

CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE

I HAVE MY BROTHER BACK

A Relationship Restored

"A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a
time of adversity."
— Proverbs 17:17



130 YEARS
OF
IMPACT

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Very early on in my time here at the Mission, I learned how we have the opportunity to help restore relationships. Time and time again, I have had the great pleasure to see men in our New Life Program restored to their wives, their children, their mothers, and to other family members. This comes when men take responsibility for their actions and learn about Jesus' love for them. Surrendering to Jesus and then working to set aside their addictions is not an easy thing to do. This action comes with a lot of humility.

We see some pretty exciting things happening here every day. As an example, several years ago, we had a dad and his son in our New Life Program at the same time and watched how that impacted their relationship in a wonderful way as they both moved to sobriety.

This month's *Changing Lives* newsletter talks about something we do not often see—two brothers, Tommy and Jay, whose lives are being restored at Harvest Farm. I know that you will be excited to read about them and how they have been reunited as brothers for a common cause. If you are like me, when you look at their photo, you realize they could be anyone's family members, anyone's brothers. Addiction can cripple anyone, and we are thrilled to be able to help anyone who comes to us for help.

As I look at their photo and read about their struggle, this month's newsletter made me think about my own brother and sisters who I appreciate and love. If you feel the way that I do, maybe you want to pick up the phone, or send a note or email to your family telling them you appreciate them. Like Tommy and Jay, everyone could use a little affirmation.

Thank you for helping us to restore relationships! Your financial gifts, prayers and gifts of time by volunteering, continue to be a blessing to all of us at Denver Rescue Mission. Thank you!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



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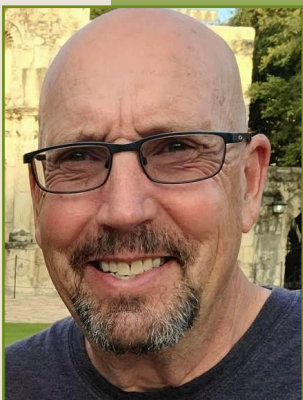
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"It's truly amazing how this program brings family together starting with my brother. And now the family that's forming, like people I can finally love and trust."
—Tommy



"Jay missed his brother Tommy and often wondered about where he was and how he was doing. We prayed together for them to be reunited and for the Lord to work in his older brother's life. The brothers were then reunited at worship service one Sunday. Not long after, Tommy was accepted to the Farm where he began the New Life Program. The Lord has reunited these brothers and will use their lives for His glory."
- David, Jay's Mentor

70
Harvest Farm
Mentor Matches
in FY22



I HAVE MY BROTHER BACK

A Relationship Restored

LIKE MANY SIBLINGS, TOMMY AND JAY HAVE EXPERIENCED SEVERAL OF LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS SIDE-BY-SIDE. WHEN ADDICTION PUT A STRAIN ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP, THEY DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY'D EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. BUT GOD HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN. HE REUNITED THE BROTHERS THROUGH THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM AT HARVEST FARM AND TRANSFORMED THEIR LIVES FOR GOOD.

"IT STARTED OFF REALLY DARK, REALLY CONFUSING . . ."

For the beginning of Tommy and Jay's childhood, they lived with parents who struggled with addiction, didn't go to school and moved between different houses, cars and even sheds. Unlike most kids their age, many of their days were spent sitting in the back of the car while their parents did drugs in the front.

The struggles didn't end when their grandparents took over to raise them. Eventually, a couple close to the family adopted Tommy and Jay, and things finally started to get brighter. From sharing their first real Christmas with their adoptive parents, legally changing their last name, and so much more, they finally had happy memories to look back on.

"It was what we needed," Tommy said. "It was strict, but coming from such a dark childhood, I am thankful that we had parents."

"I WAS MAKING SOME POOR CHOICES, BAD DECISIONS AND WASN'T GROWING UP . . ."

When it came time to go to college, Tommy and Jay began to create a separate path for themselves—a path leading them each down a bumpy road of addiction and breaking trust with those they loved most.

Experimenting with drugs and facing misdemeanors and prison sentences became their norm. They grew apart from each other, from their family and from God. Pretty soon they were both caught up in the cycle of addiction, unsure how to get out.

"There was hope that you want to be better than you are," Jay said. "You want what other people have—family, nice things, success—but you're so confused. You want it but you can't get there; you're just spinning your wheels."

"YOU JUST WANT TO KNOW WHO GAVE SO YOU CAN SHAKE THEIR HAND, GIVE THEM A HUG AND TELL THEM THANK YOU. YOU WANT TO TELL THEM HOW GREAT THIS EXPERIENCE WAS BECAUSE IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY. WE CAN'T WAIT TO LIVE LIFE AFTER THIS." –TOMMY & JAY

**FOR BOTH, THE FINAL STRAW CAME WITHIN MONTHS OF EACH OTHER,
AT A MOMENT OF IMMENSE VULNERABILITY AND DESPERATION:**

TOMMY

"It was the last time I put a needle in my arm. My whole left side went numb, and I'm like, *this is it*. I'm sitting there and I prayed: *Just keep me going God. Keep me breathing please. Please keep my eyes open so I can see Jay and give him a hug*. I didn't know how my heart kept thumping but now I know it was God. I started walking, got in a Lyft and came to the Murphy Center, just like my brother. I knew from day one I could not get high or drunk anymore."



JAY

"I was struggling with dope and staying in a hotel. I met this guy who was like, 'Man you need to go to Fort Collins, they got resources there.' I broke down. I was sitting there, bawling inside the living room as I just did a shot. But I just felt like I didn't get high. I was on an adrenaline rush of, *what am I supposed to do with my life?* So that next morning he dropped me off at the Murphy Center. And ever since I touched Fort Collins, I didn't touch any other drugs that I used to just crave."

"GOD PUT MY BROTHER BACK IN MY LIFE . . ."

Shortly after getting to the Murphy Center, a center for homelessness community resources run by Homeward Alliance, Jay signed up for the Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm where his life was forever changed. "I started to feel love for once in my life," Jay said. "I have a sponsor and we've done studies together. My mentor David has helped me through months of the spiritual view of things. But it all comes with coming here, slowing down, surrendering to God, and saying I cannot handle it anymore, and then He goes to work."

After staying at the Murphy Center, Tommy stayed at Fort Collins Rescue Mission, where a staff member informed him that Jay was in the New Life Program at Harvest Farm.

Shortly after, he joined some of the other guests and volunteers at the Mission for a church service. "It's truly amazing because God put my brother back in my life in church. I turned around and he's standing right there, just glowing. I'm like, 'Give me a

hug,'" Tommy said. "By the grace of God, He'll work miracles and answer prayers you would've never thought would come your way."

It was through joining the New Life Program that Jay and Tommy were able to restore their relationship, build a community and strengthen their faith. Jay graduated in February 2022 and hopes to go into prison ministry. Tommy is still in the program where he continues to build good habits, establish healthy relationships and create goals for his future.

"It took stripping everything I had away—relationships, family, friends, and loved ones," Tommy said. "So one of my top goals is to have relationships and friendships that I can truly value and trust."

They can now look toward the future with hope in their hearts, knowing that whatever God has in store for them, He will lead them down the path the way they started—together. ■

**GIVE TODAY TO HELP RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS LIKE TOMMY AND JAY'S AT
DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES.**

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THE MISSION in my words



JOHN YALLOP

John is originally from England and has lived in Denver for the past 35 years. As a retired real estate appraiser, he now helps with his family's property management company and spends time volunteering.

What initially inspired you to volunteer at Denver Rescue Mission?

My wife and I started volunteering in September 2020. Our daughter had been helping those experiencing homelessness, and during COVID we were looking for opportunities to volunteer with a faith-based mission.

What is your favorite part about volunteering?

The sense that perhaps, even beyond serving food and drinks, I can make a difference with a word of encouragement, a smile or just by making eye contact with individuals experiencing very stressful life circumstances. The interactions with guests at Lawrence Street in the morning tend to be brief, but every "thank you John" and "God bless" is so humbling. I make a point to try and remember the names and preferences of our regular guests to make sure they feel recognized and respected.

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

There is a great sense of purpose at the Mission, serving a population that is often overlooked. To be able to help with that, even in a small way, is very rewarding. The Mission needs the support of volunteers as they provide help and solutions to those transitioning through this life situation. The staff members are incredibly appreciative of the volunteers and do a great job of engaging with us when we show up. Also, DRM makes it very easy to volunteer with their online sign-up.



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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 | YOI |
| Lawrence Street Shelter: 24/7 shelter for men and chapel | YOI |
| Holly Center: Overnight shelter for men assigned weekly and lockers for storage | YOI |
| The Crossing: Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men | YOI |
| Harvest Farm: Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins | YOI |
| Fort Collins Rescue Mission: Meals, shelter and access to resources and services | YOI |
| Ministry Outreach Center: Central warehouse facility including food, clothing and furniture distribution | YOI |
| Administration & Education: Entry point for Mission transitional programs and home to the Mission's administrative and development staff | YOI |
| 48th Avenue Center: 24/7 shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver | YOI |

Volunteer With Us!



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