

# CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE



## THE DRIVING FORCE OF *faith*

**130** YEARS OF IMPACT

**DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

HOW VEHICLES CHANGE LIVES

PROGRAM GRADUATE GIVES BACK

Dear Friends,

When I was in grade school in Kansas City, we used to think about going back to school in September! But over the years this has changed with kids going back to school in early August. What happened to three months of summer?

Really our entire world is going faster than ever before. Now we can text someone and have an answer to our question in real time, not wait for them to call us back on a landline. For that matter, we can just use our iPhones to ask Siri (something my grandkids say I do way too much!) and have an answer to just about anything.

Sometimes this fast-paced, multi-tasked world we live in just goes too fast and we cannot keep up. We see this with some of our guests who have turned to drugs or alcohol to dull the stresses of the world and to help them cope. There often does not seem to be a respite for the weary. When I think about this, I am reminded of the words of Jesus found in Matthew 11:28-30:

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Our New Life Program, talked about through Shane's experience in this month's newsletter is a place of rest, a program where our participants are able to reflect, slow things down and find what is needed through Jesus to continue in this life as changed people.

Jesus' words are a great reminder for all of us. If we let Him, Jesus will provide rest for our souls. Thanks for your partnership in God's work here at Denver Rescue Mission.

May it be well with your soul.

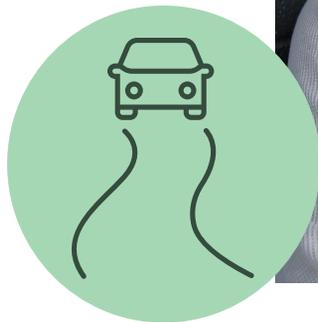
God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



# THE DRIVING FORCE OF *faith*



After hearing about the Mission's New Life Program, Shane knew that was the path he needed to take to escape the grasp of addiction. Now as a graduate of the program, God has paved the way for Shane toward a future with purpose.

## A Bumpy Road

From the outside, it looked like Shane had "made it": he bought his first house at the age of 25, held a stable job and was making six figures. But when a substance abuse problem grew to the point where he was no longer allowed to see his daughter, his world crumbled. He spent years in and out of sobriety until his addiction left him in a position he never thought he'd experience—homelessness.

He was without a home or a job, living in a tent in the woods, when he realized the only way he'd get out of that situation was if he let God pave the way.

"The addiction was the worst it had ever been in my life," he said. "I remember telling people, 'God is going to get me out of this.' I knew on my own I was never going to get out of it."

“God is so faithful. It’s amazing what He can do if you just let go.”

-Shane

Shane ended up having to serve time in jail, but it was a blessing in disguise because it was there that his knowledge of God turned into a flame of faith.

“After a few months in jail, God revealed himself,” Shane said. “Someone sent me a study Bible and that’s when I really started crying out to God and everything just changed.”

### The Road to Recovery

When Shane was released from jail, he prayed for God to direct him to the right place, and soon after, he found the Lawrence Street Shelter.

Right away Shane learned about the New Life Program (NLP), the year-long rehabilitation program at The Crossing. He knew he needed to join, a huge incentive

being the vehicle he could receive after graduating the program. “What an awesome place to be,” he said. “You get to work, save money, get a car, get treatment, and get to grow with God—it’s a no brainer.”

His time in the program was one of spiritual growth and life transformation. “The Bible came to life. Scripture began to be

the living word,” he said. “If you allow yourself to be teachable and open your heart to Him, He’ll open the doors.”

After graduating the program, not only did Shane receive a donated vehicle, but he got a job with P2P Recovery Resources, a program that offers peer support for those in the process of recovery. It’s a job that allows him to stay connected with the men in the NLP.

His vehicle allows him to drive those men to church, Bible studies and more. “I probably drive three to five hundred miles a week. It’s been great, and I haven’t had one single issue with it,” Shane said. “It’s so helped me—I wouldn’t have been able to do my job without it.”

### The Road Ahead

Now Shane encourages men to join the NLP and shares his testimony so they can see that it’s possible to truly change their lives. “After going through it, I would not have it any other way,” he said. “God is so faithful. It’s amazing what He can do if you just let go.”

Shane doesn’t know what comes next for him, but he knows that God will use him for His purpose. “I don’t know what God is going to do next, but I’m just like *use me*,” he said. “All I can think about is two years ago where I was at, one year ago where I was at, and if I continue on the path that I’m on, where am I going to be in five years from now? It’s just super exciting.” ■

## RECEIVE, REPAIR, REGIFT

We accept donated vehicles in any condition, have auto mechanics on staff who work alongside NLP participants to inspect and repair the vehicles, then gift them to program graduates. Cars that cannot be repaired and/or gifted for any reason are auctioned off.

**501** VEHICLES  
DONATED

**30** VEHICLES WE ARE INSPECTING  
ON AVERAGE AT ONE TIME

**110** VEHICLES GIFTED  
TO GRADUATES

*\*Numbers reflect the fiscal year 2020-21*

Your support is giving men like Shane the chance to take a new path and change their lives.

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

Scan to Give!



# THE MISSION *in my* Words



## JOE & KELLIE ISAAC

Joe and Kellie are 18-year "natives" of Colorado. Joe is a central nuclear pharmacy manager and Kellie works in software and technology. They love to spend time outside with their pups or in the garage restoring their old Land Cruiser. They really appreciate DRM and all the great work it does for Denver and surrounding communities.

### What inspired you to donate a vehicle to the Mission?

The Mission not only nourishes people (food and soul) but helps them get back on their feet with new skills so they can prosper and give back. We love working on cars and we had a Honda Civic that we decided someone else could benefit from. Having transportation helps folks get to and from jobs, enabling flexibility and freedom.

### How do you think a vehicle helps those who graduate from our programs?

Do you remember getting your first car as a teenager? Holy buckets, it meant freedom! Having a vehicle means options, and options give freedom to choose, learn and grow. Cars allow them to have more options of where they can get jobs to earn a living or where they can go to school to learn a trade. Their travel radius is now unlimited because they can go places they might have been constrained by public transportation.

### What was it like to receive a letter from the graduate who got the vehicle you donated?

We received a lovely thank you letter with a picture of the new owner. Our hearts swelled. The smile on the gentleman's face is priceless. We have the note and picture hanging in our house because he was a graduate who overcame a lot, worked hard and earned that car.

### What would you say to encourage others to donate a vehicle to the Mission?

It's been one of the most gratifying donations we've made, partly because we enjoyed working on the car to get it ready for someone else and mostly because we know the Mission is helping people get back on their feet. If you're worried that your car isn't in great shape, don't let that hold you back! The Mission has a great garage that inspects the cars, gets them up to snuff and ready for graduates.

**HOPE** STARTS WITH A VEHICLE

**DONATE YOUR CAR. TRUCK. VAN. SUV.**



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

Provide the gift of reliable transportation today.

Learn more at [DenverRescueMission.org/Vehicle](https://DenverRescueMission.org/Vehicle).

## 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!*



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