


CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE



A Thanksgiving with Dignity & Grace

"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." —Matthew 25:35 

130 YEARS
OF
IMPACT

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Truly, I am amazed by our chefs. I often say that there is no tougher job in the food industry than being a chef at the Mission. Most restaurant chefs have a set menu, with a regular group of kitchen staff helping to prepare the meals. They can buy the food they need based on their menu plans for the week and prepare meals each night for a much smaller group of people in the dining room that is right next to their kitchen.

Our Mission Chefs:

- Do not know what food might come in from donations or what will be the freshest to use for a meal, so the creativity it takes to put any menu together is pretty impressive.
- Do not know how many meals they will be serving in a day, but always know it will be more than 2,000 across all locations for three meals, 365 days a year—pretty sure most restaurant chefs do not serve this quantity of guests!
- Work alongside dozens of volunteers each day to prepare meals, unlike the prep staff that a restaurant chef has.
- Prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner at the downtown kitchen every day and then transport the meals to a warming kitchen at our 24/7 shelter, 48th Avenue Center, serving hundreds of meals a day.

For any of you who have ever put together meals for your family or have prepared a Thanksgiving banquet for loved ones, you understand how hard this can be. I greatly appreciate it too, especially since I am no chef!

To be a chef here, you have to feel called to “give back.” This month’s newsletter talks about three of our chefs who each share a little bit of their story and why it is so important for them to work for the Mission. We are so grateful for their hearts and compassion for the people we serve.

When you gather for your Thanksgiving feast with friends and family, we hope you take a moment and think about the love that goes into preparing meals for those who do not have a place to go. Pray for us—we always appreciate that. Thank you for helping us make Thanksgiving a happier time for the hundreds of people we will serve on this special holiday.

With Gratitude,

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



2022

KBCO & DENVER RESCUE MISSION RADIOTHON



Tune in to **97.3 KBCO** on
Tuesday, November 8
and listen to how your gifts
are changing lives!

DENVER RESCUE MISSION
EST. 1892 15,000
TURKEY DRIVE

Special Thanks
**TO OUR 2022 THANKSGIVING
TURKEY DRIVE LEAD SPONSORS!**



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Last year, we provided
1,015,731 meals

With your support we
continue to meet the needs
of the community.

We expect to serve:
290,000 meals
this holiday season &
5% more meals in 2023



Meet Our Chefs

EACH OF OUR CHEFS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORK WE DO AT THE MISSION. THEY ENSURE THAT EVERY PERSON WHO WALKS THROUGH OUR DOORS CAN RECEIVE THREE HOT MEALS A DAY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT THEY ARE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND GRACE.



Kevin

Director of Denver Food Services

MEANING OF A MEAL:

"When someone comes into our buildings, they know they're going to get a hot meal. They know that they're going to get a smile, someone's going to say, 'have a good day' or someone's going to say 'hi.' It may be the only hello they get, the only 'have a good day' that they get, the only 'how are you doing' that they get, and **it may be the only hot meal that they get.** During the holidays, I want to bring each one of our guests the smells and plates of food from happy times when they were children. That's why our meals are traditional. At Thanksgiving they're going to get a traditional roasted turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry, stuffing, rolls, and pumpkin and pecan pie. We want to bring back those smells of their childhood, of hopefully happy times."

MAKING AN IMPACT:

"I was an alcoholic for 15 years—that's what drives me to make a difference for our guests. But what really drives me every day is making sure our guests feel dignified and seen as someone who's valued and appreciated. Dignity and grace are everything to me because we don't know what caused our guests to be homeless. I can't solve homelessness, alcoholism, addictions, or mental health issues, but **what I can do is serve people quality food to the best of my ability and treat them with dignity and grace.**"



Bill

Kitchen Supervisor at The Crossing

MEANING OF A MEAL:

"Food is a big part of life—we all have to eat. It's like family time. That's the other big thing at The Crossing is watching them sit down together and socialize. To see them bond over time is the greatest thing. It's very special and touches my heart."

MAKING AN IMPACT:

"My wife and I of 30-plus years went through a divorce and I turned to alcohol. I went into a treatment program similar to the New Life Program. Just like the Mission has a work readiness component, we had to work, and I ran the kitchen. At The Crossing we are working with guys in the New Life Program in the kitchen, so I always tell them my story. Working with them helps me with my sobriety because I can see how easily it would be to be back there again. **It's not so much about the cooking, it's more about coaching, mentoring, being there if they're having issues, and doing whatever I can do to see them make it through the program.** We get to see where they're at when they first come in and watch the growth. Any time one of them graduates from the program it's like one of my kids graduating college."

The Making of a Meal



Donate

We are grateful for each person who helps us provide food for our guests:

- **Faithful Donors** – Whose financial gifts help us purchase needed ingredients.
- **Caring Neighbors** – Who donate items to stock our food pantry and warehouse in the Ministry Outreach Center.
- **Supportive Community** – Who provides any needed ingredients, like Food Bank of the Rockies, the largest hunger-relief organization in the Rocky Mountain region.



Prepare

Each day our chefs work together to:

- Prepare the meals for all shelter locations and The Crossing, starting their day at 5 a.m.
- Look at the ingredients available to them at the Ministry Outreach Center and decide which foods to use first.
- Come up with the menus no more than five days in advance to provide quality food and prevent food waste.



Serve

Every day we need 82 volunteers to help us serve meals across our facilities. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers and talented chefs, each day we:

- Serve about 2,000 meals to more than 500 guests in our shelters.
- Ensure every person receives a well-balanced meal.
- Greet every person with a smile and treat them with dignity and grace.

Recipes from some of our chefs over the years! [DenverRescueMission.org/ThanksgivingRecipes](https://denverrescuemission.org/thanksgivingrecipes)



Steven

Denver Food Services Manager

MEANING OF A MEAL:

"I think it all starts with a meal, and it's one of the most important parts of what we do. Without nourishment, our bodies and minds are not going to be able to think clearly and do what the Lord wants us to do. And during the holidays, if you don't have family around, someone to share that meal with, it can be very depressing. Being able to serve these guys a traditional Thanksgiving meal, it gives them that sense of belonging, makes them feel accepted and wanted when they're sharing a meal with people that care."

MAKING AN IMPACT:

"My story is not an uncommon story—a lot of people deal with addiction and depression. I was an addict from 14 to 28 and going through all that and then being able to find success is something I love to share with the guys. I truly never knew what happiness was until I got sober, and I have been sober for 11 years now. **God has a plan for all of us and I think mine is to help those who are where I used to be, share my story and let them know there's hope.**"

Every day, your support is helping each person who walks through our doors not only receive a hot meal but feel dignified and loved.

This Thanksgiving season, you can care for those who need it most at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://denverrescuemission.org/changinglives).



THE MISSION in my words



MATT LAZZERI

Matt is the Tax Partner for Ernst & Young LLP, and as a personal supporter of DRM for 13 years, Matt introduced the firm to the Mission where they have been faithful supporters for several years, including as a Turkey Drive sponsor for four years.

How do Ernst & Young's values line up with the Mission's values?

Our tagline is "Building a better working world." We're in the tax and accounting business, but the broader vision of just building a better world is what we try to do as a firm and is what Denver Rescue Mission is doing.

What have you learned throughout the years of supporting the Mission?

Number one is how much the Mission does above and beyond the basic needs of food and shelter. It's more than the downtown location; there are other programs and ways that the Mission is helping people besides serving them a meal. It's helping them hopefully turn their lives around.

Why do you think it's important to support the Mission during the holidays?

Now that we're part of the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, we will collect turkeys at drop off locations or go to the warehouse and fill the Thanksgiving boxes, which I like to do. It's a time of year where we're all thankful for the gifts and the blessings we have, and we want to share some of those gifts we've received with others. A lot of those turkeys are going out to people who may not have the opportunity to get a turkey or a Thanksgiving box and is helping them have a celebration with their families.

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

COLORADO GIVES DAY



Community Partner

ColoradoGivesDay.org Dec. 6

SCHEDULE YOUR GIFT EARLY! LEARN MORE AT:

ColoradoGives.org/DenverRescueMission

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

