

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

# changing the story

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

—CELEBRATING—  
**125**  
—YEARS—

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE  
IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW  
CREATION. THE OLD HAS  
PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD,  
THE NEW HAS COME.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (ESV)



# dear friends,

## NO ONE HAS A STORY QUITE LIKE YOURS.

In fact, everyone has a unique story. It's these experiences—and how we respond to them—that make us who we are.

**But there's also a personal narrative people tell themselves—an internal story someone believes, whether it is true or not.** The people who come to Denver Rescue Mission for help often find themselves repeating a story that sounds like, "I'm not worth it," or "I'll be stuck in this addiction forever," or "No one cares about my family's struggles." And as long as that's the story they tell themselves, that's all they will come to expect from their life.

**But we work hard to help them change that story,** to help people from all walks of life, all experiences with addiction and all levels of poverty change their internal narrative from one of insufficiency and isolation to one of value, courage, community, and hope.

## WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF CHANGE.

When Reverend Joshua Gravett stepped off a train into the booming city of Denver in 1890, his story was that of a faithful pastor with a new congregation. **Little did he know that within two years, his vision—and that of his congregation—would cause them to start an outreach to the poor that would continue to transform lives over the next one-and-a-quarter centuries.**

Gravett's vision—for what was then called Market Street Mission—relied heavily on the faithful support of his congregation and others in the community who also believed in the power of change. Today, the Mission is still growing and changing to better address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our great city and throughout Northern Colorado.

**Gravett probably never imagined that his vision would transform into such an important ministry.** Even now, we're continually astounded by God's faithfulness and the consistent support of our friends and neighbors, like you.

As you read this annual report, you will see how homelessness is an ever-changing landscape. **However, as the Mission grows and changes to meet these new challenges, we know one thing will always stay the same: how grateful we are for you, our faithful and compassionate supporters.**

As we look forward to 2018 with hope and renewed vision to transform lives in our city, we also thank God for all that he has done through donors like you over the last year.

**Thank you for partnering with us to change the story.**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Meuli".

**Brad Meuli**  
President/CEO

# A LEGACY OF CHANGING LIVES



Dwight L. Moody meets Joshua Gravett at one of his crusades in England. Their friendship later inspired Gravett to serve the homeless in Denver.



Jim Goodheart, a former Mission guest, becomes Mission Director and changes the Mission's name to Sunshine Rescue Mission.



The Board of Directors sells the Mission to Goodheart for one dollar.



The Mission purchases a one-story building at 1818 Larimer Street, providing gospel services, clothing distribution and meal service.



Rev. Truman Thompson becomes the Mission Director, building a new 7,500 square-foot facility on Larimer Street. It features a kitchen, dining room, garage, and dormitory.



The Mission purchases the Lawrence Street Shelter, which can sleep up to 315 men a night.



Rev. Del Maxfield becomes the Mission Director and initiates a new phase of growth.



The Mission launches the award-winning Literacy and Education Center (LEC) program helping men and women improve their academic and practical skills.



A 37,000-square-foot building at 3501 East 46th Ave is donated to the Mission and becomes the administrative offices and the Ministry Outreach Center.



Market Street Mission is founded by Rev. Gravett, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church. Later, it merges with the Florence Crittenton Mission and Home for Women. Gravett then starts Living Water Rescue Mission, serving men in need.



The Sunshine Rescue Mission expands to include three locations, providing more than 3,000 nights of shelter every month.



The Mission closes and is sold to pay debts after Goodheart is hospitalized for a breakdown.



Gravett and a dedicated group of volunteers reopen the Mission at 1120 18th Street under the new name, Denver Rescue Mission.



Between 1930 and 1950, countless men and women kept the Mission's ministry alive by donating their time, food and money.



The Mission opens its first medical and dental clinic staffed by volunteer physicians.



Rev. LeRoy Bradrick becomes the Mission Director and builds a strong financial foundation, increasing donations from churches and individuals.



Champa House is donated to the Mission and is renovated to host a rehabilitation program for single mothers with dependent children.



The Mission acquires Mercy Farm in Wellington, Colorado. Renamed Harvest Farm, it hosts rehabilitation for men.



The New Life Program begins.



The Mission celebrates its 100th Easter service with people who have experienced homelessness.





The Mission establishes a vehicle donation program.



Brad Meuli becomes President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mission.



The Mission develops transitional programs including the STAR Transitional Program, Family Rescue Ministry and Family Refugee Services.



Life Skills, Education and Career (LEC) classes become available at all program facilities.



Fort Collins Rescue Mission celebrates its first program graduate.



The Mission's Administration and Education building opens at 6100 Smith Road, providing classrooms, office space and an in-take area for transitional programs.

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

The Mission celebrates 125 years of changing lives in our community.



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...ness.

The Mission's partnership with the Denver Broncos begins with former player, Mike Horan, and his wife, Kim, who ministered to homeless working families.



The Mission hosts the first Harvest Farm Fall Festival.



After extensive renovation, The Crossing officially opens in 2006.



New Life Program participants move from the downtown shelter to The Crossing, and the program grows from 75 to 130 participants.



The Mission acquires the Open Door Mission in Fort Collins and renames it Fort Collins Rescue Mission.



A 55,000 square-foot warehouse is purchased on Holly Street to serve as the new and improved Ministry Outreach Center.



The Mission acquires property to create a new day-time community center for Denver's homeless next door to the Lawrence Street Shelter.



The Mission celebrates its 1,000th New Life Program graduate, Nick.



Construction begins on the Lawrence Street Community Center at 2222 Lawrence Street, and a wave of community support emerges as the Mission faces opposition opening the facility. The facility opens in November, and a record number of meals and individuals are served at the community center.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

We are changing lives in the name of Christ by meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.

A close-up portrait of a Black man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark, hooded jacket. He is looking upwards and slightly to the right. The background is a red brick wall. The image has a somber and contemplative mood.

# *The changing face of homelessness*

BY: JOSH GEPELT | VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

**H**e's a middle-aged man, addicted, jobless, homeless, and perhaps struggling with a mental illness. She is a child, raised within the systemic cycle of poverty, and she carries that poverty into adulthood, passing it on to her own family.

These are two distinct, yet well-known, faces of individuals and families struggling with poverty and homelessness. We have met them time and time again over the mission's 125-year history, and they are often still visible today. Yet, new faces are showing up at a rapid pace.

**Over the past five years, almost every Front Range community in Colorado has seen an increase in homelessness.** Individual adults—especially older men—struggling with poverty, addiction and mental illness are who most of us think of first. However, the families doubling up in homes, renting hotel rooms or sleeping in their cars are less visible.

**AT THE MISSION'S LAWRENCE STREET SHELTER, THE FASTEST-GROWING POPULATION IS ADULT MEN WHO ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED.**

This trend toward serving individuals and families whose primary hurdle is economic is reflected within all our programs at Denver Rescue Mission.

**In other words, these new faces are not the traditional, historic face of homelessness in our city.** Rather, they are the faces of countless men, women and families who are truly economically homeless. They have skills, they have experience and they may even have roots, as many are long-time Colorado residents. But these individuals and families face homelessness typically due to job loss, illness or broken relationships interrupting their stability.

**MORE THAN 50% OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS REPORTED THAT THEY OR SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD HAD RECEIVED SOME FORM OF INCOME IN THE PAST MONTH.**

- Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, 2017 Point in Time Survey

Most people experiencing homelessness who are attracted to Colorado come here for the same primary reasons that “housed” individuals and families come to our state. Economic opportunity and plentiful jobs are attracting people from across all socioeconomic structures. There continues to be a move away from rural, small-town America, to larger metropolitan areas. This trend is magnified in Denver because the closest comparable metropolitan area is 500 miles away in Salt Lake City. Thus, we attract people from across a large, rural area.

I have heard many stories of individuals and families moving to Colorado for a job, only to discover how

limiting the housing market is here. **These people have jobs that would normally afford them access to the housing market, but not in Colorado and especially not in most Front Range communities.**

Others have been attracted to Colorado due to Medicaid expansion. Colorado Medicaid qualifications changed back in 2014 to include individuals and families making up to 133% of the poverty level—approximately \$15,800 per year for a single individual. Colorado's Medicaid population now accounts for more than 25% of the state's insured individuals.

Still others have arrived in Colorado due to the legalization of marijuana. **Housed and homeless individuals alike have moved to our state to legally access various forms of recreational and medical marijuana.** However, within the Mission's New Life Program, those reporting marijuana as their primary drug of choice rose only 9% since the drug was legalized. It now accounts for 15% of our program population's addiction history. On the other hand, alcohol abuse increased 11% over the same time period and now accounts for 44% of our program participant's addiction history.

**The face of homelessness is changing. The needs are becoming more complex and, in many cases, harder to meet.** Gone are the days when we could assist someone in overcoming destructive habits and acquiring job-readiness skills, knowing that housing was easy to find. Today, jobs are more plentiful while housing seems impossible.

**What this means for Denver Rescue Mission is that while the face of homelessness is changing, we must continue to be active and innovative in our mission to meet individuals and families at their unique point of need, providing them with the best collection of life-changing services we can offer. That's why we started new initiatives this year including our Next Step services and a new emergency shelter, the Holly Center.**

But we can only creatively address these changing needs because of the kind, compassionate and hard-working supporters who stand behind us. You are truly making a difference in this important cause. **Thank you for helping us look into the eyes of every homeless neighbor and offer them the opportunity to find stability, transition into stable housing and ultimately find a place of hope and vitality within our community.**



Josh serves as Vice President of Programs for Denver Rescue Mission. In this role, he ensures alignment between the community's needs and the organization's efforts, as well as strategies for collaboration and education in our community. Josh has served in a variety of ministry and non-profit environments, in both staff and board roles. He holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Marketing from Cedarville University, a Master of Arts in Sociology/Restorative Leadership from Regis University and is a Graduate of both the Arrow Leadership Program and Leadership Denver. Josh lives in Denver with his wife and two sons.

# HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

The physical needs of homelessness are the most obvious. But under the surface there often lies a deeper well of spiritual and social needs that must be addressed before someone can truly become self-sufficient.

## THAT'S WHY CHANGING THE STORY IS SO IMPORTANT.

You can give someone a meal, a new set of clothes, a haircut, a job, and even a house, but if the underlying problems never change, that person is more likely to end up back on the street eventually.

At the Mission, we strive to help people recognize their challenges and struggles so they can address them and grow toward self-sufficiency. **A program participant who reaches self-sufficiency is fully equipped with the knowledge and capacity to provide for their own basic physical needs and to pursue desires for personal fulfillment and healthy community.**

Your support helps us innovate and respond to the challenges of homelessness in our city, focusing on each individual and empowering them to overcome the obstacles they face.

## BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE ABLE TO PROACTIVELY HELP PEOPLE IN FOUR STRATEGIC WAYS:



### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Goal:** Guests have their immediate needs met, and we build relationships with them. Once trust is established, our invitation to consider long-term solutions, like the life-changing programs we offer, is more readily accepted.



### REHABILITATION

**Goal:** Program graduates overcome destructive habits, maintain healthy community, obtain full-time employment, and provide for their own sustainable housing.



### TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

**Goal:** Families and individuals develop and practice important life skills, save money, gain the tools they need to provide for their own housing, and transition into a self-sufficient lifestyle when they graduate.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Goal:** People at risk of becoming homeless or transitioning out of poverty find assistance with basic needs like food, clothing, furniture, and other household items, while interns and other missions around the world learn how to alleviate poverty through a Christ-centered response.





# emergency services

Last year, you provided vital emergency services to people in need in our community.

These short-term services are critical to helping our guests create long-term change because meeting basic needs allows people to focus on ways to escape poverty instead of worrying about where their next meal will come from or where they will sleep that night.

**Your support this past year provided more meals and nights of shelter to our hungry and homeless neighbors than ever before.** And thanks to you, we were able to provide homeless men and women with other necessities like showers, free laundry services, clean drinking water, a safe place to go during the day instead of being on the street, and access to Mission staff for practical and spiritual guidance.

**Thank you for making such a huge impact on our community this year through your financial support.**

## IN 2017, YOU HELPED PROVIDE:



**927,163** Meals\*



**363,219** Nights of shelter \*



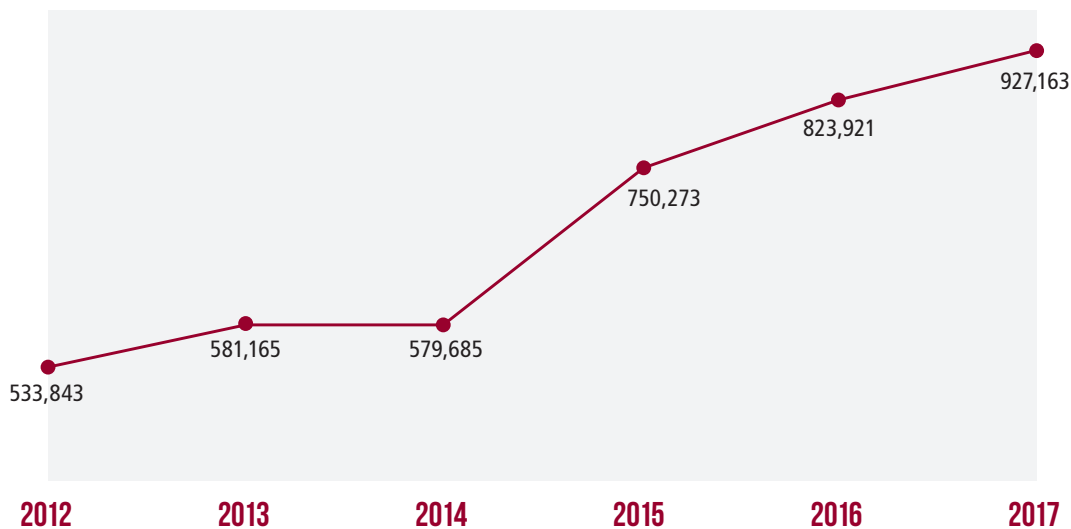
Chapel services with a total attendance of **35,454**



**4,805** Clinic services

\*These numbers include meals and shelter provided to participants in our New Life Program and STAR Transitional Program, as well as meals provided through Community Outreach services and events.

## GROWTH OF MEALS OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS



Emergency services are available at:

Lawrence Street Community Center | Lawrence Street Shelter | Fort Collins Rescue Mission

"AND IF YOU GIVE EVEN  
A CUP OF COLD WATER TO  
ONE OF THE LEAST OF MY  
FOLLOWERS, YOU WILL  
SURELY BE REWARDED."

- MATTHEW 10:42 (NLT)



# creating community



Last year marked the second full calendar year the Lawrence Street Community Center has been open, and thanks to your faithful support, it continues to be a place of refuge and hope for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

At the LSCC, guests find access to most of the Mission's daytime emergency services, including:

- Meals
- Showers
- Restrooms
- Laundry
- A daytime courtyard
- Access to Mission staff for guidance

Just the simple opportunity for a guest to charge their cell phone for a few hours could make the difference in their ability to connect with a potential employer or access the services they need to get back on their feet.

**But more than that, the community center offers everyone a place to go where they will be treated with dignity.** All too often, people who are homeless are treated poorly because of the struggles that have overwhelmed their lives. But instead of suffering ridicule or feeling isolated on the streets, guests at our community center find an encouraging atmosphere where they can take care of some of their most basic needs as they focus on the decisions necessary to change their lives.

## IN 2017, YOU CHANGED THE STORY BY HELPING US SERVE:



**970** unique guests per day.



A total of **10,917** unique guests for the year.



An average of **450** new visitors each month.

# NEXT STEP SERVICES



Thanks to your support, one innovation we have been blessed to start this year is Next Step services, helping men experiencing homelessness take actionable steps toward stability by addressing basic needs like food, shelter and

**job skills.** Most overnight guests at the Mission receive beds through a nightly lottery. In contrast, Next Step members are assigned a specific bed and locker while we help them:

- Identify talents
- Pursue ambitions
- Discover new opportunities
- Transition out of a shelter into greater stability

For some, the “next step” includes taking advantage of our long-term programs, and for others, it means transitioning into providing for their own housing.

## HOLLY CENTER



Another exciting addition to our emergency services began in 2017 with the groundbreaking for our newest overnight shelter, the Holly Center. It will provide 228 overnight beds, and it's the city's first permanent overnight shelter to be built since 1989.

**The Holly Center offers guests the dignity of a bed and access to showers and lockers. The new facility is also handicap accessible.** It is such a blessing to have this new facility available just in time for the winter season when the demand for emergency shelter increases.

The Lawrence Street Shelter continues to operate with a capacity for 200 overnight beds and an additional 115 mats on the floor if necessary. We also operate an emergency shelter owned by the City of Denver, which now provides 300 beds for overnight guests.

**With the addition of the Holly Center, our capacity for overnight emergency shelter is now 843 people per night.**

### THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT IN 2017:



**518** People joined Next Step



**116** People successfully transitioned out of Next Step



**163** People in Next Step participated in a conflict resolution and relationship workshop called “Within My Reach”



People who successfully transitioned from Next Step stayed at the Mission for an average of **60** days.



# rehabilitation

When you hear the word “rehabilitation,” you may think of a 30-day program, or some form of group therapy. Although those can be effective to help someone get sober and clean, the people who come to us for help often tell us they have tried these short-term programs and only ended up returning to the situations and relationships that led them to abuse alcohol and drugs in the first place.

**But rehabilitation at the Mission is different.** Rather than addressing the symptoms of addiction by only helping people become clean and sober, your support enables men and women in our program to receive the practical, spiritual and emotional guidance they need to address the root causes of their struggles.

## Each successful graduate is equipped to:

- Overcome destructive habits
- Maintain healthy community
- Maintain full-time employment
- Provide for their own housing

In 2017, your donations made life-change a reality for men and women in our New Life Program. Many participants also decided to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ after completing Bible study requirements, a foundational part of the New Life Program.

**Thank you for helping these men and women discover the freedom of a truly changed life.** Your compassionate support makes long-term change possible.

**We measure success in the New Life Program based on whether or not our graduates are still providing for their own housing a year after graduation. Our success rate rose from 82% in 2016 to 92% in 2017!**

## THANKS TO YOUR HELP IN 2017:



**57** New Life Program participants graduated



**114** Participants completed our LifeSkills Education and Career classes



**13** Participants received a GED



**23** Participants pursued higher education



**121** Participants created a budget



**57** Participants saved up to three months worth of expenses in an emergency fund



**91** Participants gained employment



**66** Participants completed the Addiction Awareness life-skills class

Rehabilitation is available at:

The Crossing | Champa House | Harvest Farm



I APPEAL TO YOU  
THEREFORE, BROTHERS,  
BY THE MERCIES OF GOD,  
TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS  
A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND  
ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS  
YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP. DO NOT BE  
CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE  
TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF  
YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU  
MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL  
OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND  
ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

- ROMANS 12:1-2 (ESV)



# my changed life

A NEW LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATE SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE

**Tony is a 2011 graduate of the New Life Program.**

We caught up with him this year to see how his life has changed and why he chose to give back by becoming a faithful supporter of the Mission.

**Q: WHAT SITUATIONS BROUGHT YOU TO THE MISSION?**

**A:** When I came to the Mission, I was addicted to alcohol, and I was a slave to my addiction. My life had become unmanageable. **I was homeless and heard about the New Life Program. I knew that I needed help, so I joined.**

**Q: WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU GAINED IN THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM?**

**A:** The New Life Program gave me a safe place to establish a foundation of sobriety and learn about God. While I was there, I realized that my way of doing things had gotten me nowhere. I came to faith in Jesus Christ through repentance, turning away from the things I was used to

doing before and deciding to follow him. **I learned many things in the program, but establishing a relationship with God was the most important thing the Mission helped me do.**

**Q: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A DONOR AND FINANCIALLY SUPPORT DENVER RESCUE MISSION?**

**A:** **The Mission depends on the support of financial partners.** Without charity, the program would not exist. I know that's the reason I was able to get help. The Mission also does a lot of great things to help clothe, feed and shelter the homeless. I experienced it firsthand. I lived it, and I want to help provide that opportunity for others. I will never forget my time at The Crossing and what the people who work for the Mission did to help me.

**Q: WITH SO MANY HOMELESS OUTREACH ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE IN DENVER, WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO SUPPORT DENVER RESCUE MISSION SPECIFICALLY?**

**A:** I feel like I am a walking testimony of what Denver Rescue Mission does to help people. I was completely and utterly desolate, and they gave me hope. They teach life-skills classes, they teach people about the gospel and the New Life Program's work-therapy emphasis is proven to work. I know they give men and women the resources they need to get back on their feet and become productive, self-sufficient citizens again. I'm living proof. **I don't know any other organization that works on such a personal level to change someone's life and point them toward a relationship with God.**

**Q: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR WORK THESE DAYS? HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE MISSION HELP PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR LIFE TODAY?**

**A:** I am a special education and math teacher at an alternative high school here in Denver. I teach 11th and 12th graders with disabilities and significant support needs. These kids are at risk of not graduating by the time they are referred to our school. I primarily teach math, but I also provide reading and writing interventions, as well as case manage students and write some of their education and transition plans.

Since we are a small school, I can really get to know every student and help them develop a plan for life after high school. I help them get the skills they need to help them realize their goals. Those are the parts of my job I love the most.

A lot of these kids are not in the best place when they come to our school. I obviously wasn't in a good place when I came to the Mission, so it helps me empathize. I get a chance to help these kids get back on track. Also, God has helped me to become more patient, which can really help me with my job.

The New Life Program also allowed me to finish school while I was there. I took six classes a semester to finish my degree and get my teaching license. **I was able to do this while I was in the program because I didn't have to worry about paying bills or providing for my basic needs.** Other friends I made in the program used their time to work and save money for a place to live when they graduated.

**Q: TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE A NEW LIFE AFTER GRADUATING?**

**A:** My wife, Jill, and I just celebrated our fifth anniversary, and our daughter, Judy, turns four next week. They are both beautiful, loving people. They are gifts from God. I am so blessed. We are also homeowners, and we are firmly planted in a community church where our daughter goes to school.



I went from a life of desolation to an abundant life. **Denver Rescue Mission gave me a firm place to stand while I established sobriety, learned to know God and put my life back together.**

**It wouldn't have been possible without the people who support the Mission.** That's why I give to the Mission today. The sign outside The Crossing says "Changing Lives in the Name of Christ." It helped change my life, and my donations give me the opportunity to pay it forward.



## WHY I GIVE

"Over the past few years, as we traveled along Park Avenue, we noticed the gathering of homeless people in the vicinity of Lawrence Street and Park Avenue. We also noticed the "Jesus Saves" sign that hangs on Denver Rescue Mission's building nearby. **As we learned more about the Mission, we came to understand that they support not only the day-to-day needs of many of Denver's homeless people, but also have proven programs that serve to return many of these individuals to a productive and self-sufficient life—all in the name of Jesus Christ.**

This made our choice to become financial contributors to the Mission an easy one. We also volunteer regularly serving meals and mentoring a New Life Program participant. Volunteering helps remind us of the important role the Mission plays in our community."

- **DON AND SUSAN  
DONORS AND REGULAR  
VOLUNTEERS THROUGH  
MENTORING AND MEAL SERVICE**



# Transitional programs

**Imagine working hard to provide for your family, only to come up short month after month, never quite making ends meet, let alone actually saving for the future. That's the story of many of our transitional program participants.**

Our transitional programs are designed to help people:

- Establish stability while they work
- Save money for the future
- Discover how they can become self-sufficient
- Transition into providing for their own housing

STAR Transitional Program participants live at The Crossing, the Mission's largest facility, while paying program fees to establish responsibility and healthy financial patterns. STAR participants also meet with case managers and have access to counseling, mentoring and a series of life-skills workshops to help them grow toward self-sufficiency.

Other transitional programs like Family Rescue Ministry and Family Refugee Services provide homeless, working families with mentoring and assistance toward their first-month's rent and deposit on an apartment, helping those who can afford to rent in Denver's market meet the often expensive one-time costs that come with renting.

**Kind and compassionate donors like you empowered families and individuals to transition out of homelessness through these programs last year.**

## BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT IN 2017:



**248** STAR households were provided with safe shelter and life skills



**91** Family Rescue Ministry households moved into permanent housing



**30** STAR households graduated



**9** STAR households completed the Career Advancement workshop



**338** Households created a budget



**79** Households completed the conflict resolution and relationships workshop, Within My Reach

**Transitional programs are available at:**

**The Crossing | Administration & Education Building**



"SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS,  
AND GIVE TO THE NEEDY.  
PROVIDE YOURSELVES WITH  
MONEYBAGS THAT DO NOT  
GROW OLD, WITH A TREASURE  
IN THE HEAVENS THAT DOES NOT  
FAIL, WHERE NO THIEF APPROACHES  
AND NO MOTH DESTROYS."

- LUKE 12:33 (ESV)



# making a big difference

BY: DONNA SHELTON | TREATMENT COORDINATOR

Over the last fiscal year, there has been a lot of review centered on improving the STAR Transitional Program, which serves families and individuals who are committed to getting out of poverty. **We are constantly reviewing the effectiveness of the program and trying to improve how we serve our participants.**

During my time as a STAR program case manager the last year, a few changes took place. First, we changed our workshop titled “Job Seekers” to “Career Advancement.” The reason for this was that we had many participants who were already employed and looking to advance in their fields. A workshop titled “Job Seekers” was simply not appealing to our employed participants who were not seeking new employment. **While the class still addressed becoming employed and resume writing, we saw more participation once the class was renamed and improved to also focus on how to advance an existing career.**

We also took a look at some of the main reasons participants may leave early or be dismissed from the program. One reason some participants left the program was because of late payment of program fees. **These program fees help build responsibility and healthy financial habits for people who may not have had a rent or mortgage to pay in several months or years.** Just like renting an apartment, our policies require on-time payment of program fees to continue participating in the program.

This year, however, we decided to modify our policies to allow for one late payment after 90 days in the program, and a second late payment after completing one full year in the program. **This more accurately models what would happen if they paid their rent late, and allows a participant’s case manager to use it as a teaching moment on the importance of budgeting and saving using a real-world example.**



**We've been very intentional about reinventing STAR this year.** We looked at all aspects of the program to see what could be improved or eliminated to better serve our participants. Many of them were excited to see these changes implemented, and on my caseload alone, more than 10 participants accepted a better job or received a promotion.

**Giving people a chance to change their earning potential while having a safe place to live makes a big difference.** The dignity that they discover is encouraging for me. Although these changes to the program seem small, they are huge for the people we serve.



Donna formerly served as a STAR Transitional Program Case Manager at Denver Rescue Mission and is now the Treatment Coordinator at the Mission's rehabilitation facility for women, Champa House. She is a former graduate of the New Life Program at Champa House, and she has served on the Mission's staff since May 2013. She lives in Denver with her son and holds an Associate of Applied Science in Business and Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from College America.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children experiencing homelessness often miss school, move from one school to another repeatedly and lose out on long-term relationships that help them develop into stable and confident adults.

**But you help change that story too.** Instead of facing an unstable life, children whose parents are in the STAR Transitional Program are able to:

- Build healthy relationships with peers and mentors
- Find volunteer tutors to help them learn
- Experience a positive environment that will break the cycle of poverty in their future

Thank you for partnering with us to change the lives of children in need through the Denver Broncos Youth Center at The Crossing.

### IN 2017, THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT:



**106** children participated in programs at The Crossing



**40** children attended Bible Study



# community outreach

There's no question that the cost of living in our city has risen dramatically in recent years, and that change can devastate a family already living on the brink of homelessness. **That's why community outreach is such a vital part of what we do at the Mission.**

With your help, we're able to provide families and individuals experiencing poverty with:

- Clothing
- Furniture
- A food pantry
- Household items
- Referrals to other Mission programs
- Bibles and gospel-oriented materials
- Special holiday outreach events

**Your support helps us prevent homelessness by providing stability in these areas.** Instead of wondering if they can pay their rent and still put food on the table, these families and individuals are empowered to focus on improving their situations.

**Pictured to the right: Adopt-a-Family is a community outreach event that pairs sponsor families in our community with deserving families in need. The sponsor family purchases, wraps and delivers Christmas presents to a family who would otherwise not have any gifts to celebrate the holiday.**

## THANKS TO YOU, IN 2017:



There were **7,180** total visits to the Ministry Outreach Center



We were able to supply the most needed non-food item—diapers—to **353** families



**169,357** Pounds of food was distributed at the Ministry Outreach Center and Harvest Farm



**189** Tons of clothing were distributed



We collected a total of **16,331** turkeys to feed people in need



**1,646** Food boxes were distributed at our Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box event



**230** Struggling families had Christmas presents delivered by sponsor families

Community Outreach is available at:

Ministry Outreach Center

"THEN  
THE RIGHTEOUS  
WILL ANSWER HIM,  
'LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE  
YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU,  
OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU  
SOMETHING TO DRINK? WHEN DID  
WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND INVITE  
YOU IN, OR NEEDING CLOTHES AND  
CLOTHE YOU? ....'

"THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY I  
TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID  
FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF  
MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'"

- MATTHEW 25:37-40  
(NIV)





# *The best days at denver rescue mission*

BY: ALEXXA GAGNER | DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Community outreach events are some of the best days at Denver Rescue Mission.

The holiday season is a special time for us to reach out to those in the community who need a little extra support, and helping to plan and execute all of our holiday events over the past seven years has been a humbling experience.

**We launch our turkey drive at the beginning of November with the goal of receiving 15,000 frozen birds.** The drive benefits thousands of people in Metro Denver and Northern Colorado through churches, schools, other non-profits, individual family recipients, and our meal services for guests.

**The week of Thanksgiving, Mission staff and volunteers gather for the Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box event.** At this event, thousands of families come to Sports Authority Field at Mile High to pick up their turkey and food box filled with everything they need for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal.

**For Christmas, we pair sponsors with families in need who otherwise would not have any gifts to celebrate the holiday.** Sponsors purchase, wrap and hand-deliver gifts to these families through a program we call Adopt-A-Family. I've personally sponsored a few families over the years and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. There's nothing like providing gifts for a family in need for the holiday season.

The people served through these community outreach events are often referred to as "the working poor." **These are typically families and individuals who are working—often more than one job—to support their household, but still find themselves stuck in a cycle of poverty.** Each month, they might be deciding between paying bills and buying groceries, and the holidays are an especially difficult time because of the added expense of special meals and presents that many of us are accustomed to in our holiday traditions.

**These events have been going strong for more than twenty years thanks to donors and sponsor families!**

It's our privilege to serve people in need throughout the year, especially during the holiday season. Of course, any family or individual can find help with meals 365 days a year at our Lawrence Street Community Center, and during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, we prepare special holiday meals for those who don't have access to make their own meals.

**Community outreach events are such a blessing to families in need, and we're so grateful for your partnership and commitment to helping us make them possible every year.**



Alexxa is the Director of Public Relations at Denver Rescue Mission. She felt called to the non-profit industry and began working at the Mission in 2010. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She is a graduate of Impact Denver class of 2011. Her favorite part of her job is the people. She loves the interaction with staff, program participants, interns, and volunteers. She's grateful to God for guiding her to this great opportunity at the Mission. Alexxa lives in Denver with her husband and two daughters.



## WHY WE SERVE

"Denver Rescue Mission is not about handouts; they are about changing the lives of the less fortunate by equipping them to become self-sufficient. All of us at Weifield Group have enjoyed supporting the Mission throughout the years through our monetary donations and company serving events. Our involvement helps us learn about and experience the valuable programs and services the Mission provides. We even hire some of the program graduates."

- **KARLA NUGENT**  
WEIFIELD GROUP, CHIEF  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICER



# volunteers

**What would we have done without our volunteers last year?**

To be honest, not much. Volunteers like you make most of the ministries we offer possible for the thousands of people experiencing homelessness in our city.

**Whether you served a meal, mentored a program participant, tutored a child in need, or even provided haircuts, you helped change the story of people experiencing homelessness last year!**

## IN 2017, WE WELCOMED:

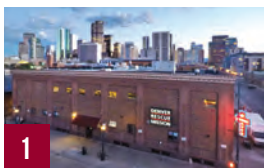
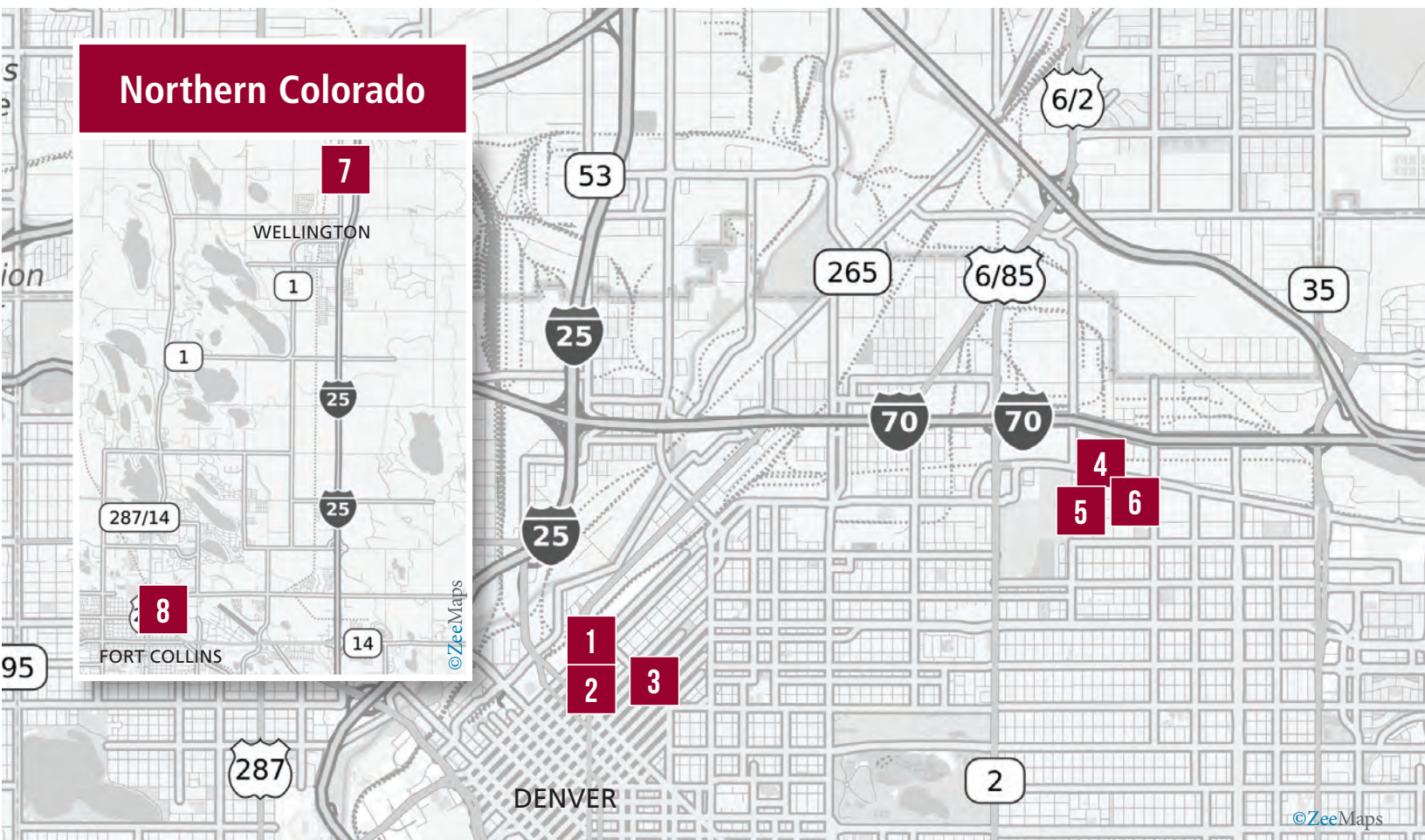


**714** Change Makers  
(5 months or longer  
dedicated volunteers)



Approximately  
**16,995** volunteers and  
**67** interns who provided  
**122,769** hours of service

# LOCATIONS



**1**  
**Lawrence Street Shelter**  
1130 Park Avenue West



**2**  
**Lawrence Street Community Center**  
2222 Lawrence Street



**3**  
**Champa House**  
2544 Champa Street



**4**  
**The Crossing**  
6090 Smith Road



**5**  
**Ministry Outreach Center**  
5725 E. 39th Avenue



**6**  
**Administration & Education**  
6100 Smith Road







**7**  
**Harvest Farm**  
4240 E. County Road 66  
Wellington, CO



**8**  
**Fort Collins Rescue Mission**  
316 Jefferson Street  
Fort Collins, CO



## Strategies to Address Homelessness

-  Emergency Services
-  Rehabilitation
-  Transitional Programs
-  Community Outreach

# donors



TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS IN 2017: 75,364



TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS: 169,041

TOTAL CASH DONATIONS: \$19,488,531.77



TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW DONORS IN 2017: 9,093

# monthly donors



**TOTAL MONTHLY DONORS IN 2017: 4,281**

**AVERAGE MONTHLY GIFT VALUE: \$58.71**

Monthly donors like you are a key part of funding the work we do in our community. Because we know we can count on these donations month after month, we can plan for future innovation and program changes.

Thank you for being such a valued partner in changing lives.



## WHY I GIVE

"I remember being scared for my sister when she was homeless in Phoenix, Arizona. I can't imagine what it would feel like to not have a home, so helping the homeless in Denver is important to me, especially because it gets so cold. The Mission has special things like the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to help people when it gets cold outside.

**The Mission gives hope, and I want to be a part of that.**

And giving monthly is the one way I can continually help the Mission serve people who are in situations like the one my sister was in. I'm just trying to spread goodness to others, and the Mission helps me do that."

- LYNNELL  
GIVING MONTHLY SINCE 2010

# employer matching gifts



**TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYER MATCHED GIFTS IN FY 2017: 340**

**TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF EMPLOYER MATCHED GIFTS IN FY 2017:  
\$233,081.77**



**TOTAL NUMBER OF MATCHED GIVING EMPLOYERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO DRM IN FY 2017: 137**

# LEGACY GIVING



The Goodheart Society is named in honor of James Goodheart, a guest at the Mission who later became the Mission's director from 1909 to 1930. In honor of his legacy, the Goodheart Society is a special group of donors who have made a legacy gift in their estate plans.

Currently, we have 286 Goodheart Society members who are excited about changing lives with the legacy they leave behind.

**IN 2017: 21 DONORS GAVE LEGACY  
GIFTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$770,932.25**



## WHY I GIVE

"When the time came to update my will, I knew I wanted to support Denver Rescue Mission with a legacy gift. For years, a member of my family has struggled with drug addiction, and it's ruined his life. **I wanted to find a place where he could get help, and I was impressed by the cleanliness, opportunities, integrity, financial stewardship, and genuine concern I found at the Mission.** I hope my gift will help enable Denver Rescue Mission to continue offering the opportunity for a changed life to him and others like him in our community."

- **KIM**  
**LEGACY DONOR**

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

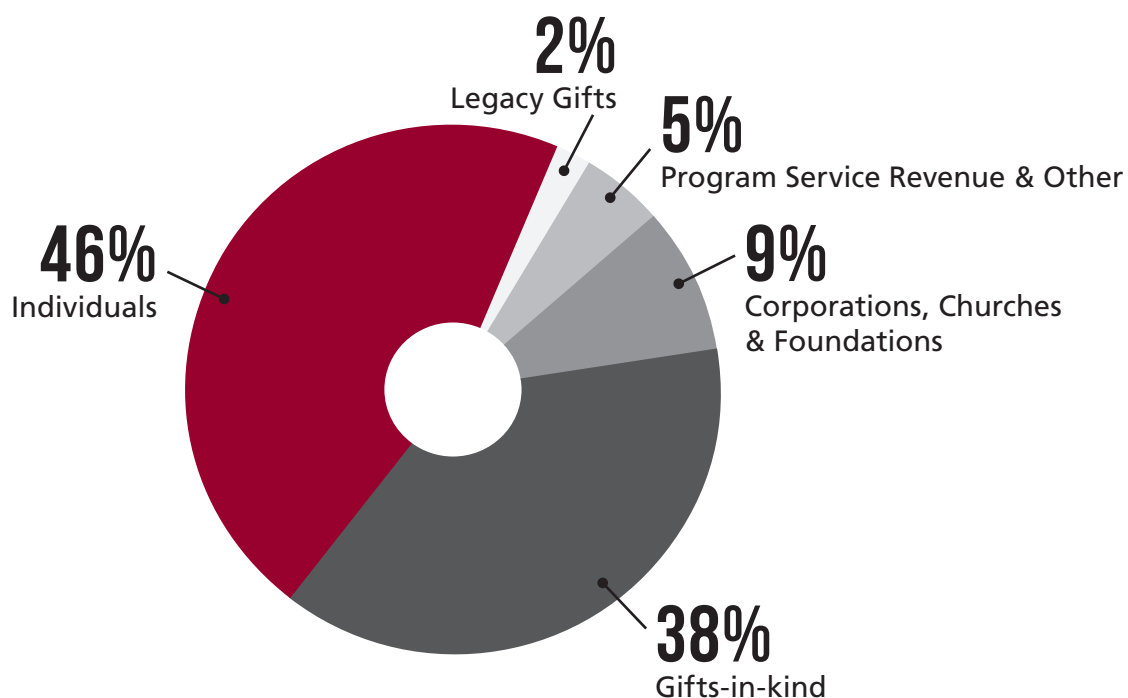
Contributions	2017	2016
Individuals, businesses & foundations	\$19,368,664	\$18,503,319
Gifts-in-kind	\$12,732,388	\$13,044,553
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$32,101,052</b>	<b>\$31,547,872</b>
Revenue		
Program service revenue & other	\$1,688,907	\$1,461,585
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$33,789,959</b>	<b>\$33,009,457</b>

## EXPENSES

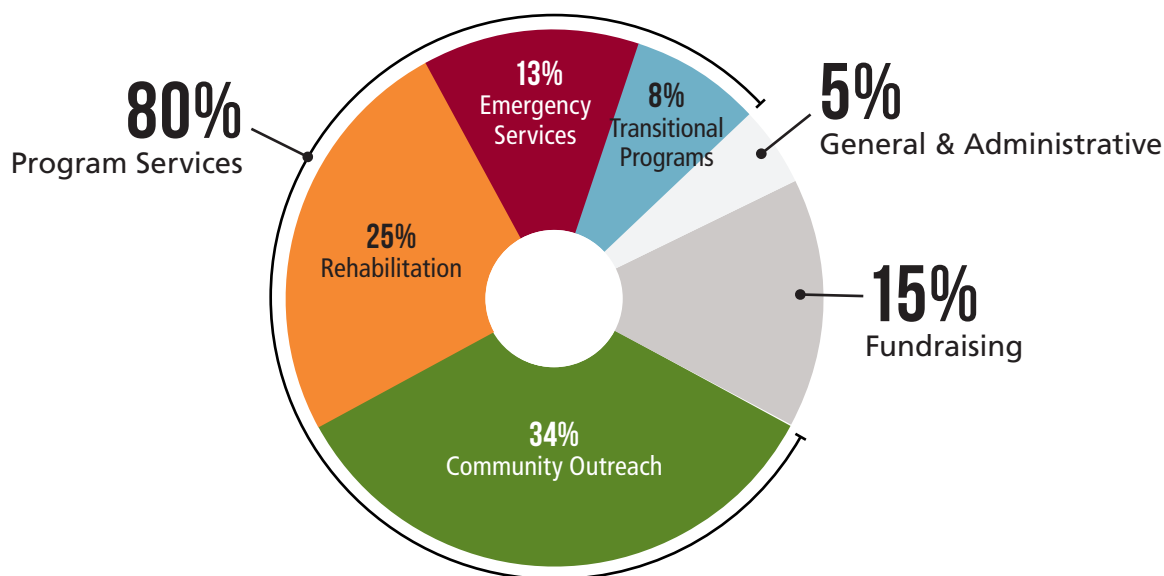
Program Services		
Ministry Outreach Center	\$11,591,716	\$10,978,195
The Crossing	\$7,132,100	\$6,924,553
Lawrence Street (Shelter and Community Center)	\$3,802,262	\$3,909,002
Harvest Farm	\$2,402,946	\$2,531,452
Fort Collins Rescue Mission	\$1,135,184	\$1,092,872
Champa House	\$742,318	\$718,593
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$26,806,526</b>	<b>\$26,154,667</b>
Supporting Activities		
General & Administrative	\$1,675,068	\$1,389,461
Fundraising	\$5,009,790	\$5,208,572
<b>Total Support Activities</b>	<b>\$6,684,858</b>	<b>\$6,589,033</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,491,384</b>	<b>\$32,752,700</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>\$298,575</b>	<b>\$256,757</b>
Other*	(\$72,665)	\$619,800
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$225,910</b>	<b>\$876,557</b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$34,096,721</b>	<b>\$33,220,281</b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$34,322,631</b>	<b>\$34,096,721</b>

\*Non-Operating (Capital Projects related activities,etc)

## OPERATING REVENUE



## OPERATING EXPENSES



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017



For three years in a row, **Denver Rescue Mission** has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. Only 17% of organizations registered with Charity Navigator have received a four-star rating for three consecutive years.

**Denver Rescue Mission** is a member of the Better Business Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance recommends giving to organizations who spend at least 65% of their total expenses on program activities. In fiscal year 2016-2017, 80% of our expenses were in programs.

Download our audited financial statement at [DenverRescueMission.org/2017-Audited-Financial-Statements](http://DenverRescueMission.org/2017-Audited-Financial-Statements).





WE ALWAYS THANK  
GOD FOR ALL OF YOU AND  
CONTINUALLY MENTION YOU  
IN OUR PRAYERS. WE REMEMBER  
BEFORE OUR GOD AND FATHER YOUR  
WORK PRODUCED BY FAITH, YOUR  
LABOR PROMPTED BY LOVE, AND  
YOUR ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY  
HOPE IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-3

# The true story changer

**Homelessness can bring with it a huge burden of shame, guilt and isolation.**

For some, their story has brought them to a dead end of hopelessness, and they find it hard to believe that anyone could care about them. This only perpetuates the cycle of self-doubt and guilt. Many try to find escape through substance abuse, only to end up using it to hide from their problems instead of dealing with them.

**At this point, many feel that their failures can't be forgiven, forgotten or fixed.**

**But as followers of Jesus Christ, we know that God is the ultimate story changer.** Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers everyone a new story, beginning with love, forgiveness and acceptance. He changes our stories from one of death to one of life.

**That's what makes the Mission so unique.**

We stand firmly on our faith in Jesus and his compassion for people in need. As the hands and feet of Jesus in our city, we reach out to our homeless, addicted and broken

neighbors, inviting them to come and get to know this Jesus who we love and serve.

**With a cross raised high, lighting up the night in downtown Denver, we proclaim, "Jesus Saves" to every guest at our shelter and community center.** In our rehabilitation programs, we help people discover that they are loved and valued by teaching them how to embrace the gospel. Through our transitional programs, we help people provide for their families, showing them that God's view of their story is different. And through our community outreach, we give people a chance to understand that God can provide for their needs in ways they couldn't imagine.

**And we also reach back to our brothers and sisters, like you, for help in accomplishing this great work.** Thank you for believing with us in the reconciliation of the gospel. Everything we do is made possible by the blessing God provides through you. As we strive to serve the Lord and our community together, we pray that you would be blessed for your time, finances and efforts to support Denver Rescue Mission.

# LEADERSHIP



**BRAD MEULI**

*Pres/CEO*



**GRIFF FREYSCHLAG**

*VP of Development*



**DAVE SCHUNK**

*VP of Administration and  
Finance/CFO*



**JOSH GEPELT**

*VP of Programs*



**HUGH BURNS**

*VP of Operations*



**STEVE WALKUP**

*Spiritual Director*

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*Chairman*

**Joseph Fortna**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Julie Reusser**  
*Treasurer*

**Rev. Nathan Hoag**  
*Secretary*

**Scott Adams**

**Tom Athenour**

**Pam Coe**

**Ron Gascho**

**Cathy Goss**

**John Miller**

**Dr. Brad Strait**



# DENVER RESCUE MISSION

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[blog.DenverRescueMission.com](http://blog.DenverRescueMission.com)