

CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE

*“Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find; knock and
the door will be opened to you.”*

Matthew 7:7

**GOD OPENED
THE DOOR**

130 YEARS
OF
IMPACT

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

HOUSING HARDSHIPS & HOW WE HELP

MEET A 48TH AVENUE CENTER VOLUNTEER

Dear Friends,

Lately, I just cannot stop thinking about the Bible verse Jeremiah 29:13: *"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."* What I love about this verse is that God wants us to not only seek Him, but He wants to be found. If we seek Him, we will find Him. He wants a relationship with us.

Particularly over the last few months as we have worked through this pandemic, as we have prayed, read His Word, sought His strength, asked for His mercy, and wanted Him to guide us, He has been there. When it gets tough here at Denver Rescue Mission, we know that He is with us. I have been reminded that He is with me.

For many who come to us at the Mission, all they know is that they are homeless. They believe that they just need housing but what they often find through our compassionate, Christ-filled staff, is a Savior who loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. For many, this was not something they expected or even thought they needed, but when they see the staff and volunteers loving them, they want to know more. They start to seek God and He responds by being found!

Relationships are key to this work—relationships between guests and staff as well as volunteers, and our relationship with the God of the universe embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. The grace Jesus showed us—the sacrifice He made for us—guides us in this work. Thank you for allowing us to share Jesus with those who come through our doors as we strive to see lives changed and people moved out of homelessness.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Happy Mother's Day!



On Friday, May 6, we are hosting a special dinner to celebrate all the mothers living at The Crossing.

Thank you moms for all that you do!

"I'VE MADE IT"

You may remember Joella from our September 2017 newsletter: *I'm Going To Make It Now*. To read more about Joella's story and how the Mission supported her in a time of need, visit DenverRescueMission.org/GoingToMakeIt.



“God has opened so, so, so,
so many,
so many,

so many doors for me. I'm just so grateful to Him because without Him, there's no telling where I would be.”

—Joella



REALITY OF RENT IN DENVER

\$12.32
MINIMUM WAGE

FAIR MARKET RENT
\$1,304

VS.

\$641
AFFORDABLE RENT
AT MINIMUM WAGE

81 WORK HOURS NEEDED
PER WEEK AT
MINIMUM WAGE

*All numbers reflect affording a one-bedroom apartment in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood MSA

GOD OPENED THE DOOR

Joella has lived in many places—the streets of Chicago, her sister’s home, Denver Rescue Mission’s transitional housing location called The Crossing, and now—finally—an apartment of her own. Although it has been a long journey, Joella is grateful to God and to the Mission for opening the door to a place she can finally call home.



At the age of seven, Joella’s life completely changed when her mother and grandmother died within two days of each other. “When [my mom] died, my everything just changed,” Joella said. “Still to this day, I miss her like it was yesterday.”

After that, life was not the same. Joella’s brother and two sisters were 16, 17 and 18 years old at the time, but her oldest sister took on the role to take care of the family. She had just had a baby of her own but made sure she was there to care for her siblings too. “She didn’t throw me away or let me get put in the system,” Joella said. “It meant a lot.”

However, the struggles didn’t end there for Joella. She left home at the age of 15 and spent the next several years of her

life consumed by drugs and going back and forth between sleeping on the streets and staying at her other sister’s house.

This cycle continued even after she moved to Denver, but it was here that she learned about Denver Rescue Mission. In 2017, after deciding to join the Mission’s STAR Transitional Program at The Crossing, Joella began to take the necessary steps to get back on her feet. While in the program, she learned many valuable skills, including how to create goals for the future, how to overcome her barriers from the past and how to get on a waiting list to secure a place of her own.

However, Joella was on a waiting list for about three years before she finally received the call that a place was available. Because there is such a need for housing, it can be hard to know how long one will have to wait once on a waiting list.

“Having this place, you know, God opened this door for me,” Joella said. She has been in her apartment now for about eight months and is excited to start planning for her future. She has graduated from college and hopes to become a counselor for recovering addicts.

When she went into her apartment for the first time it felt like a breath of fresh air. She walked in to find new carpet, fresh paint and a kitchen that she now loves to cook in. But most of all, Joella found something she had never felt before. “I feel at peace,” she said. “The first couple of weeks after I got here, it was kind of unnerving because I wasn’t used to it being this quiet, but now, it’s so beautiful.” ■

Three Ways We Help

Affording and securing housing is a challenge for many low-income individuals and families in Denver. Case Manager Supervisor for the STAR program, Julie Archuletta, emphasizes some key ways we support people like Joella in finding a place of their own:

1 Addressing Barriers—Barriers can include their credit, having an eviction, struggling with budgeting, or just not making enough money in their current job to afford rent. We work with them on paying off credit, making sure they can make payments towards their eviction and helping with their resumes to apply for higher paying jobs.

2 Creating Goals—This is where we talk about what type of housing they want—an apartment, a studio or a house—how many bedrooms they want, how much they can afford to pay, and any other needs they have. We will also create budgets with them to help them save money.

3 Getting on Waiting Lists—We usually start right away to get them on waiting lists by looking around to see what places have waiting lists of less than a year. Because it's so expensive and there's such a need for housing here, a lot of places aren't even accepting applications, so when we do see one open up, we immediately contact all of our participants to apply for it.



Joella in 2017 in her room at The Crossing.

“Your donation got me over a bridge that I needed to get to this side,” Joella said. “Please keep giving because there are more like me who need The Crossing and need that bridge.”

Scan to Give!



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

THE MISSION in my words




KATHLEEN HAYES

Kathleen is a sixth grade special education teacher and a single mom of two teenagers. She loves to set an example for her children and students through her volunteer work at the Mission on how every person matters and should be treated with respect.

What initially inspired you to volunteer at Denver Rescue Mission?

I have been volunteering for two years now. When the pandemic shut down schools, I wanted to help somewhere that I could make a difference and help out in person. I went on a drive through Denver one day and was stopped at a stoplight right by Lawrence Street Shelter and decided to look into volunteering. Simple as that! I took it as a sign that I should see if I can help.

What's your favorite part about volunteering?

My love language is acts of service, so volunteering and connecting with the guests at the 48th Avenue Center location "fills my bucket" every week. I love getting there early and helping because it energizes me for my week ahead. The guys love when I remember them from week to week and love to hear about my family and stories about my week. They always say they love that I take the time to talk to them and hear their stories as well.

What would you say to encourage others to volunteer at the Mission?

Making someone's day fills my heart! I feel like I can make a difference with just serving a meal and acknowledging they exist by sharing stories and sitting and talking with them. Any little job you do TRULY makes a difference and the employees there could not do their job without the help of volunteers. All volunteers make a difference.

Volunteer at 48th Avenue Center!



DenverRescueMission.org/Volunteer

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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