

JULY 2021

CHANGING LIVES

129 YEARS OF SERVICE



YOU PAVED THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

*"But small is the gate and narrow the road
that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

- Matthew 7:14

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

FORMER MISSION VOLUNTEER JOINS NEW LIFE PROGRAM

PROGRAM CONTINUES DESPITE FLOODING AT FACILITY

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

It is not unusual for me to get calls from mothers, wives, brothers, or other family members asking about our New Life Program for men. They are concerned about the people they love. After telling them about our program, I ask, "Do you think he is ready?" They usually respond by indicating that they hope so and that they know their loved one needs our program. Then, I have to say these words, "If he is finally at the place of wanting change, he needs to call and tell us he wants to join."

It takes an incredible amount of courage to do this—to pick up that phone and say, "I need help. I cannot live like this anymore." Most people are like Albert in this month's story. They do not see themselves as homeless. Because of the courage it takes to try and change, we do not always receive that call for help. Men who need to change must be at the point of *wanting* change, which is often the lowest point of their lives.

Albert is an example of someone who was ready to make a change. He wanted his old life back and to be sober once again. We have nearly 140 men currently enrolled in our New Life Program at The Crossing and Harvest Farm, who are living with us and receiving counseling, case management and work readiness. They are being exposed—many for the first time—to the love of Jesus, in hopes of changing their lives forever.

A few months ago, we had to move our Denver program to a local hotel because of a frozen water line. I am so proud of the way our staff pivoted and stayed flexible. We really did not miss a beat, and our participants adapted well to the change. Right in the middle of one of the most critical times in their lives, they got flooded out of their rooms. We hope to be back at The Crossing this fall.

If you know someone who needs our help, please have them call us. We want to help and because of donors like you, there is no cost for our program participants. Just a little bit of courage is needed for that first call.

God bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



How to Stop Worrying and Find Peace

Did you know 40 million Americans suffer from anxiety disorders? The good news is we don't have to live in fear because God promises we can "cast our cares on Him," even through our financial future.

For more information about making the most of your retirement savings, visit DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving.



DONATE YOUR CAR.
TRUCK. VAN. SUV.

**Changes Lives • Free Pick-up
Fast, Easy • Tax-Deductible**

Learn more at DenverRescueMission.org/Vehicle
or call 303-331-2938.

NOT

MISSING

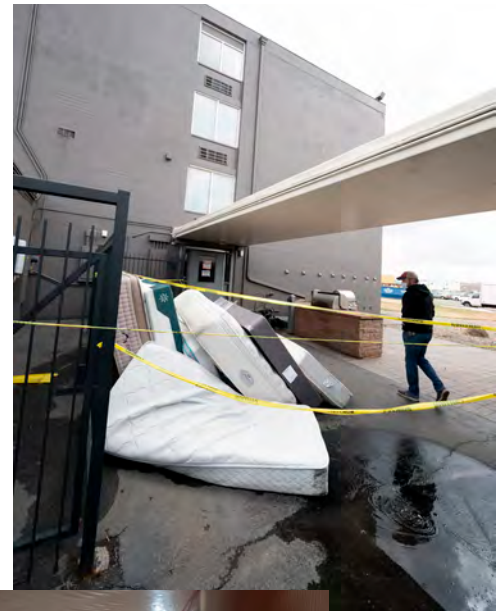
A

BEAT

New Life Program Continues in New Location After Flooding at The Crossing

Denver Rescue Mission continues to spark lasting change for men overcoming addiction and homelessness. But, for now, this change is happening a few blocks away.

After a cold snap hit Denver in February, the main fire suppression sprinkler in part of The Crossing burst and flooded all four stories, which was home to men in our New Life Program (NLP), classrooms, computer labs, laundry facilities, and offices. NLP participants were immediately relocated to a nearby hotel where Bible studies, classes, counseling, and other programming have continued to keep our men on track to graduate.



“The Mission has done everything to make sure we’ve been taken care of,” said Albert, a NLP participant. “I don’t think there’s been a beat missed.”



YOU PAVED THE ROAD TO RECOVERY



The power that addiction can have over a person is immense, but some choose the narrow road to recovery. In July 2020, Albert, a former Denver Rescue Mission volunteer, found himself in desperate need of the New Life Program. It is because of your faithful giving that Albert has been clean from drugs for a year and is filled with hope for the road ahead.

The Start of the Road

Despite a turbulent upbringing in East Los Angeles with a family immersed in gangs and drugs, two things have been constant joys on Albert's road: baseball and fishing.

"I can talk baseball all day and fishing all night," he said. "I grew up in a drug house. Growing up in the lifestyle that I did, we didn't do much, but we went fishing and we went to baseball games."

At 22, he moved to Colorado in hopes for a clean slate. For many years, he maintained the stable life he hoped for. He worked as a construction estimator, loved going to Rockies games, frequently served meals at the Mission, and was passionate about serving the homeless community with his church.

**"I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D BE THERE...
BEING HOMELESS
IS NOT ME."**

- ALBERT

About five years ago, he got into a romantic relationship that led to a major setback. "She was an addict, and when things started going bad, I thought the way to fix the problem would be to do drugs with her," he said.

His addiction to meth started taking away every aspect of stability that he worked so hard to achieve, until he was left with nothing. In January 2020, he spent time sleeping on the streets—memories that are clouded from constant drug use. "I never thought I'd be there...being homeless is not me," he said.

With nowhere to go and no resources, he remembered his volunteer days. "I thought, well, I know one place I can go, and that was Denver Rescue Mission."



THE HEALING POWER OF COUNSELING

Rachel Lopez, director of support services for the Mission, said that failure to talk about the past is often what holds participants back. "The past can be so intrusive that it blocks their ability to have healthy relationships or meet responsibilities. To have a counselor validate that they were given a tough beginning can help them stop being stuck on how unfair it was. They then become ready for the next step of acceptance for where they are today."

A Fork in the Road

In April 2020, Albert made a life-changing decision. He had been staying at the National Western Complex (NWC), the Mission's temporary shelter that opened in response to COVID-19, and he was away partying for more than a week. When he returned to NWC, a sign on the door presented his options.

NWC had closed, and he had a choice to go to another shelter or apply for the New Life Program, a year-long rehabilitation program for men.

"Seeing that sign really woke me up," he said. "I realized it's either going to be now or never. I'd rather spend this [year here] now than lose five or 10 more years of my life, or maybe even lose my life."

The Narrow Road

During the past year, Albert has benefited immensely from the program, with the weekly counseling being the most valuable aspect for him. It's the first time he's ever received counseling and opened up about his struggles.

"It has helped me understand myself and deal with things from the past," he said. "[It's] a big part of what helped me grow [and see] the issues I didn't want to face."

Albert's counselor at the Mission, Brooke Bruxvoort, said Albert has grown in his patience and positive outlook on life.

"The client must be in a space where they are ready to make the changes necessary to grow and heal," she said. "Albert was and is readily making those changes. It takes a great deal of courage to seek help and face pain. However, when people do, that is when true growth and healing can occur."

Through the encouragement of his counselor and other Mission staff, Albert started going to church again and has rededicated his life to following Jesus. "It's been good getting that relationship back with all the Bible studies and devotions," he said. "God was in my life before, but He wasn't number one, and now I realize that God needs to be number one."

The Road Ahead

Albert recently got a job as a traffic controller and is working on getting his driver's license reinstated. He plans to graduate the program in August and hopes to join the construction industry again. He may not know all the details of the road ahead, but one thing he is sure of: the road will include the simple joys in life, like baseball games and fishing trips.

"Denver Rescue Mission saved my life," he said. "My goal is to get my life back to where it was, because I gave up a good life. I came [here] with one mission, and that was to complete this program and graduate. I won't take anything less than that." ■

Joining the New Life Program means choosing the narrow road to addiction recovery. Help pave the way for men like Albert at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words



JOHN GONZALEZ

John Gonzalez is the founder and race director of the RiNo 5K. He is a six-year Denverite by way of Austin, Texas, and his running career spans 16 marathons. By day, he works in cyber security and by night, he is a social entrepreneur.

What inspired you to start the RiNo 5K in 2017, and what makes this race unique?

After working for the Austin Marathon, I was inspired to produce my own running event. The RiNo 5K runs through an amazing part of Denver and by fantastic street art found nowhere else in the city. We feature almost completely local sponsors. The course is fast and flat and competitive for teams and individuals, yet welcoming to all ability levels.

Why did you choose Denver Rescue Mission as the charitable beneficiary for this event?

I started volunteering at the Mission when I first moved to RiNo in 2016. I biked by the Lawrence Street Community Center twice a day. I decided I couldn't ignore the people surrounding the building who are in need, so I began serving meals. After a few shifts, I realized I could combine my desire to own a running event and passion to help those experiencing homelessness. With the Mission being so close to RiNo, it seemed like a perfect fit.

What are some long-term goals that you have for this event?

I'd love to see the RiNo 5K become one of Denver's premiere running events. Through this partnership with the Mission, I hope to give runners an opportunity to help others and inspire conversations and action far beyond money—engage, empathize and contribute.

How has this partnership with the Mission impacted you?

This partnership continually makes me think about how I can influence runners to do more. Sometimes selflessness requires a nudge. We tend to accept a situation as it is without considering an alternative or even the causes. "Someone else will do it" or "it's not my problem" is one of the worst attitudes one can have. It is important to break the cycle of homelessness because we can, and I believe it is possible to improve the lives of thousands of people.



THE RiNo 5K IS JULY 23, 2021!
REGISTER TODAY AT RINO5K.ORG.

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.

DENVER RESCUE MISSION
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



P.O. Box 5164 | Denver, CO 80217 | 303.297.1815

