

# CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE



## HOPE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

**130** YEARS OF IMPACT

**DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

OVERCOMING ADDICTION & FINDING HOPE

A HIGH SCHOOLER GIVES BACK BY FIXING CARS

Dear Friends,

This month's theme for our newsletter is *Hope for a Promising Future*. When I pause during this Easter season to think about hope, I find myself thinking about Jesus' disciples on the Friday Jesus was crucified, died on a cross and His body was placed in a tomb. They were just a mess as they thought that people might be coming to do the same thing to them. They were frightened, their world was in shambles, their leader was gone, and they had little hope based on what had just happened.

This is how people like Andrew, featured in this month's newsletter, feel when they come to us—they do not have much hope. They are in trouble, and it is hard to be hopeful about the future.

It was only three days later—when Mary Magdalene came running to the disciples to say the stone over Jesus' tomb had been moved and that she had seen the Lord—that their lives changed forever. They found their hope again, their hope for a promising future, when Jesus appeared to them. They realized by seeing and touching His wounds, that He had been resurrected and was alive!

I cannot say that we have anything as exciting as the bodily resurrection of God's son at Denver Rescue Mission, but we can tell all who come to us that Jesus is alive! There is great hope for the future for those who ask us for help. Our guests who have sadly been without hope, see the love of Jesus in our staff and volunteers' faces and are hopeful once again. The future is promising when you can shed the chains of addiction and get a second chance at life with Jesus at your side.

Because of you, and your generous gifts and prayers, we get to be like the disciples of Jesus' day, sharing the hope of the resurrected Jesus, not just this Easter season, but every day of the year. You too, like the people we serve, have a promising future because of the hope that Jesus brings.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



## Create a Free Will

*Or update your existing will through our partnership with Giftwise.*



Get started at [Giftwise.com/DenverRescueMission](https://www.giftwise.com/DenverRescueMission).

# Thank You

## VOLUNTEERS

YOU SPENT

# 70,703 HOURS

## SERVING IN 2021

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH IS  
HERE, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

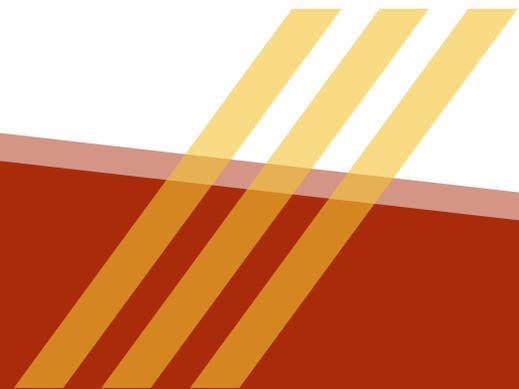
# ISAIAH 43:2

"I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."



**"That's exactly how God has been working in my life."**

**-Andrew**





# HOPE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

Andrew's battle with addiction began when he was just 12 years old and became a coping mechanism for several difficult experiences throughout his life. But when he came to Denver Rescue Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm, he was deeply grateful for the second chance he was given to overcome his addiction. This Easter season, know that your support gives those who come to the Mission for help, the same grace and forgiveness that Christ has given us.

## Addiction Isn't Who I Am

Andrew was 12 years old when he had his first sip of alcohol. What started as a sip turned into drinking every weekend, which led to experimenting with other drugs. Before he knew it, addiction became the center of his life.

For a long time, Andrew masked his struggles the only way he knew could instantly numb the pain he had felt from a young age. "[Alcohol] filled the void in my life and in my soul," he said. "It killed the anxiety, killed the pain and the things that I didn't want to walk through."

As a child, Andrew grew up thinking life was good—until his father's struggle with alcoholism ended his life when Andrew was just 15 years old. Andrew became angry at God and turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with his grief.

Eventually Andrew dropped out of high school, and after spending five years in a cycle of addiction, he joined the Army National Guard as well as became a firefighter. However, his

desire to help others despite struggling himself didn't replace his addiction; rather, it added to the trauma he already held deep inside. That trauma—becoming unbearable—led to an attempt on his life.

"On May 7, 2017, I tried to overdose," Andrew said. "I was drinking that night too, and I woke up in a county jail but luckily, I was alive."

Andrew spent the next few years living on the streets, sleeping in his car and going in and out of sober living facilities. In June 2020, he came to Colorado for recovery. Still, he was not finding the help he needed, so a year later, he came to Harvest Farm where his life truly began to change.

"This place is really giving me the chance to realize that I'm a good person and that **addiction isn't who I am**," he said. "It's something that I've dealt with, but it's not who I am."

# "THAT SECOND CHANCE MEANT THE WORLD TO ME."

## Hope For the First Time Since I Was 12

From day one at Harvest Farm the staff members—such as Peer Support Specialist, Dan Spencer and Case Manager, Rebecca Ogletree—have seen Andrew take transformative steps to attain a new life.

"Andrew has focus, steadfastness and persistence," Dan said. "From the very beginning, you could tell that he was going to apply everything he learned to his life."

A significant change in Andrew occurred when he was working in the kitchen for his work readiness. There, he discovered his passion for cooking, became a positive role model for other participants and worked through internal struggles. "The kitchen was the best thing that happened to me," Andrew said. "You work hard, you get to help others and it helped me cope with things and deal with some anxiety."



But in August 2021, Andrew witnessed a fellow participant get seriously injured in a bike accident, and triggering his PTSD, he decided to leave the program. Within about five days, Andrew knew he needed to go back to the Farm.

"[That second chance] meant the world to me," Andrew said. "I'm going to complete this and work through the things I need to work through so that I don't have to live that life anymore."

Since reentering the program, Andrew has been baptized and is growing in his relationship with God, is working through his traumas in trauma therapy, encourages others as a chair at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, is working to overcome his social anxiety, and so much more.

Rebecca has seen a complete shift in Andrew. "He discovered self-worth again," she said. "The man I met when he first came was broken and hurting deeply, but now he has this brightness about him."

Now, Andrew is in the transition phase of the program and looking forward to graduating in August. He wants to finish his education for a degree in criminal justice and eventually become a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

**"I have hope for the first time since I was 12 years old. And I truly mean that, from my heart and my soul, I have hope,"** Andrew said. "If you utilize the resources here properly and actually put in the work, you'll have a new life." ■

This Easter season, give men like Andrew hope for a new life at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).



# THE MISSION in my words




## OSCAR PROFFITT

Oscar is a senior at Stargate School in Thornton. He started and leads the Stargate Mechanics Lab, a program for high school students to learn how to fix cars and donate them to Denver Rescue Mission.

### How did the Stargate Mechanics Lab start?

During my freshman year there was an informal car club at Stargate. I joined it to learn from the seniors that were very knowledgeable about cars, and when they left, I decided to revamp it with a completely new program. There were four people at the beginning and now there's about 20 of us total. We all love working on cars and see the greater purpose in what our work is doing, who it's impacting and how even just one car a year is still something that contributes to the betterment of society.

### What inspired you to donate cars to Denver Rescue Mission specifically?

I've always volunteered with my family as a meal server at the Mission. As a meal server downtown, when I'd look guests in the eye, what I saw was emptiness and hopelessness, and it just crushed me inside. I couldn't stop thinking about it and how something has to change; something has to give these men hope. That's when I learned about the New Life Program (NLP). So through that, I started this program where I could work on and learn about cars with my peers, and then once we've repaired the car, it could hopefully act as a motivator for the people going through the NLP and allow them to find better jobs, better opportunities and truly become a member of society again.

### What would you say to encourage other people to use their skills to give back to those in need?

A lot of people have skills, but they don't think they'll be able to do enough with them to actually make a difference. I mean one car a year really isn't that much, but it's one more car that someone didn't have. I think people just need to look at the bigger picture and say, 'What I'm doing might be small, but it's still important.'



Oscar and part of his team with the next car they will donate to the Mission.

## 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 

## Donate a Vehicle

[DenverRescueMission.org/Vehicle](https://DenverRescueMission.org/Vehicle)

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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