliency of our staff and the willingness of our volunteers to come alongside us. They have given of themselves unselfishly and sacrificially as we serve those in need.

One of my favorite authors and speakers is Bob Goff. He reminds us that Jesus calls us to be alert to the needs of others:

*“Instead of closing our eyes and bowing our heads, sometimes God wants us to keep our eyes open for people in need, do something about it, and bow our whole lives to Him instead.”*

These are good words that challenge us to keep our eyes open to help not only those who come to the Mission, but our neighbors, our family, our friends, and even strangers. In this edition, you'll read about the way Trevia's life was impacted by the Family Rescue Ministry team and her mentor, Carrie. They were there for Trevia in her time of need.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that allow us to “do something about it and to bow our whole lives to Him.” We know that God is in control. May his love be reflected in the way we treat others.

Have a blessed Christmas,

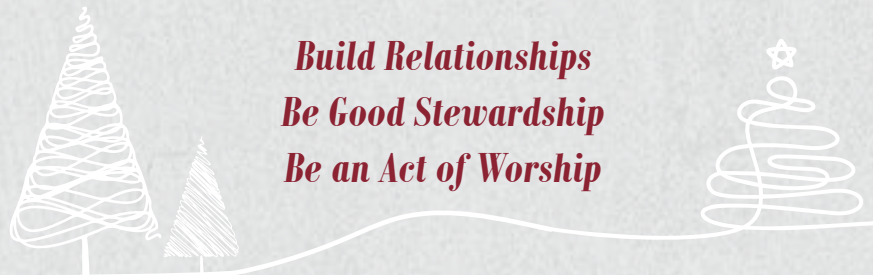
Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



# Re-Think Your Giving This Christmas

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIFT GIVING,  
BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW GIVING  
IMPACTS THE LIVES AND MINISTRIES YOU LOVE?  
WHEN YOU GIVE A LEGACY GIFT, IT DOES  
MORE THAN BRING JOY. IT CAN ALSO:

- Build Relationships*
- Be Good Stewardship*
- Be an Act of Worship*



Learn more about giving a different type of gift this Christmas at  
[DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving](https://DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving).

You are invited to join us on Tuesday, December 8 to  
**#GIVEWHEREYOU LIVE!**

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

**COLORADO GIVES DAY**

**12.8.20**

1STBANK  
Corporate Partner

SCHEDULE YOUR GIFT EARLY! LEARN MORE AT:

[ColoradoGives.org/DenverRescueMission](https://ColoradoGives.org/DenverRescueMission)



FINDING



& SPREADING SUNSHINE

Written by Natanya van Heerden, Content Specialist at Denver Rescue Mission

A SINGLE MOTHER OF THREE AND GRANDMOTHER OF FIVE  
FOUND LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL AND IS USING  
THAT LIGHT TO SPREAD SUNSHINE TO OTHERS.

When Trevia opened the door to her apartment, the first thought that came to mind was *sunshine*. The sun beamed through the large window in her living room and through the glass door to her patio. The space was sprinkled with bright pops of yellow, from her throw pillows to her bar stools to her television stand. But the biggest ray of sunshine came from Trevia's smile as she welcomed me with eagerness and excitement to show me her home—the first home she has called her own in seven years.

She showed me the sofa bed she got from Denver Rescue Mission's Ministry Outreach Center (MOC), which is ideal for when her grandchildren come over. She showed me the chair that Carrie, her mentor she met through the Mission, gave her when she moved in. She showed me her bedroom, pointing out the headboard, chair and mirror that she also picked out at the MOC.

*When I asked what her favorite part is about her home, she grinned and said, "It's mine."*

We sat down, each with a cup of tea, and Trevia started sharing about her prolonged season of transition, which started when she lived in California. The 2008 recession hit her hard; she lost her job at a medical insurance call center and consequently lost the apartment she lived in for 22 years.

Eager for a new beginning, Trevia moved to Denver to live with her son, which was the start of another season of

instability. She was hired as a parcel attendant during the day and worked at warehouses at night. When she and her son were suddenly evicted from their apartment, she moved in with a woman she worked with and lived with her for three years. "That third year was very chaotic," she said. "I had to get out of there."

During Trevia's commute to work, she often chatted with a gentleman on the bus. He told her about his recent move to the Mission's STAR Transitional Program, which offers case management, life skills training, mental health support, mentorship, and more. It wasn't long before Trevia joined the program and moved to The Crossing.

Throughout her year and a half in the STAR program, Trevia worked at a hotel doing laundry, a job she has had for the past six years, and focused on saving up for her own place. Family Rescue Ministry, a Mission program that helps working families and seniors secure stable housing, helped her find an apartment and covered the first month's rent and security deposit. "When I got this place, I did what I'm doing now," she said as her eyes filled with tears. "I was just so grateful. That first night, I slept like a baby."

For a year after she moved in, the Mission staff checked in with Trevia regularly. "I was really impressed how I got a phone call every month to see how I'm doing," she said.

Maintaining connection through consistent check-ins from staff and mentors is a vital part of Family Rescue Ministry. "What many of our families want is a listening ear—somebody who will care for them and provide them with guidance as they navigate through long-term housing," said Tom Leavitt, director of family services. "Mentors come



alongside [them] and provide different goals, budgeting skills, relational support, and hope through Jesus Christ."

Trevia was paired with her mentor, Carrie, through the Mission. "When I turned that corner and I saw her and she saw me, we both started smiling," Trevia said. "We clicked from that day forward."

To this day, Carrie and Trevia spend time together, talk about life and pray for one another. Inspired by Carrie's uplifting presence in her life, Trevia later became a Mission mentor to a single mother with two kids. "I wanted to help somebody the way I have been helped, and Carrie was a great example of that," she said. "I saw her not being

judgmental. I saw Christ working through her."

Trevia wanted to be a light to others. She wanted to spread some sunshine. "My prayer is that my mentee gets to see what God has done [for me] and what He can do for her," she said.

All Trevia wanted for Christmas was for her family to be together for the first time. And her Christmas wish was granted when her grandchildren from California came to visit in October. The best part of all? They all gathered in her home. "I had my Christmas in October this year," she said. "It's always God's timing that's perfect. Any other time, I didn't have a place of my own."

Trevia has been living in her apartment for about a year and a half. She loves the space and is excited to decorate for the holiday season.

"I'm thankful to Christ for allowing me to go through what I went through—to allow me to see the light at the end of the tunnel—and know that He is my provider and He'll never leave me or forsake me," she said. "Sometimes I just stand at the door and look around and say, 'Thank you, Jesus.'" ■



**YOUR GIFTS ARE PROVIDING STABLE HOMES FOR PEOPLE LIKE TREVIA, A WORKING MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, WHO NEEDED SUPPORT TO GET BACK ON HER FEET.**

JOIN OUR EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP  
BETWEEN HOMELESSNESS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY AT  
[DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES.](https://denverrescuemission.org/changinglives)

◀ Carrie and Trevia are now close friends. "It was like meeting a sister you didn't know you had," Carrie said. "That changed my life—to connect with somebody so deeply." To watch Carrie and Trevia's video story, visit [DenverRescueMission.org/Blog](https://denverrescuemission.org/blog).

\*This photo was taken prior to COVID-19.

# Warming a Home This Christmas

THE HEART BEHIND OUR  
HOUSEWARMING BOX PROGRAM

Denver Rescue Mission not only helps secure permanent housing for individuals and families in need, we help them create a place to call home.

In an effort to support families as they settle into new homes, the Mission launched its Housewarming Box program in 2019. During the holidays, families who are part of Community Ministries, which include Family Rescue Ministry (FRM) and Family Refugee Services (FRS), receive boxes filled with cleaning supplies, hygiene items, food storage supplies, linens, towels, toilet paper, and more.



Last year, the community went above and beyond to fill nearly 200 boxes with essential items and decorated them in a festive way that made the families feel special. **“You could feel the heart of those donors,”** said Jose Kabeya, family refugee services manager at the Mission.

Providing these donations takes pressure off our families. Instead of worrying about whether to pay rent or purchase



essential items, they can focus on their families this holiday season.

“But it’s more symbolic than just about helping them save money,” Jose said. “We are creating a connection point between us (Denver Rescue Mission) and them. It’s a message that we are not here just to help them once, but we are here to see them succeed and enjoy their homes. It’s coming from us—from the donors, from the community, from the heart—to support them.”

Community Ministries serve about 150 new families every year, helping them secure permanent housing and pairing them with mentors to walk alongside them. “A lot of these families don’t have any friends or community,” Jose said. “When they take that step to move into a home, the Mission celebrates with them.”

**To learn more about our Housewarming Box program, visit**

**[DenverRescueMission.org/HousewarmingBox](https://DenverRescueMission.org/HousewarmingBox).**

*\*Photos were taken in December 2019.*





**Will you share about the Subaru Share the Love campaign?**

The campaign started in 2008 and gives our customers a chance to donate \$250 when buying a new Subaru during the promotion period and at no cost to them.

**What inspired you to nominate and select Denver Rescue Mission as a beneficiary of the campaign?**

My dad was a Denver wholesale food broker for 60 years. He used to take all his samples and

additional food to the Mission to feed the hungry, and occasionally I went with him. DRM does so many amazing things to take care of and love the less fortunate. I see the amazing efforts and passion that all the employees at DRM have every day. I felt this would be the perfect opportunity to really get behind them from all of us at AutoNation and Subaru of America.

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

Subaru smiles with every donation made. At Subaru, we're learning that giving has far greater rewards than receiving. There is no better feeling in the world!

**What inspires your family to support the Mission financially?**

My wife, Liz, and I support DRM because there has never been a bigger need. This is how we personally "share the love." Our daily prayers are always for the sick, homeless and hungry. These are amazing, loving people who have fallen on hard times, and with some love, together we can make a difference.

**Will you share about your experience volunteering at the Mission's banquets?**

Liz and I walk away each time with thanks. If you're looking for something to make you feel whole inside, go volunteer at DRM. It's life changing! I am looking forward to another year supporting this amazing Rescue Mission.

*Matt Smith is the General Manager of AutoNation Subaru Arapahoe and has worked in the automobile industry for 40 years. He and his wife, Liz, have two grown children, Lucas and Olivia.*

**To learn more about the Subaru Share the Love campaign this holiday season, visit [Subaru.com](http://Subaru.com).**

**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 



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