

CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE

Homeless & Employed

MORE COMMON THAN WE THINK

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1



Inside: Erin's Story

130 YEARS OF IMPACT

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

THE REALITIES OF LIVABLE INCOME

A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS PARTICIPANTS

LETTER FROM OUR VP OF HOMELESSNESS RESOLUTION

Dear Friends,

I often think about the life journey that brings people through the door at Denver Rescue Mission. As I sit and talk to people, no two stories are the same. There may be some similar themes—addiction, job loss, death, or divorce—but like all of us, each person that walks through our doors has a unique journey. As I listen to them, I am continually humbled that when they are facing one of the greatest challenges of their lives—homelessness—they reached out to us. I am also continually humbled that God has allowed us to partner with Him to minister to these individuals.

Throughout my career working with individuals experiencing homelessness, my most humbling moments were working with families. One time, as I walked into a facility, I heard a child shout, "Teacher Tracy!" and run towards me. I found myself looking down into the face of a girl who had sat in the Sunday school class I taught the week before. Her mother, herself and her siblings were newly homeless. How did this family, who lives in the middle-class neighborhood where I live and attend the same church I attend, find themselves homeless? My heart ached. This was a story of a single mom who held the same job, had lost her parents at an early age and had an ex-husband who stopped paying child support. She needed a place to reset, save money and find resources.

Just like this single mother, about 50 percent of the individuals who sleep in our shelters and at The Crossing are employed. Each morning they rise early, go to work, come back to our facilities, and do it again the next day, just like me. We give them the opportunity to reset and work through strategies to overcome the challenges that have caused them to lose their housing. Just like their journey to our doors, those strategies look different for each of them. Our case managers, counselors and chaplains help them as they navigate next steps and resources, connect to community and transition back into stable housing.

As I read Psalm 46 it says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." My prayer is that we partner with the Lord to provide a place of refuge for the individuals and families we serve. Thank you for partnering with us to meet these needs.

God Bless,



Tracy Brooks
VP of Homelessness Resolution



Make a Plan to Change Lives

YOU CAN CREATE A
FREE WILL OR UPDATE
AN EXISTING WILL
THROUGH OUR
PARTNERSHIP WITH
GIFTWISE.



Including a gift in your Will to Denver Rescue Mission is a great way to create lasting impact.

Get started at

DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving.

COME RUN WITH US!

THE RiNo 5K IS JULY 23, 2022

\$44.99 REGISTRATION FEE

We're teaming up with the RiNo 5K and running through the heart of the River North Art District and historic Curtis Park. Course is fast and flat, with only 50 feet of elevation gain.

Five percent of all registration fees are donated to Denver Rescue Mission.



RiNo 5K

REGISTER AT RINO5K.ORG



Homeless & Employed

MORE COMMON THAN WE THINK

Imagine driving the streets of Denver, and you see a woman on her knees, crying. Her seven-year-old daughter stands at her side, her two-year-old son in a stroller filled with all their belongings. What if you knew her full story: that she was a single mother, had held down a job for many years and still found herself unable to afford stable housing?

That woman's name is Erin, and this was her reality before coming to Denver Rescue Mission.

Erin has always made sure her daughter, Jordan, and son, Allen, had two things: a roof over their heads and food to eat. But there was one night when she wasn't sure she'd be able to provide either of those things.

"I remember dropping to my knees just crying my eyes out," she said. "I had a check coming but not until the next day, and that night I thought, *my kids are going to sleep on the street*. That was the first time that I was really scared."

It was a moment of desperation and uncertainty. "I was on my knees praying, *please, please put a roof over my kids' heads*, and this woman walked by and handed me a \$100 bill," she recalled. "It was because of God that we were able to get a hotel room."

Erin was struggling with addiction, which led to constant movement between hotels, Airbnbs and family members' houses. "There were a few times we were stable, but this was back in 2010 when rent was affordable. I remember we got a three-bedroom place for \$650 a month," she said. "That worked out for a while, but I was an addict, so it didn't last—it never lasted because of that."

Through it all, Erin was working; she had her own business cleaning houses as well as worked in dry cleaners for 10 years. She was employed, yet it wasn't enough to maintain a stable home for her family.

THEN vs. NOW

\$2,186=Today's fair market rent for a three-bedroom

*Number reflects the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood MSA from the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2021 Out of Reach Report.

As the loving, hardworking mother she is, there were times when Erin did the only thing she could think of to provide for her kids. "Anytime I didn't have my kids [with me], I would sleep in my car," she said. "I've slept in my car for months at a time just trying to save money, but it always ended up with too much drug use."

It was an experience Erin wouldn't wish upon anyone. "It's lonely. It's humbling. It's humiliating. It's embarrassing," she said. "But lonely more than anything because you don't want to tell people what's going on, so you just do it alone."

Access to bathrooms and clean water may be something we often take for granted, but for Erin, that was a primary worry when having to look presentable for work after sleeping in her car. But everything she did came back to one thing: her kids.

"My kids have got to eat, they've got to have clothes," she said. "I don't ask for help, but no matter how broke I was, my kids always looked like they were taken care of."

Erin has been working for a lawyer, serving papers as a processor for two years now. But in October 2021, Erin realized she needed to ask for extra support. She connected with the Mission's STAR Transitional Program at The Crossing and her life has not been the same since.

Now, Jordan is 18 and Allen is 12, and they have more stability than they've ever had. Through support at the Broncos room, they've been able to get to know the other kids at The Crossing, join a Bible study, get help with their homework through the math and reading club, and connect with the staff in the youth room.

Jordan is particularly thankful for Youth Coordinator Reshae Green. "She's very supportive because she was [in the program] when she was 18, too, and actually lived here," Jordan said. "So I like talking to her about my problems."

Erin is also grateful to Counselor Joy Boston and Case Manager Kellie Dietz for teaching her things she never learned before, like budgeting and anger management.

"Joy has helped me love myself and accept that it's okay to make mistakes," Erin said. "And Kelly helped me pull up my credit report and learn for the first time in my life how to save money."

Erin's faith is truly what has changed her life, and something she reiterates to her kids. "I really like that they do a lot of faith-based stuff with the kids because I remind them constantly that it's what changed my life, so it changed their lives."

For the first time, Erin feels like there's hope for her family. She now has goals that feel attainable and resources that will provide the stability her family has longed for. And for the first time, her kids see a life-changing difference in their mom.

"She's changed a lot being sober. She handles her emotions, takes care of herself and takes care of us way better," Jordan said. "She's ready to move on and I can tell that she actually wants it."

Once graduating the STAR program, Erin hopes to get into housing, eventually open her own processor serving company and, ultimately, be a role model for her kids. "They have both struggled with trusting that the way I've changed is going to stay. I think with all the help they've had here, **they finally look at me and think, we're good.**" ■

"Joy has helped me love myself and accept that it's okay to make mistakes."

-Erin



Your support is giving a hand up to those who are employed and struggling to provide stability for their children. Give today to help other families at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words




KARLA NUGENT

As a founding partner of Weifield Group, Karla is responsible for the company's business development, marketing, sales, and preconstruction departments. She promotes Weifield's values while advancing the industry and deepening the commitment to the communities in which we live and work.

Weifield Group has hired men out of our New Life Program (NLP) into their electrical apprenticeship program. Why is Weifield committed to supporting the men in this way?
This year we celebrated 20 years in business! From the beginning, we have had a strong desire to give back. Construction always needs good people and we wanted to supplement our staff with individuals that are going through a life transformation and need an opportunity, structure and a place that will believe in them. We created our pre-apprenticeship program to do just that.

Why is it important to Weifield to not only hire those who need extra support, but to pay them a livable wage?

Weifield's company values are our PACT—they include People, Advance Process, Community, and Trusting Relationships. If we're really about the people, we will care about the whole well-being of our employees. We don't just provide competitive pay and benefits, but things like counseling, coaching and health and fitness guidance. We also have an internal Weifield Council that talks about the needs of our employees which include not just a minimum wage, but a livable wage.

Why does Weifield work with our NLP participants on the interviewing process as well?

Interview prep can be a challenge for people who have a gap in their employment. We want to give people tools to make the interview a safe place to be honest and transparent about their past but with a focus on the future. I love to see good people looking to change their lives come into our pre-apprenticeship program and join our teams. They soon realize and benefit from the true power of a job and the power of a community that believes in people.

How has Weifield's partnership with the Mission personally impacted you?

DRM inspires us to keep the lens that any of these life situations these people are experiencing could easily happen to you or me. We want to keep our focus on the people who are our children, brothers, sisters, and parents—our community. I appreciate what the Mission does as they weed through the substance abuse and mental health issues, build relationships and have a faith-base that can truly bring about life change. It's really moving to see some of our people go from being on the streets to leading families, buying homes and taking care of themselves and others. God has done some really great things through your organization, and we are grateful to be a partner.

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 

Volunteer With Us!



DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION MEMBER
CERTIFIED EXCELLENCE



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