

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE



A SEASON OF *Stability*

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

HOW YOU HELPED A FAMILY FIND SUPPORT

BRONCOS HOLIDAY PARTY BRINGS JOY TO MISSION FAMILIES

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Breaking the cycle of poverty by working with kids in our youth programs may be one of the most important things we do at Denver Rescue Mission. I cannot imagine what it might be like to experience homelessness as a child. In this month's story, you'll meet Adrian and her children who also experienced their dad going to prison.

Homelessness is complicated. It can be the result of unexpected circumstances that can produce very scary results. For the youth we work with at the Mission, homelessness is real and it is frightening.

This is why we are so thankful for the Broncos Room, a place where our staff and volunteers minister to the youth at The Crossing, trying to encourage, lift-up and love up on them. During this Christmas season, our youth will enjoy the annual Broncos holiday party, with Broncos players and gifts for all the families who live here. We want to let kids at The Crossing know that this Christmas season (all year-round really!) they are loved and cared for. We want to show them that God cares about them, and we do too.

One of the most encouraging things that I have experienced at the Mission is to see someone who lived at The Crossing as a child with their family, come back and get a job with us because they want to help people like they were helped. It is humbling to see the cycle of poverty broken and Jesus be at the center of their lives. Thank you for trusting us to make this possible.

This Christmas season, we are thankful for the opportunities to help these families and thankful to you for your generous donations and gift of time as volunteers. I hope your Christmas is extra special this year and that you know you are loved—by Jesus, by our staff and by the people you help at Denver Rescue Mission.

Merry Christmas,



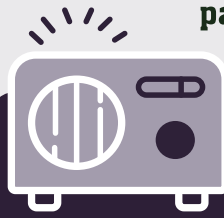
Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Season of Hope



Join Mike Evans and Mark Schlereth as they share stories of New Life Program participants on 104.3 The Fan.



Tune in December 3 to help provide Christmas gifts for men in the program.

www.DenverRescueMission.org/SeasonOfHope

You are invited to join us to



Learn more at

COLORADOGIVES.ORG/DENVERRESCUEMISSION



Christmas for the youth at The Crossing is a special time when they get to celebrate our annual Broncos holiday party. One child said, "My favorite part was making cookies and the Broncos coming in and signing our shirts."

A SEASON OF *Stability*

Adrian has been through her fair share of stressful times, but despite any stressful and unprecedented circumstances, she has persevered to find stability for her and her five children.

A Season of Stress

Adrian and her children Jaydin, 11, Mikah, 9, Zaihre, 8, and Bella, 5, moved from Texas in March of 2019 when her husband found out he had to go on trial in his home state of Colorado.

After making the move, Adrian, who was then pregnant with her youngest son Legend, was living with her husband and children in hotel rooms from March to July of 2019. "It was stressful because we also had two of my step kids [with us], and so it was kind of crazy," she said. "I had to quit [my job at] Krispy Kreme because I couldn't be at work at six in the morning when the kids had to be at school by 7:30a.m."

In July of 2019, they came to The Crossing, the Mission's transitional living facility, where they were able to receive some needed support. But in December, their life took a turn when Adrian's husband was found guilty and turned himself in to go to prison.

Fortunately, Adrian was able to secure an apartment for her and her children after staying at the Mission for ten months. Although she was looking forward to a place of her own, caring for five children by herself was going to be a challenge, and when the pandemic hit, Adrian was faced with even more challenges.

"Being in a house with each other for so many months at a time and the kids doing school online at home was really hard," Adrian said. "It's been the worst for me I think, with my husband being gone and then not knowing whether my kids would get sick or if I would get sick... It was just too much stress."

After living in her own place for a year, Adrian found herself back at the Mission in May of 2021 when her lease ended, and she could no longer afford to live in her apartment.

A Season of Support

In need of extra support, Adrian's mother moved from Alabama with her ten-year-old daughter Lauren to help with the kids while Adrian's husband serves time in prison.

"It felt good [when my mom came] because, shoot, I needed the help," Adrian said. "I'm normally doing [things] by myself,





so it does make a difference when there's somebody there to support you."

Not only has Adrian found support from her mother, but she has found support at the Mission through the Broncos Room—a youth room where kids can receive tutoring, go to Bible studies, have recreation time, and interact with other kids living at The Crossing. Staff in the youth room, Joe and Reshae, know it may take a while for some kids to feel comfortable in the Broncos Room, but that over time kids learn to trust that they're in a safe space where they get to enjoy being a kid.

"I think at first [kids] just want to feel it out and see whether or not we're a safe [place] emotionally and spiritually," Joe said. "At first that's usually the biggest challenge, helping them to learn that the Broncos Room culture is one of respect, responsibility and safety."

The Broncos Room is a place of safety, but it also serves as a place where kids get to grow and mature academically, socially and emotionally—and Adrian's children are no exception. Joe and Reshae have seen Mikah and Bella mature by their willingness to do their work without complaining and have appreciated Zaihre's willingness to help.

"Zaihre always asks if she can help. Whenever [kids] help in the Broncos Room, they usually get Bronco dollars, but she just does it because she wants to, and she does a really good job too," Joe said. "She'll go around and ask if we need anything else before she leaves. She's always trying to do all the chores because she just wants to help," Reshae added.

The Broncos Room serves as an outlet for kids, but it also serves as an outlet for parents who could use the extra support during a challenging time of life. **"The Broncos Room has really made the biggest difference,"** Adrian said. "Being able to take the

kids and giving me [and other parents] the time to sit back, get some extra cleaning done and stuff like that—we know they're safe there and that makes a difference."

A Season of Stability

Adrian and her children were able to move into a new apartment in October of 2021 where they look forward to spending the holidays.

"I'm going to be so happy, it's like I can actually have my own space," Mikah said.

"I'm excited because I get my new room and I'm going to share it with my sister," Bella said.

As for Adrian, she is looking forward to getting her GED and improving her credit score so that by next year they can hopefully move into a house. But most importantly, she hopes to grow in her relationship with God and to become closer as a family.

"I want to have a closer relationship with God. We used to say the 'our Father prayer' every single night and then when COVID hit, things changed," she said. "I think I'm to blame, not that I lost my faith, but I felt like I slipped back a little bit."

Being the main parent figure for her five children has been difficult, but Adrian is grateful to the Mission for supporting her and her kids as they have had to navigate their new normal. She can't wait for her husband to be able come back, but for now she is thankful to those at the Mission for stepping in to provide extra support.

"[I've learned] not to take things for granted because you just never know which way life could turn," Adrian said. "And if we didn't have donors, I don't know if Denver Rescue Mission would even [exist], so I am just grateful." ■

It's because of faithful supporters like you that Adrian and her children have found stability in a season of hardship. Be the support for other families in need of stability.

Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words



JIM HEYL

Jim Heyl worked in the Aerospace industry for 35 years as a program manager. Now, as a retiree, he enjoys volunteering at the Mission, watching sports, running, and spending time with his three children and four grandchildren.

What are some of your responsibilities when you volunteer in the Broncos Room?

I have been in the youth room for nine years. Since my own kids are grown, the youth room provides an opportunity for me to work with kids and continue doing something I am good at and enjoy. With the younger students I help them with counting, colors and shapes. With older students I help with reading, writing and math. A big part is just talking with the students and seeing how they are doing.

What are some ways you've seen the Broncos Room and The Crossing support the youth?

They help kids build confidence, learn responsibility and develop a positive outlook on life. We just want to show kids that people do care about them and their family and want to help them succeed.

In what ways has volunteering at the Mission impacted your life?

When I enter the building, there is a positive environment where the people are friendly and accepting. When I leave the youth room, I try to take that same positive environment and share it with others I interact with and meet. But every time I visit the youth room, I learn as much from the kids as they learn from me. It has helped me view all situations in my life from all [perspectives] and develop a better understanding of what is going on in the world and what I can do to make it better for others.



The Mission is now accepting donations of cryptocurrency through a secure online platform called Engiven. Find out more at DenverRescueMission.org/ways-to-give/cryptocurrency/

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



THOUGHTS?

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

DENVER RESCUE MISSION
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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