

# CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE



## FINDING SOLID GROUND

130 YEARS  
OF  
IMPACT

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

YOUTH RECEIVE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES

NEW LIFE PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



## LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

Dear Friends,

For the last several years here at Denver Rescue Mission, we've focused on transitioning our shelters to 24/7 operations and bringing more solution-oriented services to those accessing these environments on a nightly basis. We've adjusted our way of doing things so that we are better positioned to meet the individuals we serve at their physical and spiritual points of need.

While there is still a lot of attention on emergency shelter capacity, one thing remains consistent here at the Mission: men are in desperate need of the recovery support offered through the Mission's New Life Program.

The New Life Program started in 1997 as staff at our downtown shelter saw a growing need for drug and alcohol treatment amongst those they served. Beyond that, they saw a need for treatment for the life issues that had led them to abuse drugs and alcohol to begin with. Through the years, the New Life Program has adapted to keep pace with the unique needs within the community we serve—with "Jesus Saves" always at our center.

Last year the program graduated 80 men. Eighty men who had the opportunity to hear about Jesus. Eighty men who received clinical assistance for their addictions and counseling support for their underlying grief, trauma and struggles. Eighty men who experienced hands-on training from the program's work readiness approach and found full-time employment. Eighty men who now have a place to call "home."

We have growing "competition" for the attention of men who could benefit from programs like the New Life Program, the largest competition being readily available jobs. Too often men are distracted from their recovery journeys by the ease of making money in today's labor market. Too many men leave the program early and decide that they've got it all figured out, oftentimes with multiple job offers.

While we are encouraged by the unemployed finding employment, the Mission is in the business of changing lives. Our goal for those entering the New Life Program is more than employment, more than housing, even more than sobriety. We want men to find hope in the one person who has the power to change their lives forever—the person of Jesus.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of Denver Rescue Mission. Because of you, we are able to continue meeting the men in the New Life Program at their physical and spiritual points of need and continue changing lives in the name of Christ.

God Bless,



Josh Geppelt  
VP of Programs



# BACK TO SCHOOL!

The youth living at The Crossing are back in school, and thanks to generous donations, they have new backpacks and school supplies to kick off the school year!







# NEW LIFE PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

**109**

PARTICIPANTS OBTAINED  
EMPLOYMENT

**80**

MEN GRADUATED

**92%**

OF GRADUATES REPORTED  
THEY WERE STILL IN HOUSING  
ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATING

**1,437**

TOTAL GRADUATES  
TO DATE

*\*Numbers reflect FY22*



# DENVER RESCUE MISSION



## FINDING SOLID GROUND

2008 WAS A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR TONY—A TIME OF HEARTACHE YET A TIME OF TRANSFORMATION. IT WAS THE YEAR HIS MOM PASSED AWAY, THE YEAR HE GOT SOBER, THE YEAR HE FOUND DENVER RESCUE MISSION, AND THE YEAR HIS LIFE TRULY CHANGED.

After getting a DUI, Tony found himself in a detox center praying to God for a place to get sober. That's when he learned of the New Life Program, a faith-based, year-long rehabilitation program for men at the Mission.

Knowing it would be a good fit for him, Tony made his way downtown to the Lawrence Street Shelter to sign up. When he arrived, he first went through an intake process with one of our case managers, something we do with every person who walks through our doors.

LAST YEAR, WE HAD  
**6,761** PEOPLE COME  
THROUGH THE DOORS  
OF OUR SHELTERS.

After joining our program, he stayed an additional 88 days before moving to The Crossing, the facility that houses those in our long-term programs. It was during those 88 days that God really opened Tony's heart and when he found the foundation for his faith. Like in Psalm 40:1-2, he was given a rock to stand on:

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."*

This was when his journey to sobriety started and where his relationship with God grew. "That was the place where I really started reading the Word," Tony said. "We would do chapel at night, and one time I stood up for the first time to profess my faith."



Part of the program is work readiness, when participants are assigned to a team to work a variety of jobs around the Mission. Tony did his work readiness at the front desk of the shelter checking guys in for the night. It was an experience that not only allowed him to get to know some of the other guys, but that taught him lessons about humility.

"The only thing separating me from the other guys was the piece of glass between us," Tony said. "I was no better than any of them—they were struggling, and I was struggling."

After moving to The Crossing, Tony's time in the program was spent taking classes, going to Bible study and discovering his passion for helping others. "I had an opportunity to change my life through Christ and was able to work on those things that I needed to work on," he said. "Just having that place to establish sobriety and not have to worry about anything other than that, being able to get to know the Lord more and talk to people who were mature in their faith, it was all a big component of the program for me."

Tony also started giving back by tutoring men who didn't have their GED. This sparked his love for teaching, which is what he continues to do today as a high school special education math teacher.

Tony graduated the program in 2011. Eleven years later he lives with his wife and daughter in his own home. He continues to give back to others through his teaching and is forever grateful to God for bringing him to the Mission.

"I was truly broken," he said. "The program gave me that place to get sober, establish a relationship with God, look forward, and restart." ■



ELEVEN YEARS LATER, TONY IS STILL GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HELPING HIM BUILD THE FOUNDATION HE NEEDED TO CHANGE HIS LIFE.

TO LEAVE A LONG-LASTING IMPACT FOR MEN LIKE TONY, GIVE TODAY AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/TONYSIMPACTSTORY](https://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/TONYSIMPACTSTORY).



Scan to Give!

## WORK READINESS

This is a component of the program which serves as an opportunity for participants to grow in their employment readiness and skill set. They are assigned a supervisor who works with them to ensure they are developing a solid work ethic, learning from a positive experience and gaining valuable interpersonal skills. We also help participants find meaning and value in their work and help them balance work with other areas of their life.



# THE MISSION in my words



## CONRAD & JENNIFER STELLER AND EMILY LONBORG

Conrad and Jennifer live in Centennial, Colorado with their six children. Together—with co-owner Emily—they run The Steller Group, a full-service residential real estate team. In addition to partnering with Denver Rescue Mission, the company has a heart for supporting seniors and their families.

### How long have you been supporters of the Mission?

Personally, our donations go back more than 20 years. We love that the Mission empowers guests to become self-reliant, while providing compassion, respect and dignity. The Steller Group began formally partnering with the Mission in 2019, by volunteering in the warehouse and coordinating a holiday food drive that year. Since then, our team has been honored to toss turkeys, serve meals to guests and “level up” our food drives by offering door-to-door pick-ups in our nearby neighborhoods, visiting as many as 32 homes in one shot!

### Why is it important to you to give back in both your professional and personal areas of life?

Collaborating with the Mission as a company feels like a natural fit. We are fortunate to make a living by helping others buy and sell homes and partnering with an organization that aspires to help people live independently is the perfect complement to our company’s goals. In our personal lives, we are committed to tithing, and as Christians, we look for organizations that align with our values. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said that when we serve others, we’ve served Him: *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”* That is everything the Mission does.

### Do you have any favorite memories from the times you’ve spent at the Mission?

Our children went with us to visit the Mission’s Harvest Farm in Wellington. We all loved bouncing along on haybales in the back of a truck while getting a tour of the property from one of the current residents. It was impressive to see not only the versatile, self-sustaining project, but the impact it makes on the lives of the men who stay there.

### How has your connection with the Mission personally impacted you?

Events and interactions at the Mission have educated us on the issues facing individuals, communities and the city. These experiences allow us to appreciate the dynamic challenges of those experiencing homelessness, and to be inspired by the dedication and care that the Mission brings to those whom it serves.

## 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



P.O. Box 5164 | Denver, CO 80217 | 303.297.1815

