

APRIL 2023

# CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Not**

**Forgotten**

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

Dear Friends,

As I think about the number of chaplains who have joined us in this work over the years, it is incredibly humbling to have seen the example they set. I am grateful for their desire to share the love of Jesus with the people we minister to. Our chaplains remind us daily, by their compassionate and selfless love for others, why we are here: We are focused on loving people in the name of Jesus to help them out of homelessness.

By listening, encouraging, comforting, and praying with our guests and participants, they are a shining example of Jesus' love—the love that caused Him to go to a cross for people who did not believe in Him. Yet, Jesus selflessly and with a quiet strength and power given to Him by the Father, overcame the cross with a heart and desire for a relationship with all of us. We are reminded this Easter season how Jesus overcame and was raised from the dead after suffering an unimaginable, painful death.

Jesus' example guides not only these wonderful chaplains you will read about in this month's newsletter, but all of our staff who believe that we can make a difference in people's lives just as Jesus has made a difference in our lives. We believe in Jesus' power to change lives today, and we thank you for generously continuing to support us in God's work here as we minister to all those who come through our doors.

We are grateful for you and wish you a very Happy Easter!

God Bless,

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



## Happy Easter

We are celebrating with fellowship, banquets and egg hunts alongside our guests. Thank you for your support!



*Rene, director of chaplaincy & community care, encourages shelter guests every day.*

## CHAPLAINCY

We engage with guests and participants to help meet their immediate needs and during moments of crisis through:

### Community

Help guests create community within Mission facilities and churches

### Consistency

Develop and provide content for daily devotions

### Growth

Provide classes and groups for guests and participants related to spiritual engagement and growth

### Engagement

Provide one-on-one engagement for individuals

### Care

Provide pastoral care to guests and participants

### Support

Provide crisis support to DRM staff when needed

# Not Forgotten

Chaplaincy is an important part of how we engage with and help our guests and participants move out of homelessness. Our team of chaplains is spread across our locations, sharing the love of Jesus with those who feel like they've hit rock bottom. They offer optional Bible studies and one-on-one guidance for those who are seeking spiritual support.

Every day our chaplains come alongside people who have experienced addiction, job loss, broken relationships, and more. Many of them have also experienced spiritual hardship and are seeking guidance.

With them, they will pray, read the Bible, have communion, do room visits, hospital visits, and offer any other spiritual care people may need. "We have to rekindle their faith and let them know, 'God has not forgotten about you. Surely, if you're here at the Mission, He has not forgotten you,'" Chaplain Shaun said.

For STAR Transitional Program participant, Brenda, Shaun has done just that. "She has been a support system when I am discouraged, so to have that spiritual support means a lot," Brenda said. "She's able to uplift me with the word of God, which increases my faith that everything is going to be alright."

Brenda has been in the Mission's program once before, but this time she is truly finding a community both inside and outside the Mission. She got connected to a church where she started getting involved and finding the support she needs.

"I think I have been a support for her to know that God has not forgotten her, that she is not here by herself," Shaun said. "I'm grateful to be that go between for her right now, between her and the church, so that she can stay focused and remember that no matter what, He's there for her."

The team of chaplains works closely with the counselors at the Mission to ensure they are best serving people's needs. "Not all of our participants have access to a church," Joy, a counselor at The Crossing, said. "If they don't have a vehicle, they'll rely on public transportation to get to a church, which could take hours. And so just that presence being here, that knowledge that she has, people can have that church."



## Meet Our First Woman Chaplain

Shaun feels like God called her to work at the Mission, as each day for seven years she gave food to the homeless. "My heart is for those who have been forgotten," she said. She is grateful that she now gets to share the love of Jesus with those at The Crossing, reminding them that He has not forgotten them, and neither have we.

**"God is faithful, and I am grateful!"**

Shaun has also helped give spiritual guidance and encouragement to Dedrick, a New Life Program participant. Dedrick has also been in the program once before, but this time has been different.

*"I want to become part of the helping hand that I had been given," he said. "I want to be part of the spiritual foundation that is here, that helped me, that revived me, that maybe even saved my life."*

Dedrick has struggled with alcoholism, relationship difficulties and depression. "It was affecting my spiritual connection with God, and that in turn started affecting my self-esteem, self-worth and my outlook on life," he said.



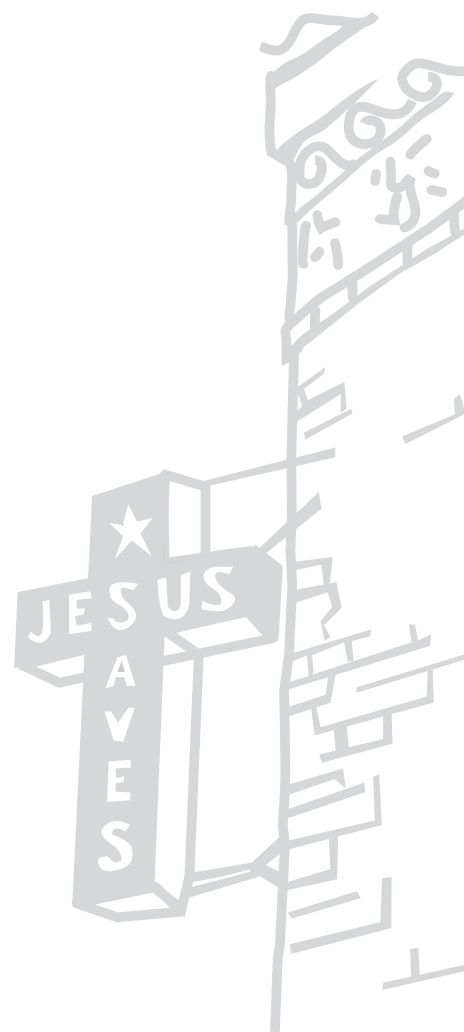
Shaun has helped him realize that God still has a plan for him. "She's helped me have an outlook of thanksgiving and humility," he said. "I just feel like I got a good shepherd watching over me. I feel grateful to be here with the chaplain staff. It just shows that Denver Rescue Mission is a place for everybody to come and experience God and to help and share their gifts. So, it's encouraging me to go into this field of spiritual service."

Dedrick is now looking forward to graduating the program and going to school so he can become a minister someday.

"It's just a blessing to see where he's come from to now. He's really sticking with it this time and God is going to show up in his situation so that he can continue to complete the work that he started in," Shaun said. "I try to encourage him in that and give him materials to read so that when he leaves here, he can get in the church that God wants him in so that he can begin to fulfill his calling. I'm honored to be a part of that."

We all need to have a supportive community around us, and for those who God has brought to the Mission, being surrounded by people who can point them toward Jesus makes a difference when they are trying to get back on their feet.

"The Mission has given me not just a place to call home for the time—a place of restoration, spiritual growth, learning coping skills, getting my health and things together—but a foundation of connections and the understanding of the parts of myself. I'm going to take all that with me," Dedrick said. ■



*"I appreciate the donors from the bottom of my heart because I could still be sleeping in my car." -Brenda*

**Give today to help people like Brenda and Dedrick receive spiritual support at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).**

*Scan to Give!*





"I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN THEM BECAUSE THE RESURRECTION CLEARLY SPOKE TO US ALL AND SAID, 'I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOU.'"

-CHAPLAIN SHAUN

# THE MISSION in my words




## HOWARD CAVE

Howard is a pastor at Aurora First Christian Church. He has been a volunteer at the Mission since 2008 and has been mentoring men in the New Life Program (NLP) since 2015.

### What initially drew you to the Mission and to serving this population?

I'm an ex-felon, an ex-addict and an ex-homeless person. I believe that I'm not defined by my past or what I do, but by being a child of God. I got out of prison in 2008 and I always wanted to go back and be a pastor in prison. I have a friend who used to work for the Mission, and he said to me, 'Why don't you come in with me because these guys need to hear your testimony.' I went in and talked to the guys, and he said to me, 'These guys have never acted the way they acted when you were sharing your testimony. You have a connection with them.' I think The Crossing is more my calling than preaching in prison.

### What are some of the things you do as a volunteer?

I teach Bible study three nights a week. One thing I teach is the "Exchange Life with Christ," which is based on Galatians 2:20-21. It's all about what the new life is and what it truly looks like. It opens a lot of people's eyes to the power of grace. I also pick guys up from The Crossing and take them to my church.

### What is one of your favorite parts about volunteering?

Connecting with the NLP guys, because we are all in this together. It's just more beneficial to form a relationship than it is anything else. You can teach people a million things, but the relationship is the best part of that. It's important to give them an understanding of what family and fellowship are. We hang out and get to know each other. Like last Thanksgiving, I had three graduates, a couple of former participants and one guy still in the program at my house. They're all still family, and I figure these are long-term, long-lasting relationships.

### What would you tell someone to encourage them to volunteer with the Mission?

The lives affected by it are priceless. Everything we do has eternal consequences, and you could be giving somebody forever because God used you to pass a message on to somebody. You could be the one that God used to change their forever.

## 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:** Overnight shelter for men 
- 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 

Thank You Volunteers

You spent **59,960** hours serving in 2022

Volunteer Appreciation Month is here, and we are grateful for YOU!

Volunteer With Us!



DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION MEMBER CERTIFIED EXCELLENCE



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