

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020

| A SEAT AT OUR TABLE



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

SIT DOWN AND BE SET FREE

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

What does it mean to have a seat at Denver Rescue Mission's table? It means that because of your support, we can provide seats for all who are in need. We invite individuals to come just as they are. But it is about more than just welcoming someone to sit down for a meal. Each seat represents a person, and each person has a story that is important to God.

In 2020, 3,728 first-time guests came to the Lawrence Street Community Center for help. That is more than double the amount of first-time guests who came in 2019. The need has never been greater. As you read this report, you will see the ways your support has provided many seats—seats that have led to transformed lives for so many individuals and families in our community.

Of the 21 years I have been blessed to serve on staff at the Mission, this past year has been the most challenging. At the same time, I have been moved and humbled by our team's ability to be flexible and adjust to changing conditions and procedures while responding with courage and perseverance to a crisis. As a result of COVID-19, we have had to shift seats to provide basic care and safety to the most vulnerable in our community. During a "stay at home" order, we provided a refuge for those who did not have a home to go to. With the opening of a 24/7 auxiliary shelter to enable social distancing, our tables looked different this year. But our Mission stayed the same: Changing Lives in the Name of Christ.

The phrase I have used continually to encourage Mission staff is: God is in control. He has shown this in miraculous ways through His provision and protection during an incredibly challenging season. I want to thank you for your compassion, empathy and generosity for the people we serve. In fact, they are not only the people we serve and love, but the people you serve and love too.

Thank you for joining us in changing lives,
one seat at a time.



God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Meuli".

BRAD MEULI
President/CEO

Some photos in this report were taken prior to COVID-19.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Denver Rescue Mission is changing lives in the name of Christ by meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.

We do this using Four 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.



“

*Come to me,
all you who
are weary
and burdened,
and I will
give you rest.*

MATTHEW 11:28

”

A TABLE FOR ALL | WHO YOU HELP



“I don’t really remember half my life other than the trauma and the abuse. I was in absolute darkness. I was drinking; I was taking pills; I was done. I’ve been homeless. I’ve been to jail. I’ve lost [custody of] my kids. My whole life, I just wanted somebody to be there, somebody to listen, somebody to have unconditional love when I was around so much bitterness. Now, my kids are safe under one roof. I have so much support here and so much help, between the staff and kid’s club and my case manager. It’s such a supportive place. **It’s stability. I feel like this place is all God. It solidifies God is real.**”

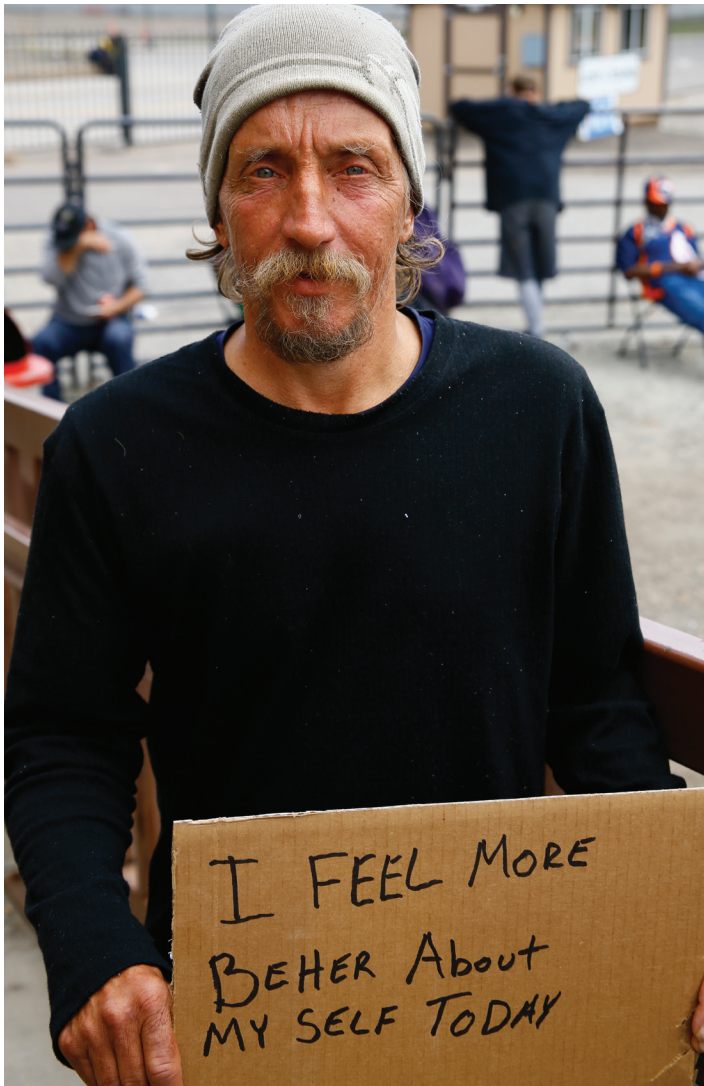
TABITHA

STAR Transitional Program participant

“I didn’t want to let go of my addiction. The depression really set in and the heavy drinking got out of control. None of my relatives wanted to talk to me. At that point, I knew I needed a change. I had one brother who stuck with me. He found this program. I like how [the New Life Program] is structured because it is faith-based. You need something better than yourself to look up to—to believe in. The meals are terrific. [I like] having the structure back in my life. [I like] the camaraderie with all the other guys. Everybody’s lives are changing—getting better. **[I like] striving for something better in my life to smile about.** I thought at my age—being older—there wasn’t really much out there left anymore, and I was wrong.”

MARK

New Life Program graduate



“I was living in a park. I didn’t leave the park for four months. It’s by Kalamath and Colfax. [I panhandled] for three to four hours at a time and used the money to eat. I knew where [Denver Rescue Mission] was. [I went] when it started getting cold out. **I haven’t panhandled since I’ve been here.** I have food stamps now. One of the staff members from the Mission helped me get a job cleaning motels. Now, I got my birth certificate and they gave me a voucher to get my ID. My case manager helped me with that. When I told her I got a job, she was really happy.”

BILLY

Next Step member



“I’m a CNA [Certified Nursing Assistant] and I was working with psych patients. I got hurt at my job. I broke my jaw bone and might have to have back surgery. I’m still going through therapy. I’m doing home care with senior citizens now. I am only working like 15 hours a week, and I barely get through that. I just can’t work 60 to 70 hours a week like I used to. The Mission has been helping me through these trials and tribulations. I come here to get things I need. It saves me a lot of money. [I’ve gotten] undergarments, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, canned goods, and dry foods. I got some nice coats, hats and gloves to get ready for the winter. If they didn’t have this place, I don’t know where I’d get my personal items from. I also bring donated clothes to the Mission. I just brought a bag this morning. **I try to give back because they’ve been really good to me. I’m hanging in there by the grace of God.**”

PAMELA

Ministry Outreach Center guest

COME TO THE TABLE, JUST AS YOU ARE

| KYLE'S STORY





Kyle spent the first 28 years of his life in a small town in northern Alabama. He grew up in a stable, Christian home with a loving, close-knit family. He loved playing baseball with his two brothers. His dad was an engineer. His mom, a nurse, was able to stay home for her sons' formative years.

Kyle was homeschooled for most of his life but attended public school for five years. It was during one of those years—in 8th grade—that Kyle was diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. "I got put on Adderall and started really feeling different," he said. "I got wind that somebody had sleeping pills. I traded one Adderall for a sleeping pill. Then, I just kept trading and trading. The Lortabs turned into OxyContin and the OxyContin turned into harder opioids. By 17, I was a full-blown addict."

For the next decade, Kyle's life was centered on drugs. "There were triggers all around my town," Kyle said. "I knew where every dope house was, and they were everywhere."

In 2018, he experienced a psychotic break as a result of taking mind-altering substances. He was admitted to a psychiatric unit for five days and shortly after he was released, he moved to Denver to live with his brother.

It would be a fresh start and a new community with the mountains at his fingertips.

But he knew he needed rehabilitation to overcome his addiction and work through the events of his past. "It was almost like my past was an open wound and it wasn't healing," he said. "I couldn't figure out how to get it to heal."

He heard about Denver Rescue Mission at church, and about a year after his move, he had nowhere to go but the Mission. "The fact that I could walk in and immediately be in a controlled environment was absolutely perfect for where I was at," he said.

A few days after arriving at Lawrence Street Community Center, he joined Next Step, which helps individuals move toward self-sufficiency. On his first night, he attended a

Mission chapel service, which happened to be the night that participants in the New Life Program shared their testimonies. He knew right away that this program was what he needed. "I got in on February 13, 2020 and it changed my life completely," he said.

Through weekly Bible studies, deep conversations with his chaplain, and guidance from his case manager, Kyle started the physical, mental and spiritual transformation that was needed in his life. "It's just good to see Christians who are really walking the walk and talking the talk with you," he said. "They helped get me through the hardest part, which was distancing myself from drug use."

The work readiness portion of the program, which assigns participants to tasks around the Mission to develop soft skills such as punctuality, communication and dependability, was particularly useful to Kyle. He worked in the kitchen and formed a close bond with other participants, relating to them in ways he couldn't with anyone else.

Now, Kyle is in the final phase of the program and works a full-time job as a line cook at a nearby retirement community. When he's not working or meeting with his case manager and chaplain, Kyle spends his time hiking in the mountains with his brothers. "That's like therapy, hiking those 14ers," he said. "It's a good mental exercise for me, because you're always going to have uphill battles, but at some point it will top out, and you can handle it."

After graduating from the program, his goal is to move into a sober living home and go to school for addiction counseling. At 31, he feels a sense of childlike freedom—the events of his past serving as a distant memory, no longer as a lingering barrier.

"Since coming to Christ and accepting the life He's chosen for me, I've got an extreme amount of peace. That open past wound is finally being stitched up. It's healing."

SOLUTIONS YOU HELP BRING TO THE TABLE

THE NEED HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER AND OUR WORK HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT.



FACT

In the Denver metro area, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 6% from 2019 to 2020. Of the 6,104 individuals experiencing homelessness, 2,911 are staying in emergency shelters, 1,582 are in transitional housing and more than 1,561 are unsheltered.*

SOLUTION

Everyone has a seat at the Mission's table.

In 2020:

7,569 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS CAME TO OUR
LAWRENCE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER

3,728 WERE FIRST-TIME GUESTS

635 TRANSITIONED TO OUR NEXT STEP
SERVICE OR ONE OF OUR LONG-TERM
PROGRAMS

*Source: 2020 Point in Time (PIT) Report: mdhi.org/2020_pit_reports

**Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2020 Out of Reach Report: reports.nlihc.org/oor/colorado



FACT

There are many different factors that cause homelessness, and the rising cost of housing is one of the biggest.** The average income needed to rent a one-bedroom home in Denver is \$50,400, which means an individual making the minimum wage of \$12 an hour would need to work 81 hours every week to afford a modest, one-bedroom home.**

SOLUTION

Through our long-term programs, we teach participants the importance of money management and help them find employment that matches their skill sets.

In 2020:

166 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS OPENED A BANKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

225 PARTICIPANTS OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT OR TRANSITIONED TO A NEW JOB WITH A HIGHER WAGE

FACT

Of the 6,104 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Denver metro area, 420 are families or households with at least one adult and one child under 18.*

SOLUTION

Last year, through our STAR Transitional Program:

288 HOUSEHOLDS WERE SERVED

87% INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO GRADUATED MAINTAINED HOUSING ONE YEAR LATER

IMPACT IN 2020

| THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR



689,718

MEALS PROVIDED*



386,219

NIGHTS OF
SHELTER PROVIDED*



25,098

CHAPEL SERVICE
ATTENDEES



75

INTERNS EXPERIENCED
HANDS-ON WORK

Numbers reflect Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

**Does not reflect impact at National Western Complex auxiliary shelter; see page 15*



1,247

HOMEWORK HOURS COMPLETED
IN OUR YOUTH PROGRAM



113

NEW LIFE PROGRAM
GRADUATES



186 tons

OF CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED



86%

NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATES
MAINTAINED THEIR HOUSING ONE
YEAR AFTER GRADUATING



74

VEHICLES GIFTED



SHIFTING SEATS | OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19



In the midst of a pandemic, God's faithfulness has shown through in miraculous ways to Denver Rescue Mission staff, guests and program participants. While the challenges have been steep, a spirit of partnership quickly overcame the uncertainty during the early stages of COVID-19.

Since Colorado declared a state of emergency back in March of 2020, the Mission has been able to continue serving vulnerable men, women and children through innovative ways. In partnership with the City of Denver, we took the lead in staffing a 760-bed temporary shelter at the National Western Complex. The facility had enough space to offer 24/7 care to our guests with proper social distancing and health screenings provided by the Stout Street Health Center.

Here's how your donations saved countless lives by creating safe shelter options for people experiencing homelessness.

Life-Saving Impact at the National Western Auxiliary Shelter:*

2,950+
UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS
VISITED THE
AUXILIARY SHELTER

198,000+
MEALS SERVED**

65
TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES
WERE HIRED

77,239
NIGHTS OF SHELTER
PROVIDED

**Numbers reflect April 9 – late July 2020
**Food provided by the City of Denver
and served by Mission volunteers*

“

I got [to the National Western Complex] and the amount of support was overwhelming. That was the first hot meal I've had in weeks. There were so many people volunteering who were willing to look at you as a person. I had not been looked at as a person for so many days by so many people.

MARVIN

National Western Complex guest

”

“

I was in the process of getting hired at a community college and then [with] the restrictions, everything got put on hold. The Mission was there for me at the right time. I couldn't be happier to work here. When I'm passing out those plates and I see the people's faces—their gratitude—that's what keeps me wanting to go back.

ROGELIO HERNANDEZ

Temporary Chef

”

God has called us, as an organization, to lead in such a time as this. We have increased our staffing levels, especially within our emergency services and custodial teams, to meet the challenges of COVID-19, and we anticipate an increased need for our services as we enter into a new year. The Mission will remain flexible as we prioritize serving our guests and program participants to the very best of our ability.

Together, with God's guidance, your prayers and your support, we will continue our life-changing work in the face of this crisis.

HOW YOU CARE | OUR SUPPORTERS



Providing seats at our tables involves many hands and hearts, from the employees who prepare meals, volunteers who serve meals and supporters who fund meals. And it doesn't end with a meal. As guests sit down at our tables, they are able to connect with our employees and volunteers. This creates space for fruitful conversations so that we can meet guests at their specific points of need. We could not do this life-changing work without you, a valued member of our Mission family.

2020 Impact

“

I took a tour of the Lawrence Street Community Center a few years ago and was struck by the compassion, empathy and professionalism of the people who work there. I felt like it was something I really wanted to get behind. [In the early stages of COVID-19], I recognized that the population the Mission serves was going to be the most vulnerable. Social distancing and all the precautions that others can take, they're not able to do. I knew the need was going to go up and the available resources were going to go down. It was important to me to reach out and see how I could help. The Mission is very close to my heart and something that I'll always want to support and be a part of.

ERLE MAST

Supporter and Volunteer

”

95,878
VOLUNTEER HOURS

67,286
DONORS

677
CHANGE MAKERS

13,618
SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

\$136.91
AVERAGE DONATION



“ During the lockdown, I was [doing] about four to five volunteer shifts a week. It was a personal decision to shift priorities in my life and be more focused on giving to other people. I feel inspired when I see somebody coming through [the line], and before I even get a chance to say 'good morning' and 'God bless you,' they say that to me.”

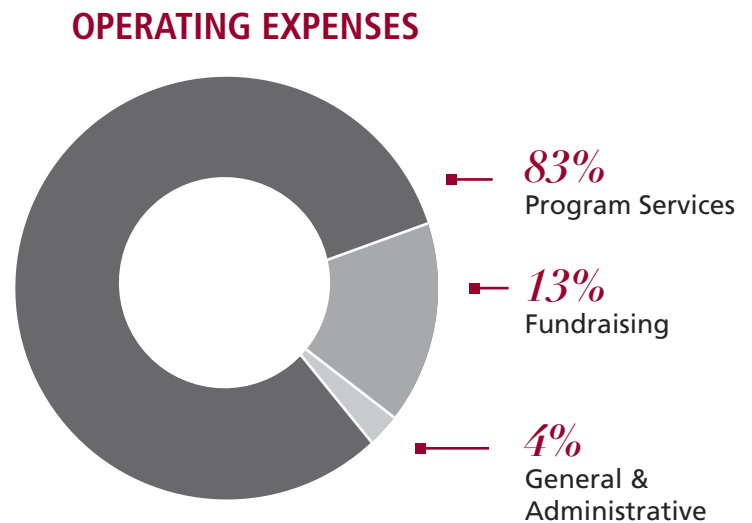
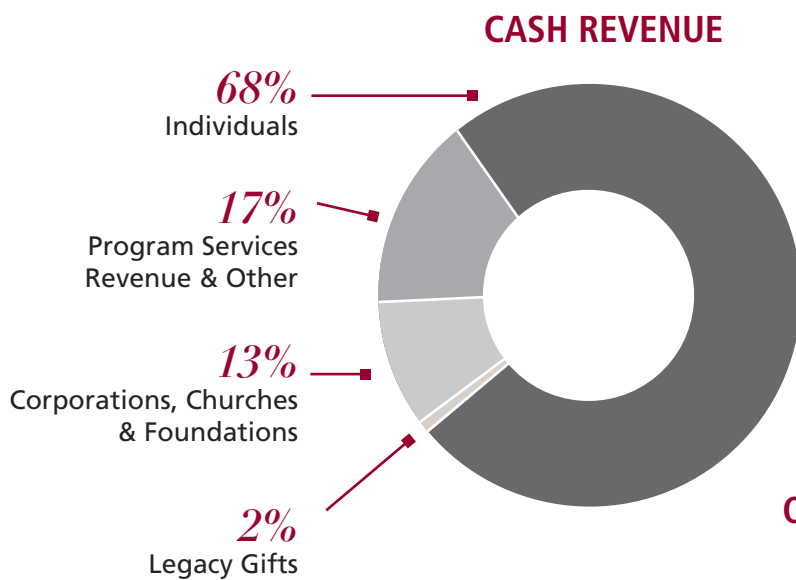
PETER DIECK

Volunteer

Support & Revenue

CONTRIBUTIONS		2020	2019
Individuals, Corporations, Churches, & Foundations		\$22,966,272	\$19,982,049
Gifts-in-Kind		\$14,345,894	\$14,493,128
Total Contributions		\$37,312,166	\$34,475,177

REVENUE		2020	2019
Program Service Revenue & Other*		\$4,966,686	\$2,078,081
Total Support & Revenue		\$42,278,852	\$36,553,258



Expenses

PROGRAM SERVICES	2020	2019
Community Outreach	\$10,349,546	\$10,839,934
Rehabilitation	\$3,568,347	\$3,853,141
Emergency Services	\$11,842,812	\$9,933,687
Transitional	\$5,353,354	\$4,997,405
	\$31,114,059	\$29,624,167

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	2020	2019
General & Administrative	\$1,317,666	\$1,432,367
Fundraising	\$4,950,092	\$4,674,805
TOTAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	\$6,267,758	\$6,107,172
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,381,817	\$35,731,339
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	\$4,897,035	\$821,919
Other**	<\$9,357>	<\$401,396>
Change in Net Assets*	\$4,887,678	\$420,523
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$37,024,214	\$36,603,691
Net Assets – End of Year	\$41,911,892	\$37,024,214

*In April of 2020, Denver Rescue Mission received a \$2,101,500 loan through the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This is reflected in the "Program Service Revenue & Other" line item above. Due to the uncertain economic environment caused by the initial onset of COVID-19 the past spring, the Mission's Board of Directors approved the acceptance of PPP funds to ensure our ability to continue to provide essential emergency shelter services to our community. As of the print date (November 20, 2020) of this report, the Mission's application for forgiveness of this loan is pending.

**Non-operating (capital project related activities, sale of assets, etc.)

Denver Rescue Mission is a member of the Better Business Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recommends giving to organizations who spend at least 65% of their total expenses on program activities. In fiscal year 2019-2020, 83% of our expenses were in programs.

Download our audited financial statement at DenverRescueMission.org/Financial-Accountability.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

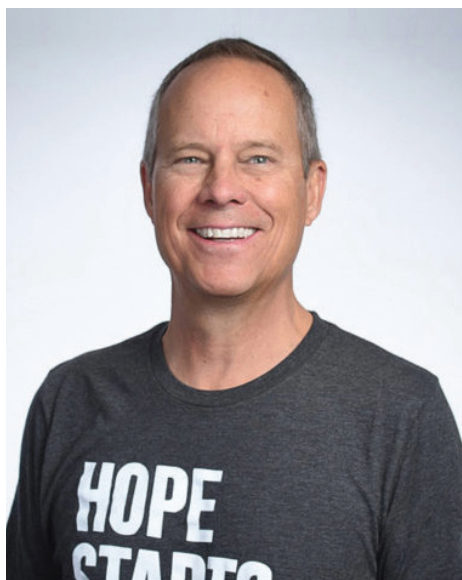


BRAD MEULI

President/Chief Executive Officer

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

JOHN 15:12-13



GRIFF FREYSCHLAG

Vice President of Development

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

MATTHEW 6:21



JOSH GEPELT

Vice President of Programs

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20



STEVE WALKUP

Spiritual Director

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

JOHN 5:24



SHERRI HERONEMA
Senior Director of Human Resources

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

PROVERBS 3:5-6



KEVIN MANN
Chief Financial Officer

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

PHILIPPIANS 4:8



JOHN MORARIE
Vice President of Operations

"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being."

EPHESIANS 3:16

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CHANGING LIVES ONE SEAT AT A TIME



This year was filled with many unexpected challenges. Yet, the needs of our homeless neighbors remain. They need a bed to sleep in on a cold night; a warm meal to sustain them during the day; and a helping hand to support them as they transition out of homelessness.

Our Mission's promise to serve the most vulnerable people in our community has never wavered in our 129-year history. As we enter into 2021, we anticipate the need for our services and programs to increase. There are still many unknowns, which is why we have adopted an adaptive leadership model, staying flexible in order to address emergent needs as they surface. Our goal remains the same: to lift up individuals and families in need and remind them that they are loved, they are valued and there is reason to have hope.

With your support in 2021, we plan to:

Serve more people experiencing homelessness than ever before.

Employ nearly 300 staff members (an increase of 49% compared to 2019) to meet the challenges of COVID-19.

Continue providing 24/7 shelter at the 48th Avenue Center and Denver Coliseum in partnership with the City of Denver to ensure men in need have a safe and socially-distanced refuge.

Complete renovations at our Lawrence Street Shelter and Community Center which will offer ADA accessibility, more storage options and other significant improvements.

Complete renovations at The Crossing to create a more welcoming environment for our program participants.

Serve more seniors and families than ever before through our Family Rescue Ministry program to help them secure stable housing and set them up for success.

Despite the many unknowns of 2021, your generous support ensures that we will continue to help as many people as possible and change lives, **one seat at a time.**



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