

CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



A Mother's **STRENGTH**

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

HELP SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS WINTER

MEET DENVER BRONCOS PLAYER: DALTON RISNER

Dear Friends,

Denver Rescue Mission is a place of last resort. When you really do not know what to do next or who to call, when family and friends are no longer an option and when you are just struggling to take the next step forward, you come to the Mission. For over 130 years we have heard people say, "I did not know where to go or who to turn to, so I came to Denver Rescue Mission."

For the 24 years I have been at the Mission, it has been a blessing to see lives changed and to see hope replace despair in the eyes of those we serve. If you are someone who has never asked for help, it can be hard to say, "I need your help." Even strong, secure and confident people can find themselves in a bad place. But it is not up to us to judge people; our job is to help, to guide, to connect people with resources, and to provide wise counsel as to what the next steps look like.

We are the friends who advocate for you and who speak up on your behalf when it seems like no one else will. Last year, with God's help, we served 9,713 unique people, helped guide 480 households out of homelessness and into homes and had 80 men graduate from our New Life Program. If you know someone who is struggling with homelessness or addiction or needs food and clothing to just make it through the month, please have them call us. We will be there, as we have been for the last 131 years, ready to help, providing hope.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



SPREAD
THE *Warmth*

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**



CBS4 and Denver Rescue Mission are joining forces to help spread the warmth this winter! As temperatures drop, food and shelter can be a lifeline for someone in need.

To help spread the warmth this winter, visit CBSDenver.com/SpreadTheWarmth



JOIN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

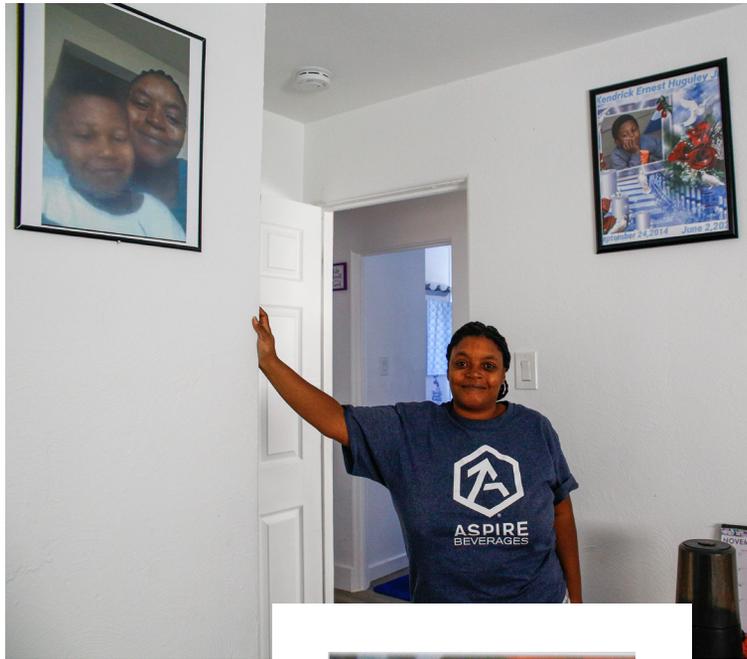
SERVE meals to people in need

LEARN how to spark change in your community

CONNECT with other young professionals in the Denver area

Learn more at DenverRescueMission.org/Join-Young-Professionals
and on Instagram @denverrescuemissionyp

Last year, 480 households moved into housing



A Place to Call Home

Family means everything to Frances, which is why she decorates the walls in her home floor to ceiling with family photos. It is how she honors her late son and how she reminds herself to have hope through the difficult times in life.

Thank you for helping give people like Frances a place to call home!



A Mother's STRENGTH

After losing everything in a house fire, Frances didn't know where to turn to but to God and to the Mission. Her faith got her through some of the hardest times in her life, and because of support from the Mission, she has newfound hope for the future.

Strength in the Struggle

Frances has spent most of her life caring for others. Growing up, she took care of her mother who had epilepsy, and when she had children, all her time was spent caring for them and her husband.

But when her marriage turned into an abusive relationship, she prayed for the strength to leave and find a safer place for her family. It was a difficult thing to do, but as soon as she found her own place, she could finally look forward to coming home. "You have to figure out how to tap into that strength to get you out of a situation like that," Frances said.

However, it was only about a year after that when Frances experienced one of the scariest days of her life: the day she woke up to a fire in her home, and the day she lost everything.

Not only did she lose her home and all her belongings, but the effects of the fire caused her to lose her six-year-old son as well.

"My son was airlifted to the children's hospital where they tried to save his life, but they couldn't," she said. "They had him on life support and I had to make the decision to let him go. One of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make."

It was an experience that she wouldn't wish on anyone. If it weren't for her faith, she doesn't know how she would have had the strength to get through it.

"By the grace of God, I got through it and I'm still here," Frances said. "The saying, 'Don't quit and Jesus will carry you through' is actually true in my case. I don't know how I would have gotten through it if He wasn't carrying me through that whole process."

Finding Support

At a time of deep uncertainty and immense grief, Frances did the only thing she knew she could do—pray and call Denver Rescue Mission.

Frances had been coming to the Mission for years to get extra support with food, household and hygiene items. This time after calling the Mission, she got connected to the Family Rescue Ministry program, which assists with long-term housing solutions and support from mentors in the community.

"I got a whole lot of 'no's' when trying to find housing, but I didn't let that stop me," she said. "I grew up knowing that you can always find a 'yes' somewhere around the corner."

That "yes" was Denver Rescue Mission.

"The Mission was the main source of help that I went to whenever I needed it, and they helped me get into a place," she said.

Not only that, but the Mission connected Frances to other resources and was a major support system for her. "Any time I felt like my back was against the wall, I'd call my mentor," she said. "The Mission would also help me through different questions and help me air out my grievances."

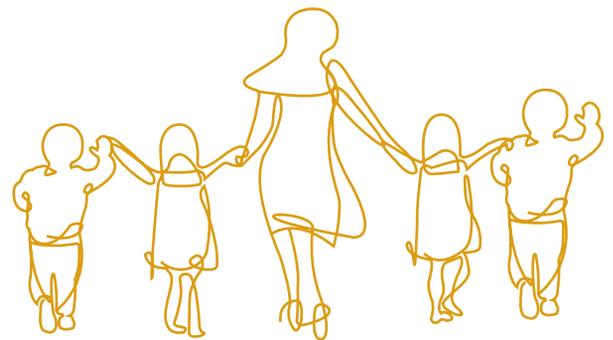
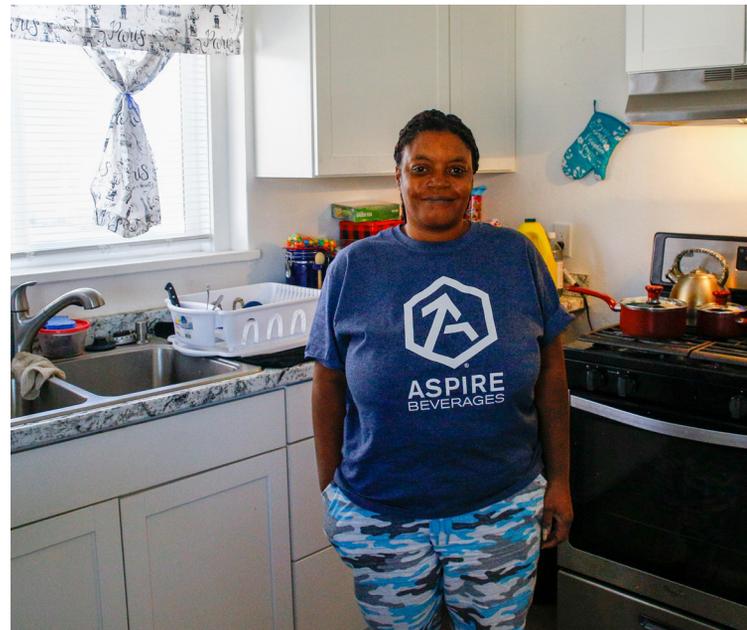
Hope for the Future

Frances continues to pray for guidance as she builds a better life for herself and her children. "I hope to watch my children thrive in this world because as hard as it's been, I want them to succeed," she said. "And keeping faith is one thing I try to encourage with them."

As Frances continues building up her credit, she hopes to move from her apartment into a house in the coming year.

Even more, she hopes to give back to others, both by volunteering at the Mission and by starting her own support group.

"I want to start a support group for parents who lost their kids and for kids who have been in abusive relationships, because kids go through it just like parents do," she said. "If I can save one person from going through what I just went through then that would be great." ■



"Thank you for your generous heart. You impact lives, especially mine, with your generosity." –Frances

To help people like Frances find the strength to get back on their feet during the hardest times of their lives, give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

Scan to Give!



THE MISSION in my words



DALTON RISNER

Dalton is a Denver Bronco who is committed to serving his community and impacting the lives around him. As a Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee, he prides himself in working with organizations like Denver Rescue Mission that share the same mission in life: to help those in need both physically and spiritually.

What are some of the ways you've supported those at the Mission?

I've partnered with Mountain Breeze Heating and Air to install an HVAC system into a family's home. I've partnered with United Healthcare to do a coat giveaway for adults and kids at the Mission. We've donated money through my foundation, the RisnerUP foundation, and through the partnership with United Healthcare. I've dropped off clothes. I've served meals during the holidays and just during a normal week.

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

I love meeting different families and seeing some of the same ones throughout the year and how they're doing better in life. Really just seeing the impact that I have on the people throughout the Mission and seeing the impact that the Mission has on the people.

Why is it important for you to personally connect with those at the Mission, including the family who you helped install an HVAC system for in their home?

The Mission connected me with a Ukranian family who had a really old heating and air system, and we went over there to install a new one. It was during the initial days of the Russian and Ukrainian war, and they were really struggling with what was going on in their homeland. They cooked us all this Ukrainian food and just welcomed us into their home. For me personally, coming from a family who didn't have much growing up and who really could have used the help, I knew how much that would mean to them. That was an amazing moment to be able to put that in their house and see how grateful they were.

What would you say to inspire others to give back to their community?

It's good to look at the world around you and say, 'How can I help other people?' With me and my foundation, I want to actually give my time. At some point, people aren't going to know who you are or want your autograph, but they're going to remember your heart, your love for other people and the impact that you made. It's about having conversations with them, making them smile and letting them know that you're praying for them and that you want to see them get back on their feet.



Dalton with the family who received a new HVAC system in their home.

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!



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

