

# CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



## HOPE STARTS TOGETHER

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." —1 Peter 4:10



## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Over the last 131 years, Denver Rescue Mission has operated as a dedicated group of Christian believers brought together by the power of the Gospel to save lives, to guide people out of homelessness and to love others as Jesus loved us. We continue to need this community and partnerships, who are as dedicated as we are, to keep changing lives. We have partnerships with more than a dozen other non-profits, social service agencies, businesses, neighborhoods, and government entities. And of course, you, our generous supporters. We all share the same goal: a desire to help people on the margins who are hurting.

More and more, I have found we need everyone in the community to work together to lift each other up and to fight homelessness and poverty. The need to work together in order to see lives changed is critical. We cannot do this work alone. We believe Jesus' words in Mark 12:30-31:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."*

Thank you. You are all an important part of this critical work we do to keep our neighbors experiencing homelessness off the streets. God continues to be at work at the Mission and you are a big part of it. May this New Year be filled with God's peace and hope as we work closely together as a community.

With Gratitude,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



## Need a New Year's Resolution?

*In just 20 minutes, you can create a free Will through our partnership with GiftWise.*



Get started at [GiftWise.com/DenverRescueMission](https://GiftWise.com/DenverRescueMission).

## A GLIMPSE AT YOUR IMPACT IN 2022



327 INDIVIDUALS  
OBTAINED OR  
IMPROVED  
EMPLOYMENT

480 HOUSEHOLDS  
OBTAINED HOUSING

1,015,731 MEALS  
PROVIDED

351,471 NIGHTS OF  
SHELTER PROVIDED

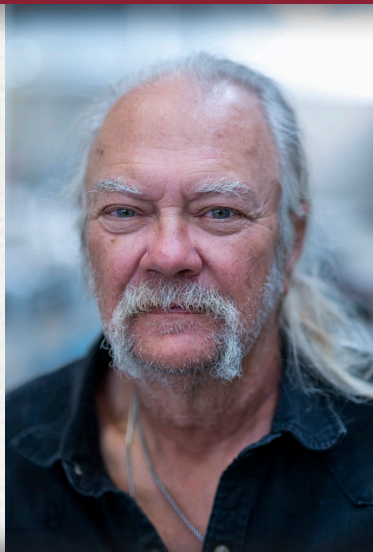
Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

View the 2022 Annual Report  
to see the ways your gifts are changing lives:

[DenverRescueMission.org/AnnualReport](https://DenverRescueMission.org/AnnualReport)

# Hopeful Hearts

Gary



"In no time have I ever had a Social Security card, which puts me at a large disadvantage because I cannot prove who I am. I can't get food stamps, can't get any kind of assistance. Denver Rescue Mission and all of its people are great. It is the best place that I have found. **They accept us for who we are and try to help in any way they can.**"

Marlvin



"I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. They put me on disability, and I basically couldn't work. I wound up at the Mission to get back on track. I got a case manager and just got approved for Section 8 housing. **The resources here have been awesome.**

They have staff members with the same background who have transitioned to become better people and want to make sure everybody here comes out of whatever they went through in their life. I'm grateful for the Mission."

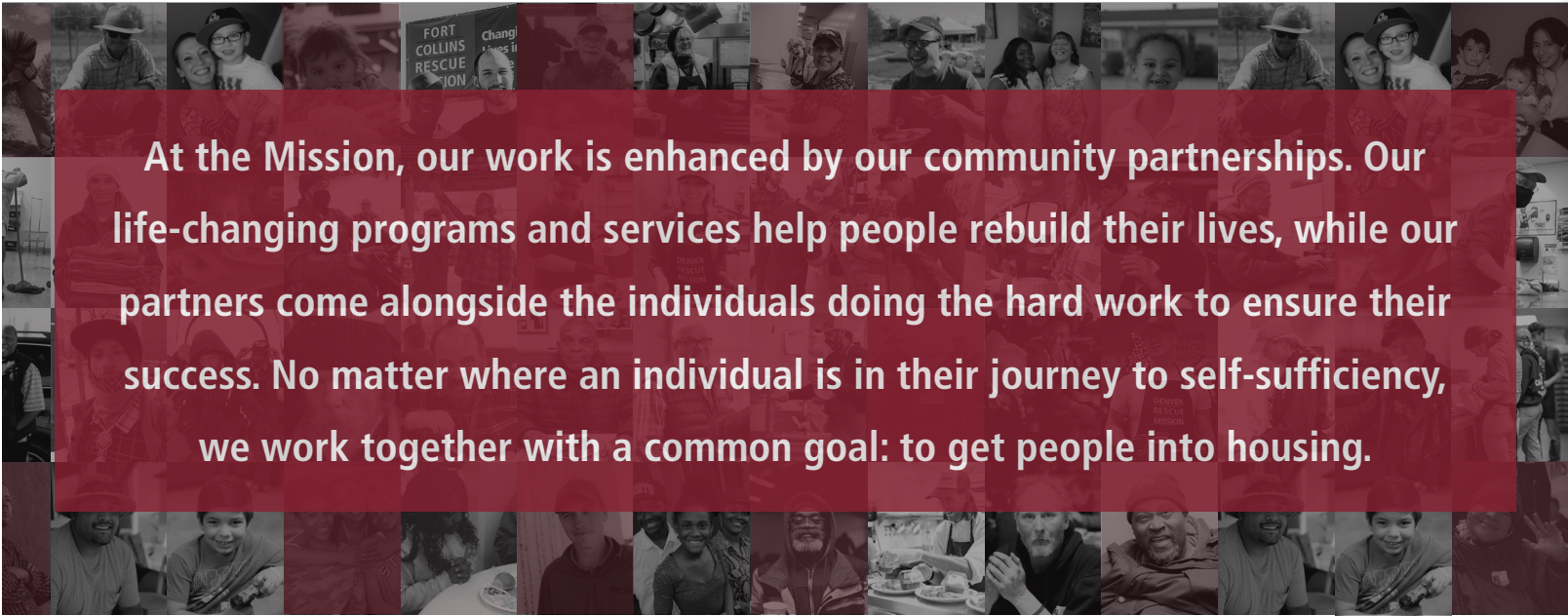
Anthony



"I just got accepted for an apartment. I want to thank everyone, whoever you are out there, you know who you are. **I thank God for you for donating to this place because it does work.** There's a lot of people who have come here and they've been changed. They have a new outlook, and we encourage each other. We're just like a family and because of your donations and help, it's helped Denver Rescue Mission continue."



# HOPE STARTS TOGETHER



At the Mission, our work is enhanced by our community partnerships. Our life-changing programs and services help people rebuild their lives, while our partners come alongside the individuals doing the hard work to ensure their success. No matter where an individual is in their journey to self-sufficiency, we work together with a common goal: to get people into housing.

Ultimately, the work we do at Denver Rescue Mission is about the **PEOPLE** we serve, the **LIVES** that are changed and the **HOPE** that is found. We work together with donors, volunteers, staff, as well as many community providers who help us connect people to resources to get them into housing as efficiently as possible.

## **We don't house anybody alone.**

When a guest steps through our front door for the first time, we are ready to take them as far as they want to go on their pathway out of homelessness. Their first step is with intake managers and peer navigators (people who themselves have been homeless and now are not) who work with guests to help them develop an individualized plan with steps and goals to move out of homelessness.

For example, we may start by asking questions such as: *Do you have family or friends you could stay with? Where were you staying before you became homeless and how can we help you get back to that place?*

Deb Butte, the Mission's director of homelessness resolution, remembers a recent guest at the downtown shelter who had been living with his grandmother. His grandmother was on a fixed income and couldn't afford to feed him, so we helped the guest secure food stamps, and he went back to live with her.

We feed and nourish, encourage and keep track of their progress. Once a guest is in our system, they become part of a community-wide database, connecting them to more than a dozen services.

**"I was on the streets sleeping in my truck, needing my meds and food. . . . I was referred here, and it changed my life. These people want you to leave here whole . . . mind, body and spirit. I am thankful for the help they are giving me." – Rick, Shelter Guest**

That doesn't mean it is easy or simple. "Everybody comes with these Gordian knot stories that have to be untied in order to be stably housed," Deb said. "Our case managers are in no way going to be the experts on all those things that make up the Gordian knot—housing, criminal justice records, Social Security, the medical field, and employment. So, we try to figure out what are the things that everybody needs, and then connect the guests to the experts."

After going through the intake process, a guest is connected to a case manager.



# PATHWAY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS



## INTAKE

Collecting the guest's information, asking them for their story and making sure they actually have to be in shelter.



## CASE MANAGEMENT

Determining a guest's needs, informing them of resources and community providers they need to get connected with and creating a plan to help guide them through the process.

A guest's needs can be put into four categories:

## VITAL DOCUMENTS

Birth certificate, state-issued photo ID, Social Security card, and more

## BENEFITS & SERVICES

Mental and medical healthcare, food stamps, cell phone, mailing address, and more

## INCOME

Employment income or Social Security income

## COMMUNITY

People or support from the community who will keep someone stable



Deb Butte

We have learned that the pathway out of homelessness is different depending on each person's unique needs.

Each shelter guest that comes to us most likely needs to be connected to 10 to 15 other providers. This can be overwhelming for them to navigate, which is why offering community support can mean the difference between feeling hopeless and hopeful. A case manager will help assess what those needs are, and connect guests with community providers, several of which come directly into Mission facilities to provide tangible services such as healthcare and employment services.

### The guest really matters to us.

"We're going to see what each person needs and get them connected as quickly as possible," Deb said. "There are often other organizations that can help move them forward, so we're going to connect our guests to anyone who can help."

The work we do alongside our community comes down to the people we serve. They are the reason that, together, we continue our work to help change lives. ■



Homelessness is hard, and it can happen to anyone. By working together, we can help create an effective path out of homelessness for those in need.

**GIVE TODAY AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES](https://denverrescuemission.org/changinglives).**

# THE MISSION in my words



## RICK STANTON

Rick has worked for St. Francis Center Employment Services as a case manager/employment specialist for five years. He provides employment services and housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness, including those at Denver Rescue Mission.

### What are some of the things your organization does specifically in working with those experiencing homelessness?

The main thing we do is help find purposeful, above minimum wage employment opportunities for people and make sure they have the tools to be successful in employment. We provide things like work clothes and tools or transportation assistance. We also help people navigate the housing process by working with a variety of landlords in the community.

### What does the partnership look like between St. Francis Center and the Mission?

Our strengths at St. Francis Center are different than the strengths at the Mission, but by bringing those together, we provide something bigger. Our work with the Mission looks different depending on the program; some already do career readiness while others need that support. We are very familiar with the different programs available in the community. So, we really focus on connecting people to certifications, career pathways, apprenticeships, jobs that are above minimum wage, and different training programs.

### What does it mean to you to see how this partnership is benefiting the people we serve?

When I see that happening, I'm like, 'Wow, this is really working.' It's a team effort and having the mindset that it's not about us is what makes the partnership work. We revisit things all the time too—what is working and what's not. There is a lot of planning and strategy that goes into this. It's not easy work but it's exciting because we just keep making it better. It's possible to get people out of homelessness and we do it—the outcomes are the proof.



Deb has been awarded a *Housing Firsty* from Metro Denver Homeless Initiative for her work in building intentional relationships and providing quality care for the people we serve at Denver Rescue Mission.



## OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES



REHABILITATION



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## LOCATIONS

**Lawrence Street Community Center:** Meals, restrooms, showers, 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

