

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



130 YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,



**Gratitude.** That is the word that comes to mind when I realize Denver Rescue Mission is celebrating 130 years of ministry. Gratitude to God for guiding us as we seek to do His will at the Mission, to serve the poor and needy. Gratefulness to this generous community that willingly shares its resources with us and funds this work. Thankfulness for our resilient and courageous staff who do whatever is needed to serve those who come to us for help. Our staff and volunteers model the love of Jesus and His grace as they seek to change lives.

But it is not just our current staff we all appreciate; we often say, “we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.” 130 years is a long time for a ministry like ours to be around, and I am grateful and humbled to be able to lead this organization as we celebrate 130 Years of Impact.

This last year, and several months of the previous year, have been some of the toughest months we have ever experienced because of the pandemic. Despite the challenges we have faced, God has provided an opportunity to “step up to the plate,” to be the light of Jesus in a world that has been dark and to help people who have not known where to go for support.

While we have been working and fighting harder than perhaps ever before, our generous donors have empowered us financially in ways we could have never imagined. You recognize how important this work is and have helped to make the following projects possible:

- Renovation of our 100+ year old building, our flagship, the Lawrence Street Shelter.
- Opening of a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 451 bed shelter, the 48th Avenue Center.

- Executing a 24/7 sheltering process at Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

- Renovation of a section of The Crossing, which houses our New Life Program participants, after a fire suppression pipe burst during cold weather in February 2021.

- Purchase of a new parking lot next to our Lawrence Street Community Center to ensure adequate parking for 24/7 staff, volunteers and special events.

As you review the Financials section of this report, you will see how the \$8.34 million change in net assets allowed us to fund these initiatives but most importantly has allowed us to continue to share the good news of Jesus with our guests and participants making this community, this city and this world a little better place for all of us to live.

At the Mission our mantra during this incredibly challenging time, with all that we have faced, has been **God is in control**. I am confident in saying this is true for all those who came before us to make the Mission the place it has been, and is, these past 130 years.

This Bible verse has been an encouragement to me, and I hope it is to you:

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - Galatians 6:9*

With Gratitude for 130 years,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Meuli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Meuli, President/CEO

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LEADERSHIP

*Who We Are*

# MISSION STATEMENT

Denver Rescue Mission is changing lives in the name of Christ by meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

People experiencing homelessness are invited inside, off the street, where their immediate needs are met with meals, 24/7 shelter, lockers, restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. Mission staff develop relationships with guests and connect them to resources and services toward long-term solutions.



## REHABILITATION

Men facing addiction and homelessness are equipped with skills and spiritual support to overcome destructive habits, engage in a healthy community, secure full-time employment and permanent housing, and begin new lives.



## TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Families and individuals experiencing homelessness transition into self-sufficient lifestyles by developing life skills, saving money and securing housing. From a residential program with case management services to funding toward long-term housing solutions, our transitional programs meet the unique needs of families and seniors.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

People at risk of becoming homeless receive assistance with food, clothing, furniture, household items, holiday meals, and referrals to programs and services.



# *Impact*



 **MICHAEL**  
LAWRENCE STREET SHELTER GUEST



 **TREVIA**  
STAR TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM GRADUATE

"I had an addiction and life was pretty hard out there for me. I was always looking for a positive—trying to get out of the same old rut. I met a family on the streets and they showed me what [the Mission] had to offer. We are looking for anything positive in our lives, and you give it to us. You go out of your way in so many different areas, from clothing to feeding us to giving us spiritual advice. We can't thank you enough for going the extra mile—for giving us a pair of shoes. To us, that's like glass slippers. It means that much."

"I've always been a single mother. I have three children and five grandchildren. I had to have a new beginning. I just about lost everything—no job, no place of my own. After having a place of your own for 22 years, it [was] depressing not to have one. When I got to this place, I hadn't had a place of my own in seven years. The Mission stepped in to help me pay the deposit and the first month's rent. I'm loving it. I love the space. I love everything. I am forever grateful to Denver Rescue Mission. I am. I am. I am."

# WHO YOU HELP



**GRAHAM**

NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATE, HARVEST FARM



**MARGARET**

MINISTRY OUTREACH CENTER CLIENT

"I started drinking at 14. By the time I was 17, I was physically dependent on alcohol. I even resorted to drinking hand sanitizer, Listerine and extracts. If it had alcohol in it, I would drink it. I lived in public bathrooms, under bridges, on top of roofs. That was probably [for] three or four years. I was pretty much what society would call a bum. I got locked up, and God totally changed my mind and my heart. All of a sudden, I had this huge desire to change my life. I got into Harvest Farm, and Jesus continued doing work in me. I've built a huge community at church. I'm speaking at schools. I'm a customer service manager at a greenhouse in Fort Collins. Jesus changed my life, but Harvest Farm was the vessel for that change to happen."

"[The Ministry Outreach Center] has helped me and my family a lot, and the people there treat me beautifully, just like people are supposed to be treated. When I walk in to get food from there, my eyes just light up—there's just so much stuff. I've gotten a lot of good things—clothes, boots, shoes, winter stuff, and a lot of love. 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. If I need help, this is one place I know I can go. 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."



Top: Ed (third from the left) stands with Scott Harris from the Mission's Board of Directors, his mother Dora and his brother Bill at his graduation from the New Life Program in 2008.

Bottom: Ed (third from the left) volunteering at the Mission a few years ago with members of Crossroads Church.

"I graduated from the New Life Program in 2008. One memory I have from that time was when I was telling Chaplain Danny Major about my stories of drinking and doing drugs, and he said to me, 'As a dog returns to his vomit, Ed.' That just stuck so clearly with me because it's so true. Another was when Tom Konstanty came up to me as I was in a smoking area at The Crossing and said, 'A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.' Those are significant for me to remember and not forget. Now, I've been employed at Crossroads Church doing maintenance for about 10 years. I'm loving life. I live with my kids and I take care of my grandkids, which is a huge blessing. About two years ago, I got to go down to [Lawrence Street] to serve lunch. It was a blast. The [guests] were very kind and very considerate. I have so much to give back [and will do] whatever I can do to further somebody's life along, get them out of depression, take that cloud away from them and give them hope—I am a hope dealer."

## ED, NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATE

# IMPACT STORIES



"We've been [donors and volunteers] at the Mission for 30-plus years. We love supporting the Mission, as they not only help people experiencing homelessness with immediate needs, but set them on a path for success spiritually, as well as toward gaining their independence. [As parents to three sons], we want our kids to have a servant's heart and recognize the joy in giving. Each one of their experiences at the Mission has had an extremely positive impact on them as children as well as adults. It brings us great joy to [donate and volunteer] and seeing how appreciative and kind people are really does warm our hearts. It begs the question, *who is really helping whom?*"

## GARY & MARY, LONG-TIME DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

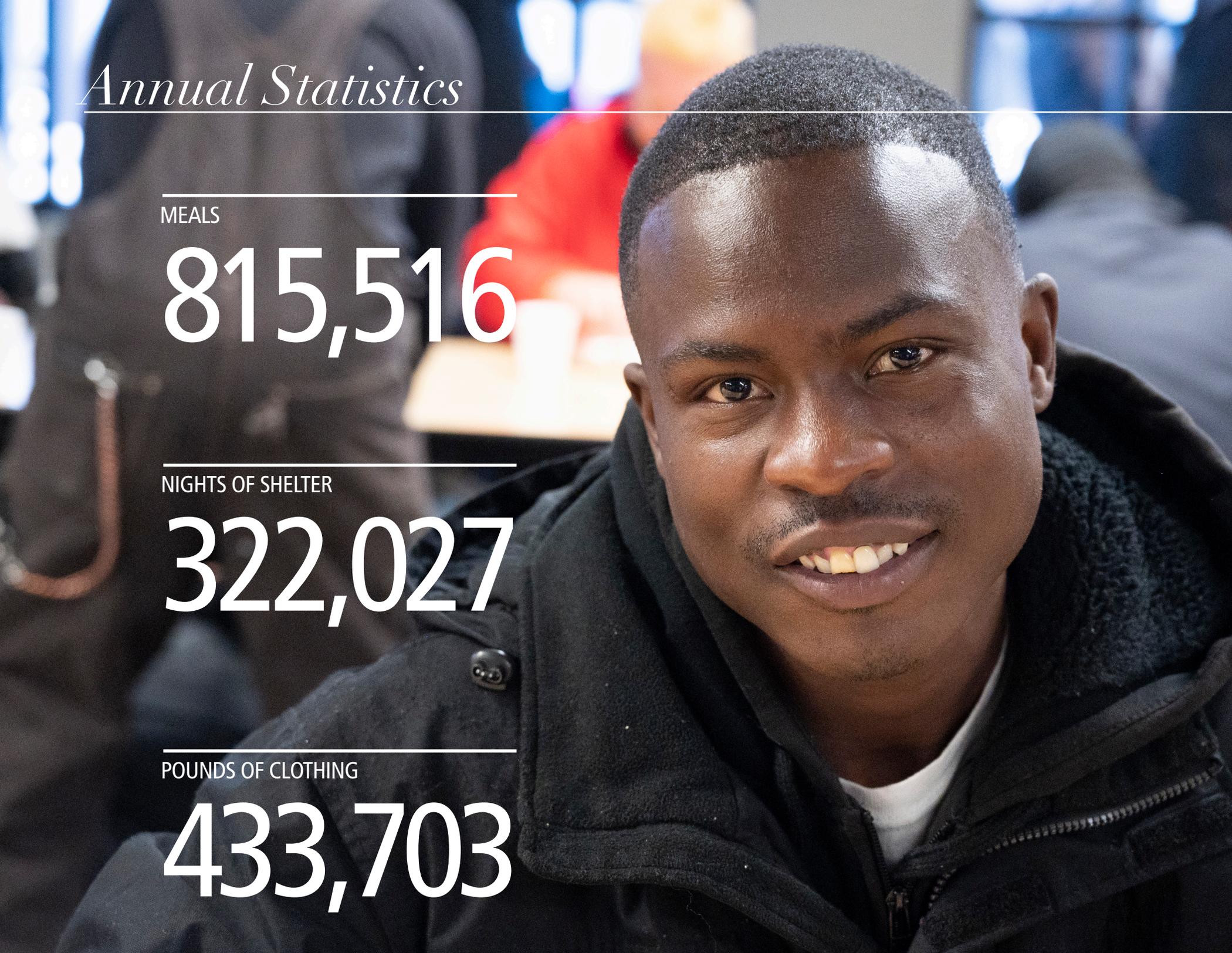


"I came to the Mission in 1992 when it turned 100, so I've been here for 30 years. I remember on my first day, I was SO excited to come work at the Mission and everyone was so kind. I was just thrilled that I got to work here and still am. I really don't think it's a job, I think it's a calling. I have such an immense feeling of gratefulness that the Lord allows me to work here. When I first started working at the Mission, there was a newsletter about a person who was driving home from work and they happened to be in front of Lawrence Street Shelter and they thought, this is where Jesus Christ would be. I love when people associate our Jesus saves sign downtown with Denver Rescue Mission because that's what it's all about. It's this beacon of hope in a desolate and hopeless area where people know they'll be safe and we'll help them. The world will measure your importance by the number of people that are serving you, but God is more concerned with the number of people that we are serving. And at the Mission, what a privilege it is where every day we get to serve."



*Lisette, our longest-serving employee, sits with children of employees at a Mission event in 1992.*

## LISETTE, LONGEST-SERVING EMPLOYEE



*Annual Statistics*

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MEALS

815,516

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NIGHTS OF SHELTER

322,027

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POUNDS OF CLOTHING

433,703

TOTAL UNIQUE PEOPLE SERVED

8,942



NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATES

82

86%  
REMAINED IN  
HOUSING FOR  
1 YEAR

AVERAGE STARTING WAGE  
FOR NLP PARTICIPANTS  
(up \$1 from last year)

\$16.03

PARTICIPANTS ACROSS ALL  
PROGRAMS WHO CREATED A BUDGET

208

VEHICLES GIFTED TO GRADUATES

110

FAMILIES IN STAR  
TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

217

FAMILIES MOVED INTO HOUSING

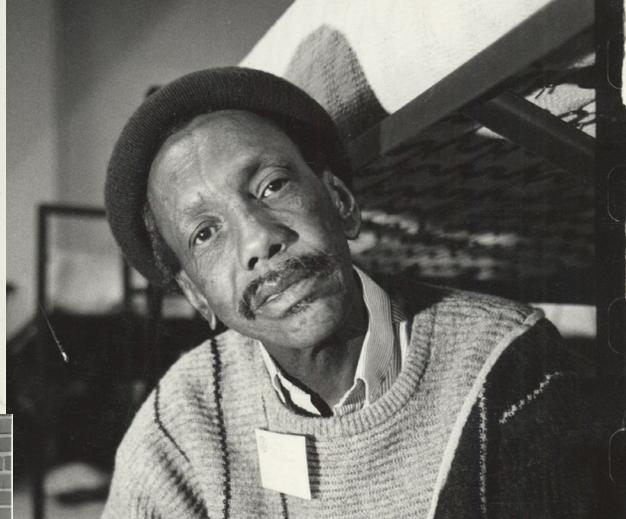
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FAMILY RESCUE  
MINISTRY

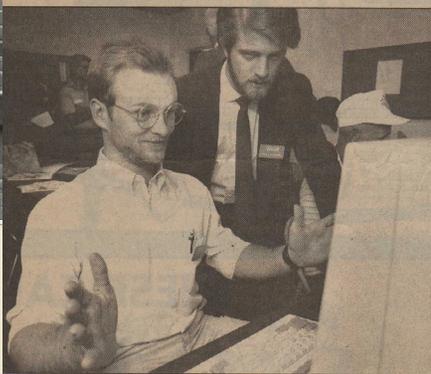
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FAMILY REFUGEE  
SERVICES

**DENVER RESCUE MISSION**  
 297-1815  
 CHAMPA HOUSE FARM  
 "A CENTURY OF SERVICE"



## Homeless become literate via computer



**Innovative program a first at U.S. shelter**

By Virginia Culver  
 Denver Post Religion Writer

A new computer-aided program to help homeless people learn to read and write is being established at the Denver Rescue Mission, the city's oldest homeless shelter.

Gov. Roy Romer and other officials inaugurated the program yesterday, the first of its type nationwide to be established at a homeless shelter.

"Literacy is the gateway to experiencing life to the fullest," Romer said.

"One of the greatest tragedies is people who don't have the tools, like literacy, to be fully human and live the life we were born to live."

The program already has 21 students, who will be learning not only how to read and write but also mathematics, geography, vocational skills and computer skills.

The mission, which was founded in 1893, recently did a survey to find the connection between homelessness and illiteracy.

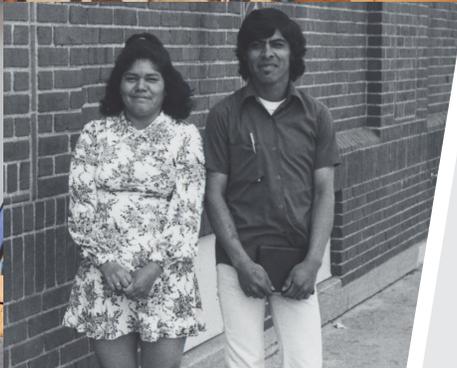
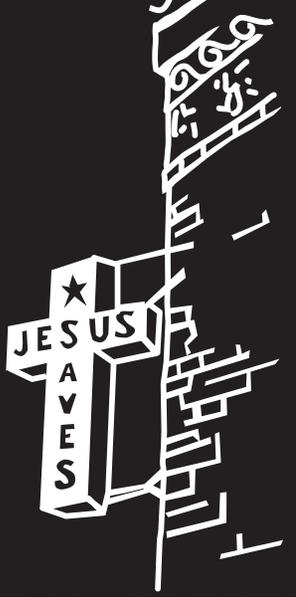
The survey showed all had some reading ability, but 71 percent of the high school graduates have trouble filling out a job application, reading a menu and understanding a prescription. Eleven percent have trouble reading traffic signs.

Initially, the program will be for residents in the rehabilitation program at the mission, at 23rd and Lawrence streets, but may be expanded to the Curtis Park transitional housing residence and a rehabilitation farm in Wellington, said the Rev. Del Maxfield, director.

And what do residents think of the program? "They love it," said Maxfield. Said one man, "I didn't know learning could be fun."

**WAY TO GO!** Charles Hall tries his hand at computer terminal as shelter educational director Aaron Mossman looks on.





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VOLUNTEER HOURS

60,957

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CHANGE MAKERS  
(Long-term Volunteers)

589

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AVERAGE DONATION SIZE

\$142.39

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DONORS

76,375

# Financials

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

	2021	2020
Individuals, Corporations, Foundations and Churches	\$29,962,633	\$22,966,272
Gift-in-Kind (products: food, clothing, etc.)	\$20,541,698	\$14,345,894
Payroll Protection Program income	-	\$ 2,101,500
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$50,504,331</b>	<b>\$39,413,666</b>
Program Service Contract Revenue	\$7,980,283	\$2,037,599
Other income	\$116,993	\$818,230
<b>Total Contract Revenue &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>\$8,097,276</b>	<b>\$2,855,829</b>
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$58,601,607</b>	<b>\$42,269,495</b>

Your generous support this year allowed the Mission to not only take care of Denver's most vulnerable citizens during the pandemic, but improve our facilities and increase staffing levels as we move forward with our new 24/7 shelter initiative. The \$8.34 million change in net assets allowed us to fund and complete the following projects:

- Full renovation of the Lawrence Street Shelter
- Acquiring the parking lot adjacent to the Lawrence Street Community Center
- Renovation of the entire Tower building at The Crossing due to flooding from a frozen pipe
- Growing our cash reserves in response to increased staffing and operational needs

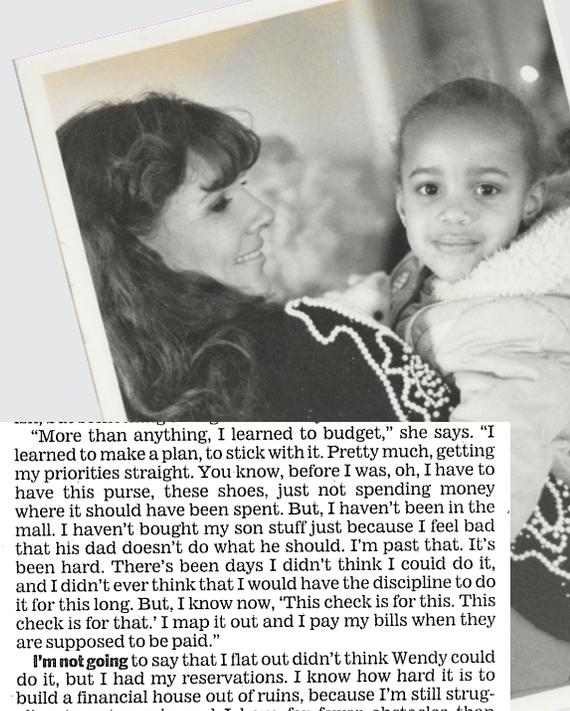
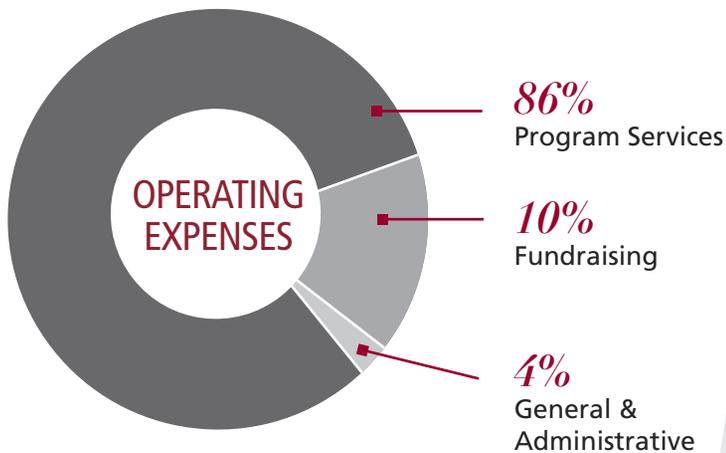
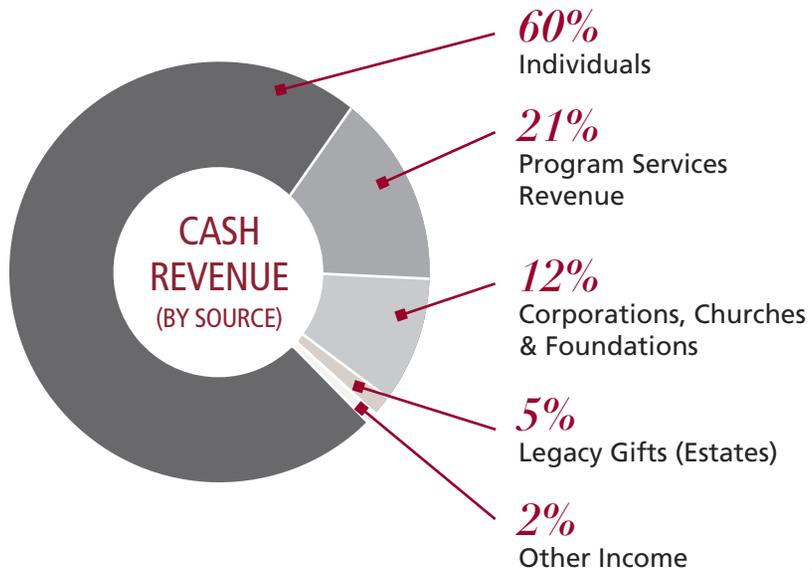
The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recommends giving to organizations who spend at least 65% of their total expenses on program activities. In fiscal year 2020-21, 86% of our expenses were in program services.

Download our audited financial statement at [DenverRescueMission.org/Financial-Accountability](https://denverrescuemission.org/Financial-Accountability)

## EXPENSES

	2021	2020
Community Outreach	\$12,021,598	\$10,349,546
Rehabilitation	\$4,505,504	\$3,568,347
Emergency Services	\$19,890,535	\$11,842,812
Transitional	\$6,478,185	\$5,353,354
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$42,895,822</b>	<b>\$31,114,059</b>
General & Administrative	\$1,778,538	\$1,317,666
Fundraising	\$5,580,708	\$4,950,092
<b>Total Support Activities</b>	<b>\$7,359,246</b>	<b>\$6,267,758</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$50,255,068</b>	<b>\$37,381,817</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$8,346,068	\$4,887,678
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$41,911,892	\$37,024,214
Net Assets, End of Year	\$50,258,431	\$41,911,892





## ROCKY TALK

# Wendy discovered beauty of budgeting

Remember Wendy Wilkins? Single mom, 32 years old, head-over-heels in debt, more familiar than she would have liked with the spare bedrooms and fold-out couches of family members who took her in for as long as they could or until everyone started getting on each other's nerves.



**Tina Griego**

Ringin' any bells? She sought help, tried to learn the fundamentals of budgeting from a friendly Christian pastor and his wife, received some assistance from the city and the Denver Rescue Mission in the form of first and last month's rent on a two-bedroom apartment. Some members of the peanut gallery responded by castigating her for her self-admitted lack of discipline, judgment, priorities. She had a manicure! She was overweight! She was drinking a soda! Purchased! From a restaurant! Or maybe a 7-11!

That was almost a year ago. Wendy wasn't hard to find again. She's still living in the same apartment. She still has the same job, a utility worker who lays pipe. Her voice tells me what I want to know before I even ask. It's full of confidence and humor.

"Well, I've just been paying my bills," she says. "I haven't applied for any credit cards, no loans. For the holidays, I used to buy for everyone in the family. This year, I probably spent \$200 and I didn't charge anything."

The Wendy I met last year was in a difficult place in her life. Her demeanor was wary, reserved. She was exhausted. She signed up for the program, run by the Denver Rescue Mission as part of a city faith-based initiative, because she wanted to get into an apartment of her own. The program matched her with a sponsoring church — in this case the then brand new, living room chapel of Pastor Sean Adams and his wife, Delonda.

The Adamses met with Wendy regularly for more than four months, going over her finances, talking about the difference between what she wanted and what she needed, encouraging her to set goals for her life and for her son's. And maybe it was just that someone was willing to listen and help, to maintain a relationship with her at a time in her life when she doubted people's ability to be anything but selfish, but something changed for Wendy in those months.

"More than anything, I learned to budget," she says. "I learned to make a plan, to stick with it. Pretty much, getting my priorities straight. You know, before I was, oh, I have to have this purse, these shoes, just not spending money where it should have been spent. But, I haven't been in the mall. I haven't bought my son stuff just because I feel bad that his dad doesn't do what he should. I'm past that. It's been hard. There's been days I didn't think I could do it, and I didn't ever think that I would have the discipline to do it for this long. But, I know now, 'This check is for this. This check is for that.' I map it out and I pay my bills when they are supposed to be paid."

I'm not going to say that I flat out didn't think Wendy could do it, but I had my reservations. I know how hard it is to build a financial house out of ruins, because I'm still struggling to get a grip and I have far fewer obstacles than Wendy. It turns out that since my first interview with her, the Families and Senior Homeless Initiative has helped place 130 homeless families in housing, and though its staff is still finalizing its numbers, Brad Hopkins, the initiative's director, says 83 percent of families that it teamed up with mentors are still in housing a year later. The mentors come from 118 congregations of all faiths, and each contributes what it can to help cover that first and last month's rent.

Wendy's apartment is humble and homey. The living room is small and holds her collection of black figurines: African women and men, black angels with white wings, a black Virgin Mary cradling the body of a black Jesus Christ. She says she hasn't bought anything new for the apartment, though she'd like some kitchen chairs.

"I tell you what, I can sleep better at night. I'm not waking up, thinking, 'How am I going to pay Xcel, how am I going to pay the rent?' I've been sleeping like a baby. And that's a world of difference. I kind of look back now and I'm glad I didn't get Section 8 (subsidized) housing, because I think it might be easy to get dependent on that. I'm thankful I'm pretty much pulling it by myself. I'm thankful that I got to the point where I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel."

"You did a lot better than I did last year," I tell her. Which is the truth — my last New Year's resolution to stick to a budget having been forgotten in a plastic frenzy.

Wendy shakes her head. She is still in debt. Her bill organization system leaves something to be desired, she says, laughing. "I look at it like this," she says. "I'd like to have a new car. I want to get my credit back so that when I do apply one day, they don't laugh at me. But I got to where I don't stress now."

She looks at me and smiles. "And I like it."

[griegot@RockyMountainNew.com](mailto:griegot@RockyMountainNew.com)

# *Leadership*



## **SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Brad Meuli, President/CEO

Tracy Brooks, Vice President of Emergency Services

Griff Freyschlag, Vice President of Development

Josh Geppelt, Vice President of Programs

Sherri Heronema, Vice President of Human Resources

Kevin Mann, Chief Financial Officer

John Morarie, Vice President of Operations

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Don Manuell, Chairman

Scott Adams, Vice Chairman

Scott Harris, Treasurer

Briana Bailey, Secretary

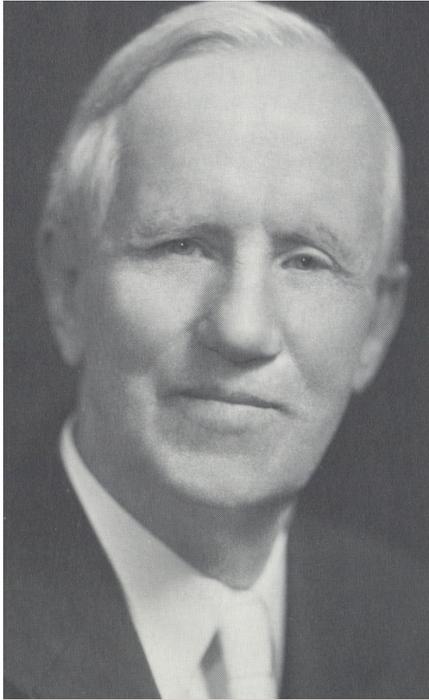
Tom Athenour

John Munro

Stuart Pattison

Teresa Stewart

Marissa Wood



**JOSHUA GRAVETT**

1892 - 1907



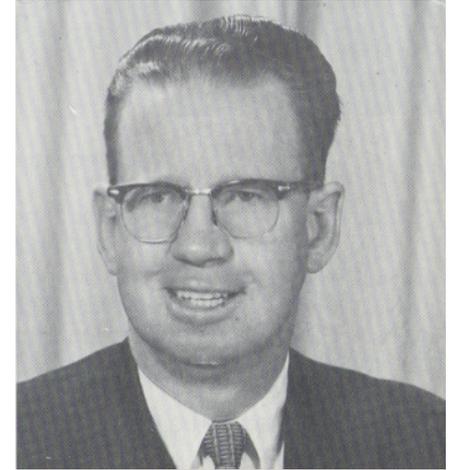
**JIM GOODHEART**

1909 - 1930



**U.S. GRANT SENSION**

1951-1958



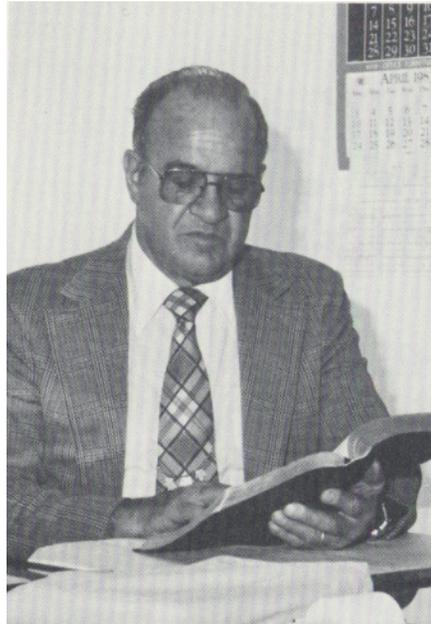
**TRUMAN THOMPSON**

1958-1966



**STANLEY SKIVINGTON**

1966-1967



**LEROY BRADERICK**

1967-1987



**DEL MAXFIELD**

1987-2001



**BRAD MEULI**

2001 - Present

**DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS**

\* See [www.DenverRescueMission.org/HistoricalTimeline](http://www.DenverRescueMission.org/HistoricalTimeline) for more info



BY THE NUMBERS  
*The number of meals the  
Denver Rescue Mission pro-  
vided in December 2010.*

**50,080**



# DENVER & THE WEST

Ex-prisoner relishes his seat at the Thanksgiving table

By Ryan Parker *The Denver Post*

At the apex of his criminal career, Anthony Sanchez was known as the “Bicycle Bandit,” robbing 21 banks in California and Colorado over the span of a year and a half. Almost 60 years old, Sanchez has lived most of his life behind bars in some of the most notorious prisons in the country, including Folsom, San Quentin and, most recently, Colorado’s Supermax Florence ADX, where he spent 10 years in solitary confinement.

Once a man willing and ready to kill over a matter of prisoners’ definition of respect, Sanchez said he now understands what that word means as he attempts to live as a free man and among his family as they prepare for their first true Thanksgiving together with him.

“I am truly blessed they will even talk to me,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez is in the Denver Rescue Mission’s STAR Transitional Program, living at The Crossing shelter. He has been free for about a year.

The main components of Sanchez’s supervised program focus on living in contemporary society and improving his education in order to gain employment and become a productive and self-sufficient member of society.

Larry Chatman, Sanchez’s case manager, said the man who once spent 10 years in the hole, has made tremendous strides to better himself and complete the six-month program with flying colors.

“There is no knowing a person’s heart,” Chatman said. “Everyone deserves a chance, and they have to

grab it when offered because who knows if it will ever be there again.”

Sanchez shares his story of drugs, crime, prison and redemption with others during speaking engagements for the mission, he said.

“A lot of them can’t believe it,” Sanchez said. “Some thank me for sharing, some shake my hand.”

A criminal since the age of 17, Sanchez said he believed he would die encased in a small concrete cell, alone. Holidays were a bitter reminder of what could have been, if only he had chosen love and goodness over pure selfishness and despair, he said.

“You want it to get over with,” Sanchez said of a holiday in prison. “Just get it done.”

The fact that the food in prison tends to be better on a holiday served as a stark reminder of how meaningless the days are to a convict, he said.

“It exists only because they bring it into your world,” Sanchez said.

But now is different.

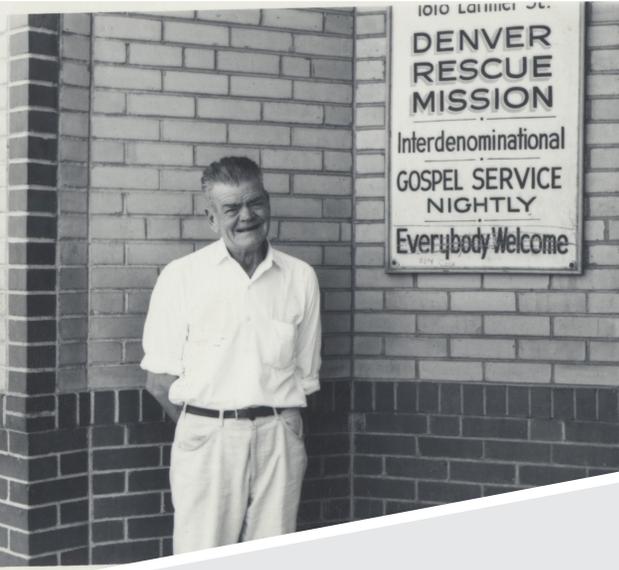
“I never thought he would be in my home, let alone

SANCHEZ » 18A



Tony Sanchez, 59, and his sister Marge Murrillo, 68, find a moment to hug while he helps clean her room at Columbine Towers, a retirement home she is moving into. Murrillo is 10-year-old granddaughter, Amanda Maxwell, looks on. Amanda is the daughter of Teresa Maxwell, who is Sanchez's niece and who is having him over for Thanksgiving. *Styng Cheng, The Denver Post*

“There is no knowing a person’s heart”



## WALKING IN FAITH SINCE 1892

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

- Romans 12:9-13



**P.O. BOX 5206 | DENVER, CO 80217**  
**303.297.1815 | [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG](http://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG)**