

# CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

– Proverbs 3:5-6

## HEALING THROUGH FAITH

130 YEARS OF IMPACT

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

FACING TRIALS, FINDING HEALING & HAVING HOPE

SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS WINTER

## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

These past 23 months that we have had to operate Denver Rescue Mission in a pandemic have been nothing short of an incredible challenge. (I cannot believe it has been almost two years, so much has happened!) In this month's story you will read about Troy and the trials he has faced throughout his life. Like Troy, we have faced trial after trial. We have had to be brave, to find our courage in the Lord and our conviction to trust that God is in control.

There are so many things that have challenged our ability to respond and that have left us saddened and in need of encouragement. Expanding operations based on increased demand for our services, adhering to changing public health orders, outbreaks at our shelters, and staff battling COVID are just some of the everyday trials we have faced.

One morning, after a particularly trying day, I woke up with a sense of great gratitude. In the face of so much heartache in difficult times, I just felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence and love for us at the Mission, and for me personally.

There really is so much to be thankful for. We know that people are praying for us, that people are thinking about us and the people we serve. It is comforting to know that we are not alone as we battle for people's lives. Our donors, volunteers, friends, and family all care about the work we are doing to see lives changed in the name of Christ. We also know that God is with us, guiding us and leading us in each new decision we must make.

Because of your support we have not had to step back. We have not been forced to say, "No, we cannot do this." Instead, with God's leading, we have been able to say, "We can do this." I am reminded of Isaiah 6:8 that says, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to answer the Lord's call.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



## Spread the Warmth



CBS4 and Denver Rescue Mission are joining forces to help **spread the warmth** this winter! As temperatures drop, food and shelter can be a lifeline for someone in need.



DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION



To help spread the warmth this winter, visit [CBSDenver.com/SpreadTheWarmth](https://CBSDenver.com/SpreadTheWarmth).

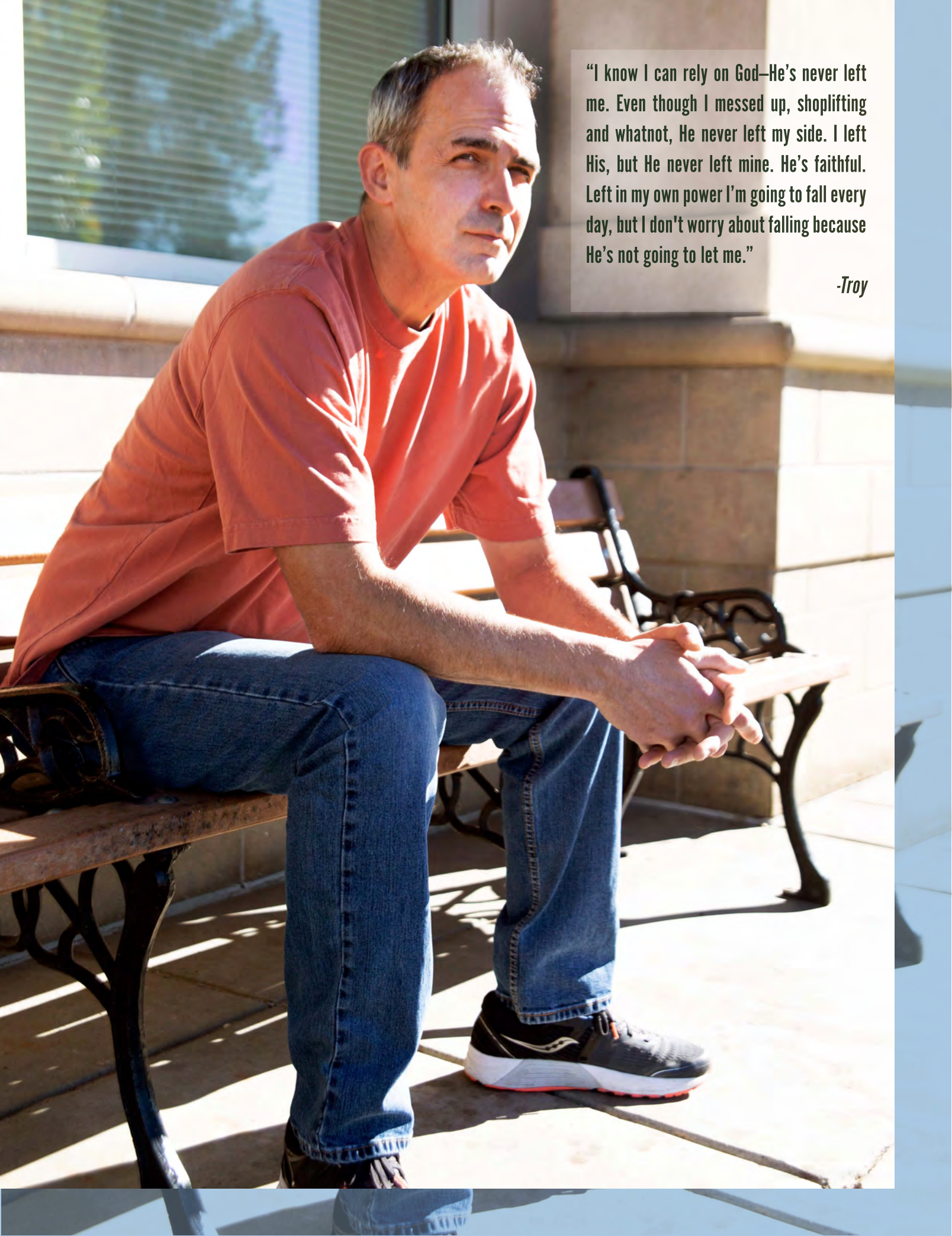
## Become a Mentor

Make a direct impact on someone's life by becoming a mentor at Denver Rescue Mission. Mentors provide relational, emotional and spiritual support to men, women and families participating in Mission programs.



For more information visit  
[DenverRescueMission.org/Mentor](https://DenverRescueMission.org/Mentor).





**"I know I can rely on God—He's never left me. Even though I messed up, shoplifting and whatnot, He never left my side. I left His, but He never left mine. He's faithful. Left in my own power I'm going to fall every day, but I don't worry about falling because He's not going to let me."**

***-Troy***





Troy standing with Chaplain Mark Roberts

# HEALING THROUGH FAITH

When Troy was struggling in school from an abusive stepfather, God was there. When he was homeless and traveling around the country, God was there. When he got Lyme disease and cancer, God was there. No matter the trials that Troy has faced in his life—whether he realized it at the time or not—God has never left Troy's side. Now, Troy's faith has helped him find healing from his past and hope for his future.

**F**or Troy's whole life, he has known about God, but on a day in 2013, Troy had an experience with God that forever changed his life. He had just recovered from Lyme disease and was in a hole of depression after his relationship of 10 years had ended. But through the hardships, God was still with him.

"That night I was at one of the lowest points in that hole of depression," Troy said. "[I was asking] *what hope is there?* But it started to all come together—**Jesus is the hope**. I just could feel His presence, feel His warmth, and I talked to Him for hours."

That night, God showed Troy that He was there, and would always be there, amidst the trials and despite his past.

# "WE ALL GO THROUGH TRIALS, BUT THE QUICKER YOU GIVE IT TO GOD, THE EASIER IT'S GOING TO BE FOR YOU."

## Wounds of the Past

When Troy was in first grade, he brought home a report card with all A's and one unsatisfactory behavior report. His mother congratulated him, but his stepfather gave him a beating over that one unsatisfactory. It was the first of many abuses that Troy got from his stepfather, affecting him physically, emotionally and academically.

After dropping out of high school and leaving home, Troy found himself on the streets at age 19. He ended up getting into legal trouble, which led him to run from his home state of Connecticut. For the next two decades, Troy traveled around the country living on the streets, then between friends' houses, all the while bouncing between jobs.

But in 2017 life presented another set of challenges when Troy found out his mother was dying, and he went back to Connecticut to care for her. After being home for four months, Troy discovered a cancerous lump on his body. Too busy caring for his mother, Troy didn't do anything about it. When she passed away five months later, Troy finally went to the doctor, which led to four rounds of chemotherapy and surgery. It was a difficult time, but his faith served as his ultimate comfort.

"Having faith makes it easier to face trials like that because you know you're in good hands regardless of the outcome," Troy said. "If I die, I get to go home, and if I live, I still have things to do here and things to learn. We all go through trials, but the quicker you give it to God, the easier it's going to be for you."

## Hope for the Future

In May 2019 Troy received the news that he was cancer free, but wanting a fresh start, he moved to Denver. The high cost

of medical bills had drained his savings, and he found himself once again trying to break out of the cycle of homelessness. It was then that he discovered Denver Rescue Mission's Lawrence Street Shelter where he learned about the New Life Program (NLP), the Mission's rehabilitation program for men.

Troy enrolled in the program in January 2020. For several months things were going well, but at the height of the pandemic Troy was struggling to find a job. With fear of not being able to save enough money to graduate, he decided to leave the program.

Troy stayed at the Mission's shelters for a while. But in June 2021 he felt a nudge from God that he should go back in the program. Since then, Troy has found many resources to move toward a life of self-sufficiency.

Counseling has helped Troy heal from the trauma his stepfather caused him and the many challenges he faced afterward. The NLP also offers case management, work readiness, financial management training, and classes such as Authentic Manhood—a 24-week course based on the Bible's definition of manhood.

Now, Troy is applying to warehouse jobs and jobs in maintenance. He is also looking forward to saving money, graduating the program this June and going to Colorado Christian University for a degree in psychology with a focus on counseling.

"I want to do something meaningful with the rest my life," he said. "I know how much this program and staff members have helped me—they're just like that friend that's got your back. I'd like to do the same thing for someone else." ■

"Your money is meeting men's needs and [helping them] get their lives back on track. This program is invaluable," Troy said. Help men like Troy find healing from the past and hope for a future.

**GIVE TODAY AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES](https://denverrescuemission.org/changinglives).**

# THE MISSION in my words




## RON NEPTUNE

Ron Neptune is a chaplain who serves participants joining the New Life Program (NLP) at Denver Rescue Mission. Previously, Ron served vulnerable populations as a cross-cultural missionary for over two decades in Colombia and Brazil. He is also a professional life and leadership coach.

### Will you share about your experience and heart for doing missionary work?

I was a chaplain at the Mission 22 years ago, then was a cross-cultural missionary in Colombia and Brazil and then came back to the Mission in July 2021. As a cross-cultural missionary, I served refugee families, street children and sexually exploited and trafficked children through evangelism, discipleship and social programs. In the last two decades I have served in various capacities and roles, but the common denominator in them all has been networking with government agencies, business communities, nonprofit sectors, and local churches on behalf of people that many times had their rights violated.

### Will you describe your role as a chaplain at the Mission and the impact it has had on your life?

The Mission has impacted my life in preparing me to minister to vulnerable populations. I disciple men on a one-on-one basis, share the word of God in devotions/Bible classes and facilitate the development of a new, healthy community for the men, which will support them after graduating the program. One of my favorite parts is working with my fellow colleagues (chaplains, case managers, counselors, and program coordinators) and seeing spiritual transformation in the participants.

### What are some ways that you've seen Troy specifically grow or change during his time in the NLP?

The first time Troy was [in the NLP] he was just doing what he was expected to do. This time around he has sought to not just do what he is expected to do but excel in every aspect of the program. He has been through many traumatic things as a child and growing into adulthood, but one of the NLP courses—called Authentic Manhood—specifically addressed and healed many of his wounds from the past. Now, Troy's main desire is to follow Jesus and do His will.

## OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES



REHABILITATION



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## LOCATIONS

<b>Lawrence Street Community Center:</b> Meals, restrooms, showers, laundry, clean drinking water, and access to Mission staff for encouragement and guidance	YOI
<b>Lawrence Street Shelter:</b> 24/7 shelter for men and chapel	YOI
<b>Holly Center:</b> Overnight shelter for men assigned weekly and lockers for storage	YOI
<b>The Crossing:</b> Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men	HOUSE HEART
<b>Harvest Farm:</b> Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins	HEART
<b>Fort Collins Rescue Mission:</b> Meals, shelter and access to resources and services	YOI
<b>Ministry Outreach Center:</b> Central warehouse facility including food, clothing and furniture distribution	PEOPLE
<b>Administration &amp; Education:</b> Entry point for Mission transitional programs and home to the Mission's administrative and development staff	HOUSE
<b>48th Avenue Center:</b> 24/7 shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver	YOI

## THOUGHTS?

Send your questions and comments to [Newsletter@DenRescue.org](mailto:Newsletter@DenRescue.org).

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IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION  
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