

JANUARY 2021

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE

A close-up portrait of a Black man with long, dark dreadlocks and a full beard. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight, gentle smile. He is wearing a dark blue crew-neck t-shirt. The background is a light-colored wall with horizontal lines, possibly a window blind or a wall panel.

You **GAVE MARVIN HOPE**

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

THE REALITY OF HOMELESSNESS DURING COVID-19

A GLIMPSE AT YOUR IMPACT IN 2020

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

At Denver Rescue Mission, we try to meet people at their points of need, which has been more important than ever during this pandemic.

In order to do this, we collaborated with the City of Denver and other key partners to convert our shelters from an overnight model to operating these facilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide meals, shelter and care to hundreds of people experiencing homelessness.

We have increased our staff from 225 people to more than 300 people in order to make these significant changes. We have had to grow to meet the needs of the people we serve. We have had to be flexible and it has taken some courage, a lot of faith and your unwavering support and prayers to get this done.

We have had to take Denver Rescue Mission to other places and other buildings with some new partners. However, the Mission is not about a building. The Mission is about dedicated staff and caring people like you who want to do Kingdom work wherever we are needed. We can go anywhere and do what we do best: minister in the name of Jesus and build relationships with people experiencing homelessness as we offer hope for changed lives.

I am sure, like so many of us, that you are feeling the grind of persevering through this crisis. We all want this to be over—to be able to interact like we used to with family and friends. But, until that time comes, let me encourage you by saying that the staff and volunteers at the Mission are meeting guests at their points of need and giving people like Marvin, featured in this month's newsletter, hope during this COVID-19 crisis. We believe that the time is now to work through being scared and sad, focus on keeping up the good fight, and trust God because He is in control.

Thank you for your partnership. May God meet you at your point of need and provide you with hope!

God Bless,



Brad
President/CEO



A GLIMPSE AT YOUR IMPACT IN 2020



689,718

MEALS PROVIDED



25,098

CHAPEL SERVICE
ATTENDEES



386,219

NIGHTS OF
SHELTER PROVIDED



186 tons

OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED

**Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020; Does not reflect impact at National Western Complex auxiliary shelter*


View the 2020 Annual Report to see the ways your gifts are changing lives:
DenverRescueMission.org/AnnualReport

What “Plan B” is
God speaking to
your heart?

To explore this concept and more, visit:

DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving



A man with dark skin, dreadlocks, and a beard is shown in profile, looking towards the right. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background consists of light-colored horizontal siding.

**“[BEING ON THE STREETS
DURING THE PANDEMIC],
EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE HAD
ON MASKS, YOU COULD SEE
PEOPLE’S EYES. YOU COULD
SEE HOW PEOPLE WERE
JUDGING YOU AND LOOKING AT
YOU AS IF YOU WEREN’T A
HUMAN—LIKE YOU WERE
THE LIVING EMBODIMENT
OF COVID-19.**

IT WAS LIKE BEING A LEPER.”

-Marvin

back on my feet!



YOU GAVE MARVIN *Hope*

How One Envelope Sparked Lasting Change



About seven months ago, Marvin was drinking uncontrollably following a heartbreaking divorce. He was homeless, hopeless and had no desire to live. During his first ninety days at Denver Rescue Mission, he joined the Mission's New Life Program (NLP), started attending classes and is finally alcohol free. What got him here? God's sovereignty, one life-changing envelope, and you, a faithful Mission supporter.

It was on a night in June 2020 that Marvin discovered God was not only real, but sovereign. He was living on the streets—wandering around aimlessly with three dollars in his pocket—when he came across an unlocked 15-passenger van parked at a car dealership. "The fear that comes with not knowing where you're going to sleep for the night is indescribable," Marvin said. "Every noise sounds like danger. I was desperate and praying—begging—for a roof. When I pulled on that handle and it opened up, I just started crying. That's really the first time I looked up and said, 'thank you.'"

In the days to follow, Marvin stayed at hotels with cash he received from panhandling. In the midst of the cold stares, rapidly locked car doors and rolled up windows was a woman who changed Marvin's life through one simple act. She handed him an envelope that read, "to a friend." It had a \$10 bill inside and most importantly, information about the Mission. "I looked to the sky and said, 'God, I'll go there,'" he said.

After staying at the Mission's emergency shelter for a few days, he learned about the NLP. Arriving at The Crossing, the Mission's residential facility, was nothing like Marvin imagined. "The care you receive from the people who work here is outstanding," he said. "The way the Mission has operated through COVID is amazing to me—to experience that the Mission isn't afraid of you; is welcoming to you. It's uplifting to see people who are truly loving and taking care of one another in ways the Bible says."

Marvin started his work readiness at the Mission's Ministry Outreach Center (MOC), a portion of the program that assigns participants to a job at the Mission to instill a strong work ethic and valuable soft skills.

"Work readiness is a wonderful opportunity to take the tools that the Mission gives spiritually and apply them in a safe environment, so that when they are in the world, they won't be

"The way the Mission has operated through COVID is amazing to me—to experience that the Mission isn't afraid of you; is welcoming to you. It's uplifting to see people who are truly loving and taking care of one another in ways the Bible says."

-Marvin



Nestled inside the Mission's MOC is a tidy, neatly arranged store filled with donated clothing, food, hygiene products, and other basic essentials. Shelly and Marvin welcome individuals and families to "shop" at no cost. "It's about showing compassion in that little bitty window," Shelly said. "This may be the only Jesus that people see for this whole week or day, so we want them to see Jesus in everything."

so easily swayed or pushed down," said Shelly Harwood, client services coordinator.

Marvin works with Shelly three days a week to help distribute donated food, clothing and other essential items to people in need. He loves giving back to people he can truly relate to. "Marvin, from the beginning, has just been a gentle spirit," Shelly said. "He has a willingness to serve in any capacity. I appreciate his steadfastness and persistence. He doesn't just wait for you to tell him what to do, he finds something to do. He is one of the most flexible NLP [participants] I've ever worked with."

When he's not working at the warehouse, Marvin is attending Bible studies and taking career readiness and life skills classes. Through his involvement with Back on My Feet, a nonprofit that partners with the Mission, Marvin started running to improve his physical condition after facing many weeks of malnutrition.

"I find myself not crying but weeping all the time thinking back to where I was," he said. "My relationship with the Lord God was nonexistent. I was just a walking soul. I don't even know if you could call me a soul. So much is coming back to me that was lost. It's just been an amazing 90 days, and it is all glory to God." ■

With a few more months left before graduation, Marvin plans to reconcile with his family and continue strengthening his relationship with God. He hopes to go back to school to become an addiction counselor. Help Marvin and other participants live out God's plans for them in 2021.

Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words




LINDSEY
KRENZER

Will you describe Back on My Feet's partnership with Denver Rescue Mission?

When Back on My Feet (BoMF) began our expansion to Denver, we reached out to the Mission. The DRM leadership and program team was so welcoming to our model and open to collaborating on shared goals. BoMF operates with the Mission's STAR Transitional Program and New Life Program. Once a Mission participant joins BoMF, they run with our volunteers and staff two mornings a week, attend a weekly workshop on employment, finance, wellness, and housing, and receive one-on-one coaching. We also support our alumni once they graduate and move out of The Crossing. During COVID-19, BoMF kept our program running virtually for all members.

How has this partnership with the Mission impacted your team?

It really is a team environment with dedicated staff who put participants first. The Mission team has been open to collaborating since day one. Our partnership with the Mission has really redefined what a great partnership looks like.

Why is the Mission's work important in breaking the cycle of homelessness?

The Mission understands multiple aspects of the cycle of homelessness and created programming to address these. If you are facing an addiction, you need time, guidance and space to work toward sobriety. You also need housing, food, basic needs, and a job to start working toward self-sufficiency. The variety of programming allows the Mission to meet members where they are at and provides resources and stability so they can be successful when they leave.

Lindsey Krenzer is the Denver program director for Back on My Feet, a national nonprofit that combats homelessness through the power of running, community support and essential employment and housing resources.

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



DENVER RESCUE MISSION
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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