

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE



FULL CARTS HEARTS

YOU ARE FILLING HOMES WITH HOPE THIS THANKSGIVING

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

- CLIENTS SHARE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR DONATIONS
- THE MISSION'S FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY

Dear Friends,

I have often said that Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Now do not get me wrong, I am a Christmas guy and definitely an Easter person and I understand the significance of these holidays to our Christian faith. It is hard to beat the Christmas story of God becoming man and being laid in a humble manger or the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion and the gift of eternal life to all who believe. All of that is hard to compare with a turkey dinner, no matter how good it is.

What I love is that Thanksgiving is a time to gather around a table, as family, as old or new friends, perhaps as co-workers, and share each other's company. There are no wrapped presents or Easter eggs, just good food and fellowship. I always think, *we should do this more often.*

I am not saying there are not challenges, like long lines at the grocery store check-out, picked over turkeys or canned cranberry shortages. But my wife, Cary, and I always remind ourselves that these are problems that we really should not worry about.

For the people who come to our Ministry Outreach Center for food boxes, or those 2,500 families who come to our Thanksgiving Banquet in a Box give away at Empower Field the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, these issues are not their concern. They are just grateful for the opportunity to have food, to be greeted warmly by our staff and volunteers without judgement and to be able to have the items necessary to prepare a Thanksgiving meal, no matter what their celebration might look like.

- » Christmas is about a promise fulfilled with the coming of our savior.
- » Easter is about the incredible grace we have been shown through Jesus' sacrifice.
- » Thanksgiving is about being grateful.

I hope you will take a moment this Thanksgiving, when you are gathered around your table with those you love, to be grateful for God's love and for your family and friends. I know that the people who come to our door for food and for hope are grateful for you, and so am I. As Denver Rescue Mission approaches our 130th year of service to vulnerable members of our community, we know we could not do this ministry without you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

So Grateful for you,

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



2021

KBCO & DENVER RESCUE MISSION **RADIOTHON**



On **Wednesday, November 10**, we're partnering with 97.3 KBCO to take over the air waves and share stories from the Mission to support our work in caring for people experiencing homelessness.

**Tune in and listen to how
your gifts are changing lives!**

Give Hope With a **Holiday Housewarming Box**

This holiday season, you can bless a family in need by providing a Housewarming Box filled with essential household and hygiene supplies.

Drop off your boxes on **Friday, December 10**
or **Saturday, December 11** at the Mission's
Ministry Outreach Center.

For full details and to sign up, visit
DenverRescueMission.org/HousewarmingBox.



THE IMPACT OF FOOD INSECURITY

IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2020...



THE PERCENTAGE OF FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS
(THAT'S 13.8 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS)



THE PERCENTAGE OF FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN
(THAT INCREASED FROM 13.6 PERCENT IN 2019)



THE PERCENTAGE OF FOOD INSECURE HEAD-OF-HOUSEHOLDS UNABLE
TO WORK BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC

Source: US Department of Agriculture

HERE IN COLORADO...

An estimated **1 IN 8 COLORADANS** are experiencing food insecurity—a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. This alarming number is in part due to the pandemic, and means that almost **700,000 OF OUR NEIGHBORS**, children included, are food insecure. Unfortunately for many, food insecurity has been a persistent reality and will continue to cause concern for many families here in Colorado.

Source: Feeding America

FULL CARTS HEARTS

As Thanksgiving approaches, many people are filling shopping carts full of food to prepare for the holiday. At Denver Rescue Mission, carts are being filled for our neighbors in low-income households, and it is thanks to your generous donations.



Lisa, Michael and Liam

The families who come to us for help may have a place to live, but they are often forced to choose between paying rent and buying basic essentials. At our Ministry Outreach Center (MOC), the Mission's central warehouse and distribution location, we aim to break the cycle of poverty and combat food insecurity by giving individuals in need the opportunity to shop at no cost for donated items such as food, clothing and hygiene products.

Your donations have impacted many lives, including Margaret's, who has been using the MOC's client services for about two years to get food, clothing and, as she says, "a lot of love."

"[The first time I came to the MOC], it was amazing," Margaret said. "I couldn't believe all the things that I got. The people [at the MOC] treat me beautifully, just like people are supposed to be treated."

Although Margaret lives alone, she is surrounded by friends, children and grandchildren, whom she loves to bring along on her trips to the MOC. In past years, Margaret received a turkey with Thanksgiving fixings and hopes to get her Thanksgiving food from the MOC again this year.

"[The MOC] has helped me and my family a lot," she said. "When I walk in to get food from here, my eyes just light up—there's just so much stuff. There's a lot of times [when]

you don't have things or you are in a predicament, but with places like this, God makes a way."

Margaret isn't the only one finding food and feeling loved at client services. Lisa, a single mother to her six-month-old son Liam, recently started coming to receive services with her uncle Michael to find items to support her family after they fell on hard times.

After hearing about services offered at the MOC, Lisa realized that there were resources that she never even knew existed. She is grateful that the food pantry is stocked with items that fit her family's needs.

"It is always a highlight for me [to come here] because I get excited to see what I'm going to make for the month," Lisa said.

Margaret and Lisa are incredibly thankful for the Mission's support. You are making a difference in their lives and others this Thanksgiving season, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

"If I saw [the people who donate], I would probably just squeeze them so hard because if it weren't for God and weren't for them, we wouldn't be provided for like we are," Margaret said. ■

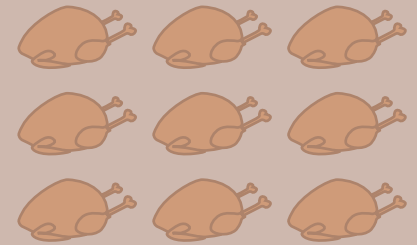
THANK
HOPE
JOY
FULL



WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

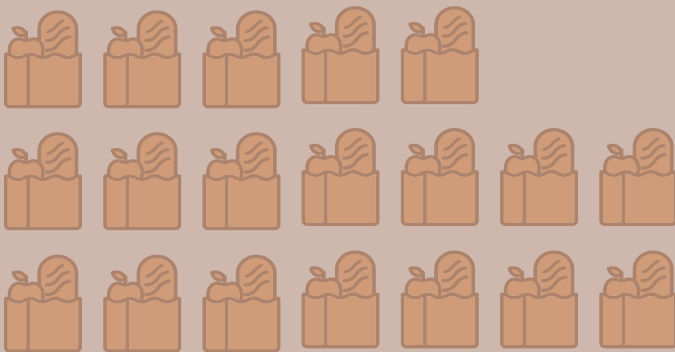
2,591   

households used client services.



16,210

turkeys were distributed.



119,459    

pounds of food were given out through the MOC. That is equivalent to **99,549** meals.

**Numbers reflect the Fiscal Year 2020-21*



Theresa works part-time at a warehouse and has her hands full as a single mother of four. She has been coming to client services for about a year to get clothes and food for her and her children, ages 13, ten, six, and two. "It means a lot and comes in handy at a time of need," Theresa said. "[Having] places like this that help, it just makes you feel thankful."

Your support is filling the carts of people who need help providing food, clothing and other essentials for their families. Help combat food insecurity this Thanksgiving season.

Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION *in my* Words



the team at BOK FINANCIAL

BOK Financial is a leading regional financial services company with a history of working with Colorado businesses and individuals since 1908. BOK Financial works to strengthen the community by investing in local needs and funneling capital into the local economy.

Why is BOK Financial passionate about supporting the Mission's Turkey Drive and Thanksgiving initiatives?

We believe our community is our livelihood. We believe in giving back every day. "Witnessing the smiles and appreciation of the guests coming through the Mission is inspiring, especially around the holidays," said Bill Sullivan, Colorado market president & CEO. "To see the overwhelming number of people impacted through DRM's Turkey Drive and to be a small part of that makes Thanksgiving a little brighter for all of us."

Why do you think the Mission's work is important, especially during Thanksgiving?

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness need the Mission's help year-round, but the Mission goes the extra mile by providing a special meal during Thanksgiving. We are proud to support the work of this organization and contribute to the Turkey Drive that brings in so many holiday meals for families in need.

How have you personally been impacted by your involvement with the Mission?

"I have had the privilege to serve lunch at the Mission, and the guests are a positive influence on me," said Todd McLean, SVP & president of BOK Financial Insurance. "They remind me to try to do my best to be like them—gracious and thankful. I frequently have employees ask me 'when can we next organize a volunteer team activity at the Mission?' because it's always a rewarding and impactful experience."

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: 24/7 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 access to resources and services 

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: 24/7 shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver 

DENVER RESCUE MISSION

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TURKEY DRIVE

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THOUGHTS?

Send your questions and comments to Newsletter@DenRescue.org.

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