

AUGUST 2023

# CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



## LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

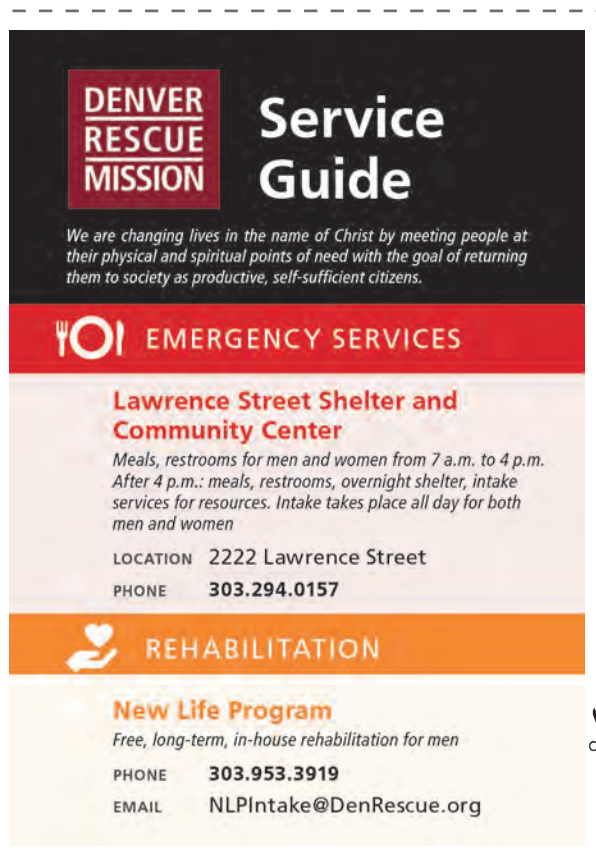
DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

# Each person you see has a story and a name.

While giving money, food or other items to individuals who panhandle may meet their immediate needs, here are some things you can do to help fulfill their long-term needs:

## OUR SERVICE GUIDE

For more information visit [DenverRescueMission.org/Get-Help](http://DenverRescueMission.org/Get-Help)



**DENVER RESCUE MISSION** **Service Guide**

*We are changing lives in the name of Christ by meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.*

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Lawrence Street Shelter and Community Center**  
*Meals, restrooms for men and women from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. After 4 p.m.: meals, restrooms, overnight shelter, intake services for resources. Intake takes place all day for both men and women*

LOCATION 2222 Lawrence Street  
PHONE 303.294.0157

**REHABILITATION**

**New Life Program**  
*Free, long-term, in-house rehabilitation for men*

PHONE 303.953.3919  
EMAIL [NLPIntake@DenRescue.org](mailto:NLPIntake@DenRescue.org)

1

## Acknowledge Their Presence

Making eye contact, smiling, waving, and saying hello make a difference. Those who panhandle are routinely ignored. You can show them respect, which helps them feel dignified and seen.

2

## Take the Time to Talk

We all crave community. "I rarely came across a person who was resistant to conversation," Josh Geppelt, vice president of programs, said. "A lot of people who experience poverty also experience isolation. If you can engage even for a moment, that's an aspect of helping them move beyond poverty."

3

## Learn About & Share Resources

Denver Rescue Mission and other service providers offer support and guidance toward options for long-term stability. Share what you know. Sometimes our neighbors in need don't know where to find help.

## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

There is a commonly-known story of the Good Samaritan and how that man, when he sees another man hurt and abandoned on the side of the road, steps up to help when no one else will:

*"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, and 'when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" -Luke 10:34*

One of the reasons this story is in the Bible is because Jesus is talking about who our neighbor is, because He has called us to "love your neighbor as yourself." He has cast a wide net when it comes to who our neighbor is because the Samaritans of this illustration were hated by the Jews and vice versa.

At Denver Rescue Mission, our net is open wide too, with more than 10,000 different individuals with all kinds of wounds and needs coming to us for help every year. You are all the Good Samaritans with your support of our work, giving us an opportunity to love our neighbors, to look after all who come to us. Together, we get the chance to show mercy, to help bandage any wounds, to ensure the care of these souls, and to aid them on their life's journey. God's work here at the Mission is a privilege and you make it possible. Thank you.

Gratefully,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO

Bob shares some acts of kindness that strangers showed him during his time on the streets:

"I was walking one day, and a girl said, 'It's cold out here, are you going to be okay?' Some guy was standing there and said, 'You don't have a coat?' I said, 'Not right now I don't.' He had a nice Carhartt, and pulls it off, brand new. I said, 'I can't take your brand new Carhartt.' He said, 'I got two of them, go ahead take it.'"

"There was a McDonald's across the street, and the manager would stop by every three days and give me a \$20 gift card to McDonald's."

"I even got to know different people who would come by every day. They knew me by name."

"We had one winter where for three or four nights in a row, it was like below zero. This old man and this young girl asked me, 'Where are you staying tonight?' And I said, 'I'll find a little hole somewhere and cover up with my blankets.' About five minutes later, they pulled back up and said, 'Jump in. We're going to take you somewhere warm.' They got me a hotel. The next morning, I went to leave, and they said, 'You got three nights.' I just said, 'Wow.'"



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

We often see people on the streets holding signs, but how often do we think about their stories? *Hard times, anything helps.* This is what Bob wrote on his sign when he was panhandling on the streets. And for those who made time to stop, their acts of kindness made all the difference.

**B**ob moved to Colorado to live with his son when COVID began. As his son was working, Bob didn't have a job and found himself drinking more and more every day to pass the time. What started as casual drinking turned into an addiction.

After an argument with his son about his drinking, Bob decided to go out onto the streets. For a year and a half, he lived on the streets, occasionally going back to stay with his son and his son's kids.

During that time, Bob would panhandle on street corners, holding his sign that said, "hard times, anything helps." Standing there with his sign as people drove by, he couldn't help but feel embarrassed.

"Sober, it was embarrassing. Once you got drunk enough, you didn't care," he said. "Now that I'm sober, looking back, I feel like an inch tall that I let that happen to myself. I'm a better person than that. I want to show my son that everything he did for me didn't go to waste."

Bob is so grateful for the love—even if it was tough love—that his son, daughter and grandchildren showed him during that time in his life. That type of love, along with the kindness of strangers, made all the difference.

Just smiling, waving or making eye contact meant something to Bob during his time on the streets. But even with the kindness of strangers, Bob knew that living on the streets and panhandling wasn't a permanent solution.



That's when he joined the New Life Program at The Crossing, the Mission's rehabilitation program for men. Everything seemed to be going well, but one day, Bob's son was on his way to see him, got in an accident and sadly passed away.

"That blew my whole world apart," Bob said.

That next week Bob relapsed and had to leave the program. Fortunately, he was able to rejoin the program later, making a promise to himself that his son's efforts in helping him wouldn't go to waste.

Bob went through the rest of the program and excelled, learning valuable life lessons from his counselor and other staff members. After graduating from the New Life Program, he joined Bridge, the Mission's new name for the STAR Transitional Program.

A year later, Bob still struggles with the death of his son. Getting an emotional support dog, named Girl, has been one of his greatest sources of comfort. With Girl by his side, he knows he can get through even the hardest days.

"She's been an emotional support more than you ever know," he said. "Sometimes I just get heavy. I don't know. I hope you never have to lose a child, but it's just a heaviness, collapse and scared feeling."

As Bob looks toward his future, he hopes to find housing, continue his job in maintenance and most importantly, be a role model for his grandchildren. He is grateful to God for leading him to the Mission, and proud of himself for not giving up.

"I really don't know where I would be if I didn't have the Mission behind me right now," he said. "They have been my source of maintaining stability."



Bob's son used to have a motorcycle like the one on his necklace. With his son's ashes inside, Bob can carry his son with him every day. "I know he's still with me."



DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

### Bridge

*Transitional housing and case management for families, seniors and individuals struggling with homelessness despite having steady income*

PHONE 303.953.3900

### Pathway Home

*Individuals and families are paired with case managers and mentors and receive help with first month's rent and deposit*

PHONE 303.313.2440

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Ministry Outreach Center

*Food, clothing, furniture, and household items*

LOCATION 5725 East 39th Avenue

PHONE 303.297.1815

HOURS Mon-Fri 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Give the gift of kindness today to people like Bob at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://denverrescuemission.org/ChangingLives).

Scan to Give!



# THE MISSION in my words




## JASMINE TALCOTT

Jasmine is a 10-year-old who loves playing outside with her brother, snuggling her cats and caring for others. She is especially passionate about helping those facing homelessness and has been donating monthly to the Mission since August 2022.

### Why is it important for you to give back to those experiencing homelessness?

I just have empathy for some of the people who don't have housing and the people who are out on the streets with signs asking for money for their kids or for food. It's disappointing and sad that they don't have money to get their essentials. They make me feel worried for them especially when we had that very bad weather storm. I think it was in the negatives and they had basically nowhere to stay.

### What keeps you donating?

The newsletters. It tells me information about what the organization does, like that they take in people to give them shelter, food, water, and clothing. There was also one time when me and my family went to a severe weather shelter, and we brought muffins for everybody. I sat down and talked with some of them. It was something I never experienced, and they told me thank you and said I had a big heart.

### How does it make you feel to donate and give back?

I feel very excited that I'm part of a community that thinks I do make a difference with the money I give and the things I do.

### Jasmine's mom, Jenni:

My husband and I give our kids money each month that they can give to an organization that they care about. Jasmine has always had a passion for the homeless. It really came from her seeing the street signs. We'd be driving and she'd ask questions like, "Why don't they have money? Why don't they have food? Why don't they have a home?" She even told us one day, "Can't they just live with us? If everybody just took everybody in, then they would all have a place to live." It bothered her, and I said, "Well if it bothers you then we should do something about it." I say when I grow up, I want to be her.



## BACK TO SCHOOL!



The youth living at The Crossing are back in school, and thanks to generous donations, they have new backpacks and school supplies to kick off the school year!

## 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 individuals and 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

