

DECEMBER 2022

CHANGING LIVES

130 YEARS OF SERVICE



The Greatest Gift: **A CARING COMMUNITY**

130 YEARS
OF
IMPACT

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

MEET A FAMILY RESCUE MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM

COMMUNITY MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR THIS SINGLE MOTHER

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

As Christmas rapidly approaches, we think of family, friends and community. We make plans to travel to see people, to go to our children's winter band concerts, to join in our homes with a nice Christmas meal, to exchange gifts with each other, and maybe even have a secret Santa gift exchange at work. Really, I could go on and on about the many things that this season brings. But most of all, it is a great reminder of the birth of Jesus and the importance of His life to each of us who believe in Him and His continual impact on this world we live in.

Luke 2:13-14 says: *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.'"*

First, I love that the birth of Jesus caused the angels to praise God for peace and goodwill on earth toward all of us. We need more peace and more goodwill. Secondly, I like that it was a multitude (that is code for a lot!) of angels. Although Jesus was born in a humble stable without pomp and circumstance and with hardly anyone present, His birth caused excitement and great joy among a great company of angels in the spiritual world!

Our lives here on this earth are impacted by multitudes as well. You may have a lot of people to thank for helping shape you into who you are, and for just caring about you. This month's newsletter talks about a multitude (more like a small group of five committed people) who unselfishly came alongside a mom and her daughter, offering mentor support and a relationship that was needed to help this family change their lives.

And here is the thing, over the years, there have been a multitude of people because of their love of Jesus and what He did for them, that have been mentors for people in need through our Family Rescue Ministry program. My thanks goes to this "great company of angels" who have mentored at Denver Rescue Mission and to our generous donors and committed volunteers.

Merry Christmas and God bless you,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Hope for the Holidays

Our Wishlist



This holiday season, help give hope to those in need by purchasing items directly from our Amazon Wishlist! The list is updated with our greatest needs and items will be sent straight to us when you purchase.



For more information, visit DenverRescueMission.org/Give-Items



Relational Poverty

A common cause of homelessness is relational poverty, or a lack of community and support. Mentors can help by coming alongside program participants with personal support when they need it most.

4 WAYS MENTORS HELP:

1

LISTEN

Simply giving participants someone to talk to and listening to what they're going through makes a difference.

3

GUIDE

Pointing participants toward places they can receive donated furniture and clothing, food stamps, school supplies, and other resources may be the boost they need to get back on their feet.

2

PRAY

Prayer and spiritual support mean so much to someone going through one of the hardest times in their life.

4

ENCOURAGE

Mentors walk alongside participants as they create work, personal, financial, and family goals. They are there if mentees have questions and encourage them as they accomplish their goals.



The Greatest Gift: **A CARING COMMUNITY**



A lack of a support system can be a major barrier for those experiencing homelessness. Through the Family Rescue Ministry program, Tonya was able to build a relationship with a mentor team, who gave her the extra support she needed to get back on her feet.

For most of Tonya's life, she was confined by a lifestyle she didn't want to be in. Growing up in a strict household turned into one of abuse years later. When her situation became physically life-threatening and began to affect her daughter, Tonya knew she needed to find a way out.

"The majority of my life was very isolated. You always felt not good enough and anxious about everything," Tonya said. "Nobody should ever be made to feel that way."

She and her daughter Victoria moved to Colorado, hoping for a chance to restart. As a single mother with only one other family member close by, there was not a lot of support.

After realizing that it wasn't doable to live with that family member, Tonya was then connected with Denver Rescue Mission's Family Rescue Ministry program. This program provides families and seniors in need with assistance with

their first month's rent and deposit toward a long-term housing solution as well as mentors from the community.

"The Mission helped us get into a place," Tonya said. "I went there, and everybody kept asking, 'Are you guys, okay? Do you need anything?' That was very helpful."

An especially beneficial aspect of the program was the mentorship she received. Tonya was connected with a mentor team from Broomfield United Methodist Church, and they became her constant support system, something she never truly had before.

"We had a group of five very loving, very kind people as mentors. I could talk to them about things we were going through, they checked on how we were doing and they helped us get whatever we needed," Tonya said. "The biggest thing was helping me get proper tires on my vehicle. I cried so much because nobody has ever done that."

By having people there to support her, Tonya was able to create goals for herself, get help with her taxes, get connected to resources such as food banks, and so much more. But most importantly, she had a community, she had allies and she had people she could trust.

With her mentor team by her side, Tonya no longer felt alone, especially during the holidays when not having people to get together with can be difficult.

"Growing up we did not celebrate anything. So now being able to participate means getting together with friends, and it means a lot to be able to experience that," Tonya said.

Going into this holiday season, they can truly feel the love around them. "Victoria has told me, 'Mom, you know, with everything that everyone has helped us with, and just all we've experienced, I know what true love is now.'"

Tonya's main goal is to provide for Victoria and support her in whatever path she wants to take. Ultimately, she hopes to give Victoria the life she never had. "I try to make sure

Victoria sees that life is completely different than what we used to know, and that people are completely different than what we used to be around," she said. "There are so many good, loving and giving people."

Even after graduating from the Family Rescue Ministry program, Tonya continues to stay connected to her mentor team, including finding ways she can give back. When they told her about another one of the families they mentor needing some furniture, Tonya didn't hesitate to offer the extra pieces she had.

"If I can help in any way, I'm going to because I know what it feels like when you have nothing and are struggling," Tonya said.

"Even if it means taking away what we have. If somebody needed a couch and I only had one, I'd be willing to hand it over just for somebody else to be comfortable because I know what it truly means to be without." ■

*"We are doing what we are called to do—be the hands and feet of Christ."
—Janice, Mentor*



Scan to Give!

"I am very grateful for every single donor," Tonya said. "When you know that you have help and support, it helps you push forward, keep going and accomplish those goals. It truly does."

Through your generosity this holiday season, you can provide long-lasting support for people like Tonya.

Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

THE MISSION in my words



BROOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MENTOR TEAM

Since 2005, Janice, John, Kathy, Cami, and Jim (not pictured) have collectively mentored about 20 families through the Mission's Family Rescue Ministry program.

What inspired you to mentor with Denver Rescue Mission?

We realized we had the heart for helping local families. We've gotten a lot out of the mentor program and met some wonderful families. We see some amazing strong women that battle to support their families, and Tonya is one of them who dug in to make it work. That inspires us.

How have you been able to support the 20 families you have been paired with over the years?

It's not just us; we rely on our church and friends to help with donating tires, furniture, gift cards, bus tickets, and things like that. It's a network of people helping, and they have been really good all these years. We have shelves at our church that are dedicated to us so when we put out a plea, people can leave items there.

What are some of the things you do as a mentor team?

At the first meeting, we try to build a relationship and assess their immediate needs. We find donated items for them as well as do back to school shopping if it's a family with kids. At Christmas we will get a list of things each member of the family would like and have people from our church buy the gifts. We will also talk to them about their work goals, personal goals, financial goals, and family goals.

What has it meant to your team personally to be mentors?

It's just answering the call. You feel like it's what you should do, but you grow in understanding and compassion and just witness the human spirit. You don't do it for a pat on the back, but just do what we're called to do—be the hands and feet of Christ. One time a mentee asked us, 'Why do you do this?' We said, 'We're at a place in our lives where we're able to give back, and in the future, you'll be able to do this for somebody else.' She really liked that.

BECOME A MENTOR

Make a direct and long-term impact on someone's life, and your own, by becoming a mentor at Denver Rescue Mission.

Learn more at DenverRescueMission.org/Mentor



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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IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION
MEMBER
CERTIFIED EXCELLENCE



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