

CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



GOOD WORKS

"FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO."

- EPHESIANS 2:10

LETTER FROM OUR
VP OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends,

I am immensely grateful to be part of an incredible team that exemplifies the spirit of service, just as Christ did when He said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . ." (Mark 10:45). Working alongside such dedicated individuals is a true blessing.

In this month's edition of our *Changing Lives* newsletter, we shine a light on how God is working through the unsung heroes of our Ministry Outreach Center, where our staff and the community come together to help provide essential resources like food, clothing and household items for the most vulnerable.

Last year alone, our Ministry Outreach Center humbly provided over a million meals, but their mission extends far beyond meeting physical needs. The dedication of our staff plays a vital role in transforming lives for New Life Program participants like Vince and Ralph. While managing donations, organizing clothing and overseeing our warehouse operations, our Ministry Outreach Center team walks alongside individuals like them, creating an environment where participants can grow spiritually, personally and develop important job skills.

I am thrilled that you will have the opportunity to witness firsthand how God is using our awesome team to make a significant impact in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, offering them hope in Christ. None of this would be possible without your incredible support through prayers, financial contributions and volunteering. We are truly blessed to have you by our side.

With Gratitude,



Chris Jorgensen
CFO/ Vice President of
Finance & Administration



Work readiness is a part of our rehabilitation program where men work in different departments around the Mission as an opportunity for them to:

- Develop a solid work ethic
- Grow in their professional skill set
- Gain valuable interpersonal skills
- Learn to balance work with their personal life

Ministry Outreach Center

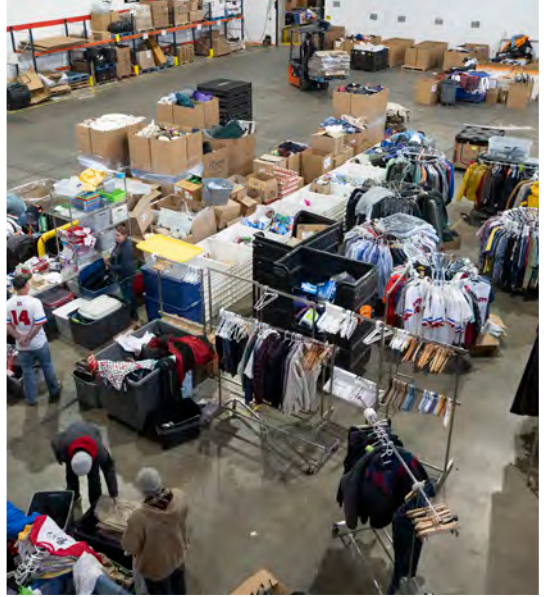
Here, you help low-income households in the community provide for their families with donations of:

- Non-perishable food
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Household and hygiene items

DenverRescueMission.org/MinistryOutreachCenter

"IT MEANS A LOT AND COMES
IN HANDY AT A TIME OF NEED.
HAVING PLACES LIKE THIS
THAT HELP, IT JUST MAKES
YOU FEEL THANKFUL."

- MOC CLIENT



Processing



GOOD WORKS

From addiction and depression to homelessness, Vince and Ralph have each had their fair share of struggles. Joining the New Life Program and working at the Mission's Ministry Outreach Center are helping them overcome their hardships and grow emotionally, spiritually and professionally.

VINCE

At 17 years old, a few years after his dad passed away, Vince experienced homelessness for the first time. He slept on the streets or in shelters and hitchhiked across the country.

When he got a job and was making money, he spent it all on drugs and alcohol. "I was using drugs every morning when I woke up, would go to work, come back for lunch to use more drugs and drink, and go back to work," he said.

When a woman he was seeing broke up with him because of his drinking, that's when Vince decided, "I wasn't going to let drinking ruin my life anymore."

Knowing he needed to do something different, he joined the New Life Program at The Crossing. "It's been very supportive. I've made good friends, learned about myself and been trying new things," he said. "I'm working towards becoming a medical interpreter right now, which is not something I ever would have considered had I not come here and had the opportunity to think about what I wanted to do with my life."

While in the program, Vince worked at the Ministry Outreach Center (MOC) for his work readiness. He worked at the front desk and stocked donated items so low-income households in the community could shop free of charge.

"I know what it's like to not be sure where your next meal is coming from or only have the clothes on your back," he said. "So to be able to provide that clean pair of socks, that new t-shirt, some snacks, to be able to give people hope that with their basic needs met, they can then go and focus on other things, it's nice."

Vince is grateful for his experience working at the MOC and for the staff members who have been in similar situations as him such as Harold Benjamin, MOC receiving and distribution supervisor.

"I've woken up in the morning asking God, 'Why did you let me live again?'," Harold said. "I was one step away from being at Lawrence Street as a guest. I now have 10 years of clean and sober. You need somebody in your corner who says, 'Wait, wait, wait. These are tough times but they're only going to get better.'"

Like Harold, Vince is grateful to God for changing his life. "I came back to Christ in the program. I was faced with a couple challenges, but I remember praying about them and I came out of those situations better off," he said. "That cemented my faith and helped me to continue walking towards God."





RALPH

Ralph struggled with depression after experiencing a great amount of loss in his life—from his mom and uncle to his brother-in-law and nephew.

When the woman he was seeing left him and took most of the money out of his bank account, along with his birth certificate and other documents, Ralph didn't know what to do.

"I lost trust in people over that," he said.

That's when he joined the Mission's New Life Program where he has received much needed support. "The staff are always there to listen," he said. "Their doors are always open for you."

"All the employees have been great to me. They're always telling us, 'Wow, what a good job.' It makes a difference when you feel that you accomplished something. You get up and you want to go to work." -Ralph

"I have this policy, if you need to talk, come into my office," Harold, supervisor at the MOC, said. "I take off my name tag and we're just talking—recovering alcoholic addict to recovering alcoholic addict."

Ralph's counselor, intern Zaria Norman, has been especially supportive. "She is born to do what she does," he said. "It's been good being able to talk through things."

With the support of Zaria and other staff members at the Mission, Ralph has grown emotionally, spiritually and professionally.

For his work readiness, Ralph worked at the MOC and was responsible for helping individuals and families get any furniture they needed for their homes.

"The biggest thing here is just seeing the people's faces," he said. "Seeing their faces when you can actually give them something, it's amazing."

As Ralph's and other participants' supervisor at the MOC, Harold recognizes the changes in each man he works alongside as they progress through the program.

"Those are good guys, they really are," Harold said. "You know, that's why I work here—to see the changes in people like them. This has become my mission to see these guys moving forward."

Thank you for supporting men like Vince and Ralph as they work hard to transform their lives.

Give today to help others at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.



Scan to Give!

THE MISSION in my words




GRIFF FREYSCHLAG

After 21 years, Griff retired as the vice president of development at the Mission. His dedication to raising funds for the people we serve and building relationships with donors has been an incredible blessing.

What initially inspired you to work for the Mission?

I was in the banking business for a long time, and during lunch we would always go down to the 16th Street Mall where I established relationships with different people experiencing homelessness. I'd learn their names, talk to them about their story and hear what they were going through. Brad Meuli and I have known each other for a long time, and three years after he became CEO, he asked me to be the director of development. I just felt like it was a calling and like God really said, "This is something that I want you to do." I'm truly convinced that having those interactions on 16th Street were what God used to prepare me to come to the Mission.

What kept you at the Mission for so long?

I've been in this role for 21 years, and I continue to believe that taking care of the poor is really important to God. It's been a philanthropic journey over these years, and we have a wonderful team. God has blessed us. It's not my ministry, it's God's ministry.

What has it meant to you to build relationships with donors?

It's always exciting to engage a donor who has read about what we do and get them down here to see what we do, how we do it and to visit with the people we serve. We have donors who have never even been here, but once we get them here, they go, "We never knew you did this much." That's the most rewarding.

What are some of your favorite memories during your time here?

I had the opportunity to mentor five men in the New Life Program, and I still stay in touch with two of them. I mean situations where the mentee relapsed, dealing with that and the emotions behind that and how that creates such shame for them, and yet to see them restored and how God continues to work in these guys' lives. That was 15 years ago and they're doing great.

Meet Our New VP of Development: Brad Jessen

For almost eight years, Brad has worked in the Mission's development department, and we are blessed to have him in this position. To learn more about Brad and his thoughts on fundraising and volunteerism at the Mission visit DenverRescueMission.org/NewVPofDevelopmentBradJessen.



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 

Correction

In the August *Changing Lives* newsletter, we inadvertently listed "10,000 different individuals with all kinds of wounds and needs coming to us for help every day." This should have been reflected as "every year."