

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE



A MOTHER'S JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO FAITH

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling.” – Psalm 68:5

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

A STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND MOTHERHOOD

MEET A MISSION YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Dear Friends,

Within the pages of the monthly editions of our *Changing Lives* newsletter, we share stories of hope with you. All of these stories touch me in some way and encourage me that our work here at Denver Rescue Mission is so important. For me, reading this month's story about Noreen, her son David, and her walk through this life, really softened my heart.

When you work at the Mission, you hear a lot of stories about struggle and see a lot of pain. You also get to see so many good things—so many miracles of life-changing proportions. I think Noreen's story reminded me how close we all are to being homeless. Life's circumstances, such as a health condition, the loss of a loved one and the difficulty of raising a child you love so much who is struggling are all reasons someone may become homeless.

Noreen's story reminded me why we are here. I am so thankful that she had a place to go—that she came through our doors. The Mission is so much more than a soup kitchen. We are a place that offers hope through the love of Jesus. I am so grateful that there are people like you who donate financially to help, who want to volunteer even in a pandemic, and who pray regularly for God's work here through our staff.

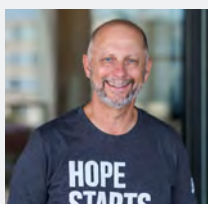
Noreen's story, like so many others who come to us for help, is one of trusting in God. Over the last few months as we have battled this pandemic, we have clung to God's faithfulness and the hope we have in Jesus. We remind ourselves daily that God is in control.

Thank you for partnering with us in this great work. I am humbled by your confidence in us.

God bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Does Your Legacy Reflect Your Heart?



One of the hardest things in life can be to truly look inward. Growth can be uncomfortable, but becoming who God made you to be is a beautiful thing. When we "show up" today, we build a stronger legacy for the future.

Want to impact lives for generations to come? Your journey begins at DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving.

A CELEBRATION FOR MISSION MOMS

"A MOTHER IS SHE WHO CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF ALL OTHERS, BUT WHOSE PLACE NO ONE ELSE CAN TAKE."
—CARDINAL MERMILLOD



Every year around Mother's Day, we want to make moms at the Mission feel loved and appreciated. On Friday, May 7, we're hosting a special dinner with a gift for mothers living at The Crossing.

THANK YOU MOMS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



“It’s not just the room and the food. It’s more than that. It’s fellowship here—fellowship of love, compassion and understanding.”

-Noreen, STAR Transitional Program participant

A MOTHER'S JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO FAITH



Noreen has a big smile and a gentle, humble heart. As a widow raising a 12-year-old son with autism, her journey has not been easy. After losing her home following the death of her husband, she and David eventually joined Denver Rescue Mission's STAR Transitional Program. Today, with the help of the program, Noreen is in the process of looking for affordable housing, which has at times felt impossible. But along the way, thanks to your kindness and generosity, her fear has shifted to undeniable faith.



On October 25, 2019, Noreen stood hand in hand with her son, David, at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood.

With a heavy, aching heart, she said goodbye to her husband of 22 years, Kerry.

"When I went in, he looked peaceful," she said. "He looked like he was sleeping. We said a prayer, and I kissed him goodbye."

At the age of 57, Kerry passed away from cardiac arrest after struggling with chronic health issues. The agonizing grief combined with the fear and uncertainty of raising David on her own overwhelmed Noreen. "I lost weight; I couldn't sleep; I couldn't eat," she said.

When she was 20 years old, Noreen was diagnosed with epilepsy, so she relied on Kerry to be the breadwinner. When he passed away, she was no longer able to pay rent on the

condominium they were living in, and unfortunately, she and David could not stay.

Hearing about the Mission's STAR program, a transitional program for individuals and families, was an answer to Noreen's prayers during a time of sheer desperation. In the spring of 2020, she talked to a Mission case manager and shared about her housing situation and that her son has autism and learning disabilities. She was delighted when she got a phone call from the Mission a few months later, as soon as intakes opened back up following the COVID-19 lockdown.

"When I got to The Crossing, I broke down in tears," Noreen said. "If I would have had the money, I would have paid [our rent], but I didn't. I just lost my husband. I was only getting \$826 a month. What was I to do?"

Soon after joining the program, Noreen was matched with a mentor, Cindy, a donor and Change Maker for the Mission.



The two meet every week to catch up and pray together. "When I met her, she was really grieving over the loss of her husband," Cindy said. "I told her, 'That's normal. You need to grieve, but at the same time you're grieving, don't be in a pit of despair. Realize there's a new life ahead of you.'"

Noreen is working with her case manager on applying for housing, which has been her biggest challenge and an area where her faith has been tested and shaped.

"She's growing in faith through the waiting period," Cindy said. "She was a very fearful person, [and] facing life on her own was terrifying for her. Now that she's been at the Mission, I feel like I'm seeing a confidence as opposed to fear."

Her biggest hope is to find a home for her and David and for him to always attend a good school and receive the occupational, speech and physical therapy that he needs. "She really loves her son," Cindy said. "What's going on with David is of paramount importance [to her]. "It's really sweet—seeing her mother's heart."

After a season of loss, grief, homelessness, and hopelessness, Noreen is looking ahead and doing all that she can to care for David. Beyond that, she is standing firm in her faith that God will do the rest.

"I like how they say [Denver Rescue Mission] brings hope," Noreen said. "That's what people need nowadays—hope. I look at the Mission as the support of a whole community—the staff, my case manager, my counselor, and my mentor. It's connecting with people. It's not just the room and the food. It's more than that. It's fellowship here—fellowship of love, compassion and understanding." ■

Yellow roses have always meant a lot to Noreen. They represent care, warmth, delight, and affection. They can also mean farewell and remembrance. She bought Kerry a yellow rose when they were dating, and he loved it. They've been her favorite ever since.

This Mother's Day, she'll buy a dozen yellow roses. She knows that Kerry will be watching from heaven. Support Mission families in their times of hardship at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

The Blessings of the Broncos Room



David cannot be left unsupervised because of his developmental disabilities, which is why the Mission's youth program hosted in the Denver Broncos Youth Center (the Broncos Room) has been an immense help to Noreen. It has also been a huge blessing to David because of the social interaction with the staff, volunteers and other kids.

"The Broncos Room is his favorite," Noreen said. "He loves the Math and Reading Club, Bible study and free time. They just make it fun for him."





MAURI RESSEGUIE

Mauri Resseguie is the Events Committee Chair for the Mission's Young Professionals (YP) group and works in the banking industry in the Denver metro area.

What inspired you to get involved as a Denver Rescue Mission Young Professional?

I was looking for opportunities to get involved with like-minded individuals in Denver and expand my network. Young Professionals immediately presented volunteer and networking events where I could serve dinner to Mission guests and socialize with the other volunteers afterward. As Denver is such a "transplant" city, it can be very hard to meet people outside of work who have similar interests. YP has provided me with such an important network of people who I now call friends.

How has being on the YP Leadership Committee challenged you?

Having a leadership role has challenged a different set of skills I normally wouldn't use, like event planning. I love collaborating with the other members and dreaming up the potential of our group. I've used so many skills during my two years as a YP member. There is the volunteering aspect, and I'm constantly getting out of my comfort zone to meet new YP members. I've really enjoyed getting to know the DRM employees as well and working with them toward a common goal.

What would you say to encourage others to become Young Professionals?

It's a super open and welcoming group, and we love new members! We have multiple events every month, and it's so easy to sign up for a volunteer event for a few hours one evening. We are always trying to incorporate a variety of activities and ways to be involved with the Mission and give back to the community.

Why is the Mission's work important to you personally?

So many people fall into excruciating circumstances that land them in the grace of the Mission, and it's important to be compassionate toward those individuals and provide them with support and resources. I think it's imperative to get out of our element and volunteer at a place like Denver Rescue Mission. The Mission is doing amazing work, and I am so blessed to volunteer regularly and be involved with Young Professionals.



DENVER RESCUE MISSION *Young Professionals*
SERVE • LEARN • CONNECT

If you're a young professional and want to join this growing network of passionate influencers, we invite you to serve, learn and connect with us!

Learn more: DenverRescueMission.org/YP

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.