

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE

Let There Be Light



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

MISSION GUEST EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

LAWRENCE STREET SHELTER RENOVATIONS

Dear Friends,

Our Lawrence Street Shelter is open again! I am happy to say that it is new and improved after many recent renovations! For those of you who have served a meal at this location or have toured it in the past, you will be *amazed* at the transformation. (I know that I am!) Who knew that a building built in the late 1800s could look so good and have a new elevator and ramp to meet ADA requirements.

Due to pandemic restrictions, we were not able to have a grand opening with crowds of well-wishers. Instead, a few of our staff members, along with staff from Denver's Department of Housing Stability, gathered in a large socially-distanced circle in our chapel and thanked God for His provision. We rededicated this building and the Lord's work through us in reaching those in need.

I know that the people who came before us—who helped make 1130 Park Avenue West the sanctuary that it is—would have been proud of what this place has become. As I stood praying with this small group of committed folks in our chapel, with a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes, I was reminded of the Bible verse from 2 Corinthians 5:17:

"The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Everything seemed so fresh, so new. I was overcome with gratitude for God's provision as well as the support of the City and the donors, like you, who made this possible.

But that is just the second part of the verse. The first part says: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."* This verse is about changing a person's life—not about a building. Seeing people's lives changed as they come to our many buildings seeking help is what this work is all about. Denver Rescue Mission, steeped in a rich history of 129 years, is not about a building. We are about God's Kingdom work reflected in the love and grace of Jesus. We know He changes lives, and we are honored to be a part of the work that results in that change. Thank you for making this work possible through your faithful partnership.

God bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ONLINE EVENT!

A Home for Healing: Finding Stability at Denver Rescue Mission

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | 4:00 p.m.

You'll hear from staff experts and a family in our STAR Transitional Program about how the Mission has supported them in their time of need.

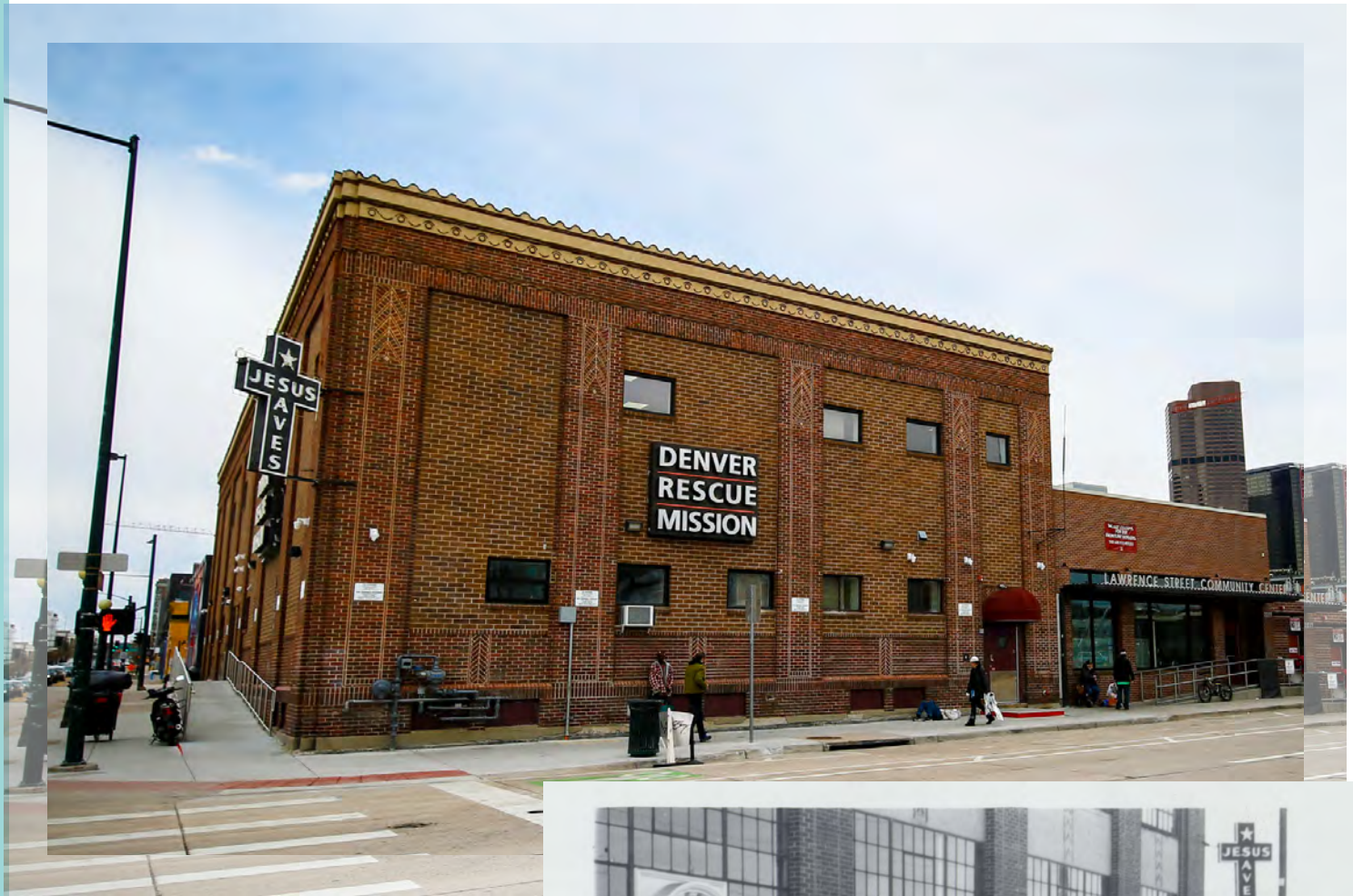
To register, visit DenverRescueMission.org/HomeToHeal.



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A Place Where **Jesus Saves**



On the corner of Lawrence Street and Park Avenue, a cross has hung outside of Denver Rescue Mission's Lawrence Street Shelter since 1970. This iconic cross, which shines in bright neon at night, is the reason Mission guests call the building "Jesus Saves." But these words go so much deeper than a sign on a building. They're a message of hope for passersby—especially for those without a home. It's a promise that when they walk through our doors, they will be given a place to rest, refresh and realign toward a brighter future. Today, behind the "Jesus Saves" sign is a newly renovated building to provide just that.



"What's the way Jesus Saves? Through love, care and compassion. As we redesigned this building, we tried to keep those things in the forefront. The way that it looks demonstrates that, but a lot of things that are done behind the scenes demonstrate that. That's really our heart behind this entire renovation."

- John Morarie, Vice President of Operations



Let There Be Light

Lawrence Street Shelter Renovations

Thanks to your generous support and a grant from the City of Denver, we made many upgrades to a building that is more than 100 years old. Here's what's new:

1 Inclusive:

The Lawrence Street Shelter is now compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). With a new entry ramp along Park Avenue and a new elevator, guests with mobility impairments can now access all areas of the building for the first time ever.

2 Inviting:

With a new entrance area, guests are welcomed by staff as soon as they walk in. We also created a new meeting space for guests to meet privately with case managers and other staff to learn about our programs and services.

3 Resourceful:

The renovated chapel area can now be used for multiple purposes, including chapel services, a classroom and a meeting space.



"One of our challenges [was] when someone had never been homeless before and they showed up here, they got lost in the crowd. This is going to allow us to [meet] them at the beginning, keep them safe and get them connected to services right away."

— Tracy Brooks, Senior Director of Emergency Services

4 Bright:

We redesigned two shelter areas to allow for more light and space for our guests and added brand new beds and mattresses.



5 Hopeful:

The facility's 200 beds have been split between the second floor and basement, which has new walls and lighting. The basement will serve men in our Next Step program, which pairs guests with case managers to help them exit out of homelessness.

6 Safe:

We updated the fire suppression system and camera security system and provided lockers with charging stations, so our guests know their belongings are secure.

7 Dignified:

We renovated the bathrooms, repainted the interior walls and updated the laundry facilities with commercial washers and dryers. A new HVAC system will provide a better environment in the summer and winter.



Watch the progression and outcome of this renovation project on our YouTube channel: @DenverRescueMission

Mission Guest Takes First Look at Renovations



"I mean look at this room! We were used to bunk beds. [Now], we have windows. We can see outside. You'd be surprised [by] what sunshine will do for folks—brightens up their days.

You donors are the ones who help us look forward to another day. I can't thank you enough, because there have been many times that I didn't have a pillow. The only thing I used for my pillow was my boots. Sometimes you have to go through the rough times before you see the light at the end of the tunnel.

You don't give up on us. And I just thank you from my heart—from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. When I first came here, I didn't think I had another day in me, but [DRM has] given me more than a day. I have all my life."

-Michael, Lawrence Street Shelter guest



The Lawrence Street Shelter renovations have created an environment that feels safe, clean, bright, and secure. Any time that we can meet guests' basic needs, they can finally find hope.

SHELTERS SAVE LIVES.

Help our guests overcome homelessness by giving today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words



ANDREA NICHOLL

Andrea Nicholl is a licensed architect for Eidos Architects and has been in the industry for 20 years. She has worked on Mission projects since 2013 and played a key role in the renovations of the Lawrence Street Shelter.



What did it mean to you to work on the Lawrence Street Shelter renovations?

I love working with the DRM staff and on projects in Denver, let alone a building that is more than 100 years old. So much good is represented in this building, and now DRM's services can be provided to an even greater extent. It is a source of pride to work with DRM.

How do you think these renovations will change a guest's experience?

Knowing people in wheelchairs can get into the building makes my heart warm. Overall, the building is brighter, cleaner and more comfortable temperature-wise. It offers more amenities, such as more bathrooms and laundry facilities, which are all things that will make guests feel more comfortable and cared for.

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

As someone who worked downtown for many years, I saw people every day who were experiencing homelessness, and I wanted to help. By working with DRM, I feel that I am helping them. We are working together to design and provide everyone with facilities that provide human dignity and most importantly, a staff that cares. Throughout the past nine years, I have met a lot of DRM staff, and every one of them has continued to remind me that each one of us is important. We all have something valuable to give to one another.

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.



Celebrating Dads!

We're sending all our
Mission men some
extra love this
Father's Day!

DENVER RESCUE MISSION
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION
MEMBER
CERTIFIED EXCELLENCE



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