

# CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE



## THE TIME TO HEAL

“And He shall turn the heart of the fathers  
to the children, and the heart of the  
children to their fathers...”

– *Malachi 4:6*

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

YOUR SUPPORT BROUGHT RESTORATION TO THIS FATHER AND SON

THE IMPACT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS EASTER SEASON

## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

You can never underestimate the power of a positive relationship. We know that at Denver Rescue Mission. We are all about relationships. We provide more than a meal—more than a warm bed and a place to stay. Because of our love for Jesus and for the people who come to us for help, we reach out to the guests in our shelters and programs and try to develop relationships with them. We ask them to trust us, so that they can take that first really hard step toward making a change.

Not everyone has the courage to move forward, but so many do. Stories like Eric's in this month's newsletter keep us going. Seeing a man get his life back, overcome addiction and restore his relationship with his son inspire us to keep on trying.

In these pandemic times, I am sure that you have found, as I have, that relationships have been harder to hang on to. Many of us have been away from family and friends and felt the loneliness of this time. Many of us have lost family and friends to the virus. These feelings we have of loneliness and despair are not unlike what our guests feel. They have needed us more than ever to keep our heads up and continue to take one step after another as we climb this mountain that is the pandemic.

No matter how difficult, we have continued to try and make a difference in peoples' lives. We have kept people safe and alive. We have prayed with them. We have tried to share a little bit of ourselves and a whole lot of Jesus with all who come to us for help. This relationship with Jesus is the real deal.

What is one way I know this? Because I see the love of Jesus played out every day in the actions of our staff and volunteers as they unselfishly serve and seek to develop relationships with the guests and participants in our programs. The Mission believes that Jesus rose from the dead on Resurrection Sunday, having died for all of us. He is alive today for us to have a relationship with. This is the most important, life-changing relationship ever.

Happy Easter! I hope you can come volunteer with us soon and see God at work. We covet not only your financial support, but your prayers as well.

God bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



Eric Korb is a donor relations specialist on the Mission's development team. He is also a graduate of the Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm. After recovering from a 30-year addiction to alcohol, he was able to restore his relationship with his son, Christian.



Watch their video story on our YouTube channel: [@DenverRescueMission](#).



**National Volunteer Appreciation Week** is April 18-24. We're so grateful for the ways you've stepped in to serve, especially during the pandemic. Did you know that volunteers spent 95,878 hours serving in 2020?

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED!**

“Harvest Farm is a built-in buffer for families to talk. [During visits], you don’t have to just talk about why dad’s here. You have animals. You have space. You can walk and talk and start to rebuild the relationship. I think that was key for me—having that ability to spend time with Christian and have him see the progress I was making. That began those steps of restoration for us.”

-Eric, New Life Program graduate



# THE TIME TO HEAL



## A Story of Restoration Between Father and Son

Eric and his son Christian had a broken relationship for most of Christian's life. During Eric's time in Denver Rescue Mission's New Life Program (NLP) at Harvest Farm, his deepest desire and biggest motivation in his addiction recovery was to restore their relationship. As you reflect on the resurrection of Jesus this Easter, know that your support helped this father and son experience the same grace and forgiveness that Christ has given us.

As a young boy, Christian's memories of his father were sparse and ambiguous. He remembers visiting him at a farm up north. He remembers the chickens, the cafeteria, the basketball court, and a two-legged goat named Zonka. "When I would come up to the Farm, we would go around and hang out with the animals and I would help out," he said.

At the age of 10, Christian didn't quite know why his father was there. He didn't know the details about the destructive addiction Eric had gone through—the turmoil that led him to seek help through the NLP, a faith-based rehabilitation program.

"I had no clue what was going on," Christian said. "It was

weird having to share experiences [at the Farm] with somebody I had no connection with—who wasn't there for most of my life. I had to look to other people for a father figure."

In Eric's 30-year battle with alcoholism, one of his lowest points was in 2005—the night he was charged with driving under the influence—and lost everything as a result. "I ended up losing my job, career, family, marriage, and home," Eric said. "I can remember saying to myself, **'If I can't quit with [my family], how can I ever quit without them?'**"

Eric experienced many low points in his life after that, including repeated hospital visits and failed suicide attempts. But he also took many steps to attain sobriety through

intensive outpatient programs, 30-day rehabilitation programs and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

On January 28, 2013, Eric had his last drink. He joined the NLP a few days later.

"When I came to Harvest Farm, I felt [like] a failure as a son and a husband, but really as a father," he said. "What I needed that those other programs didn't offer was time—time to heal, time to recover and time for a new life. I needed to repair my relationships—especially with my son."

In addition to focusing on recovery, the Mission's six-to-twelve-month program allows participants to rebuild different aspects of their lives, including their careers, finances, and most importantly, their relationships. "They get to care for each other and heal from the wounds of the past, so that they can repair the community that they have left behind," said Seth Forwood, senior director of Fort Collins Rescue Mission. "[For Eric], that passion to get his recovery in order was so strong because he knew he had to make his relationships right."

Time seemed to be the very thing that Christian needed, too. It wasn't until he was in high school that he realized Eric was intentionally mending their relationship.

"When I started playing basketball, he would come to my games and try to be involved with my life, so I started to reach out more and more," Christian said. "I remember when things changed. We went to get ice cream one night from Little

Man Ice Cream. He showed me the necklace. It had his sobriety date on it and the letter 'C' [for Christian]. We talked about what the Farm really was and what he was trying to accomplish in life.

From that point forward, we've just had a connection."



Photo credit: Scott Zischke

By that time, Eric had graduated from the program and was working at the front desk at Harvest Farm. He later transferred to a Mission volunteer coordinator role in Denver to be closer to Christian. "It [was] a motivation for me to try to build a relationship with him and make sure that it stays that way," Christian said.

Christian, now a freshman at Fort Lewis College in Durango, is pursuing a degree in business administration. He hopes to one day start a magazine that shares stories of hardship, similar to his father's. As he carries on his education, goals and dreams, Eric is now a part of his journey.

"It takes transforming your whole life," Seth said.

"It takes not just looking at your addiction, but finances, career, relationships, and spirituality. It often feels impossible, but people like Eric show an example that even in desperate situations, men can heal and become [the] sons, brothers, coworkers, and fathers they really want to be." ■

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-Eric



**"You're investing not in just [my] sobriety," Eric said, "you're investing in Christian's future. You're investing to break that cycle of addiction within a family."**

**Help restore other families this Easter season by giving today at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](http://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).**

# THE MISSION *in my words*



## HANNO HOLM

Hanno Holm volunteers at the Mission four days a week. He was born in Germany and moved to Colorado more than 12 years ago. He has worked in the food and nutrition industry since 2003 and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in business administration.

### Will you describe your role tutoring the men in the New Life Program?

I help participants prepare for their reentry into work. We help them identify suitable professions, prepare their resumes and cover letters and conduct mock interviews. I am very impressed with the [Mission's] standards of teaching and the outcomes. Our work impacts the participants in different ways. In some cases, the men have not had structured jobs, so we have to start from scratch to create a professional identity. In many cases, it has been useful to ask them what their passion is and go from there. If we can give them the confidence to embark on this next adventure instead of falling back into old habits, then we will have helped them immensely.

### How has your experience volunteering at the Mission impacted you personally?

It is really quite humbling to work with the participants and find out that they come from all walks of life. They are also very polite and grateful for the opportunity at the Mission. It really made me think that it is easy to "fall off the wagon" in our society, and we should help, not judge, those who temporarily do. I have learned that the problem of homelessness on the streets is only one part of it, and that there is a wider issue of people losing their homes when they lose their jobs. I will certainly be more vigilant with friends and acquaintances in the future when I notice that somebody is struggling in life. It is not a long journey from being late for work a few times to experiencing eviction, as sad as it is.

### What is your favorite part about volunteering with the Mission and how would you encourage others to get involved?

My favorite part is the feeling of community and togetherness, and people are genuinely having fun! There is always some friendly banter and joking, as in any community at ease with itself. I look forward to coming in every morning. If you can make the time and you want to make a real difference in people's lives, then go for it. It is a great help to the staff, as a lot of one-on-one time is needed. I certainly feel that this is about the most meaningful thing I have done in the last 25 years.

## OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES



REHABILITATION



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## 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

## THOUGHTS? ..

Send your questions and comments to  
[Newsletter@DenRescue.org](mailto:Newsletter@DenRescue.org).