

CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE

Looking Up



DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

Dear Friends,

At a young age, two of my grandkids learned a Bible verse from their parents that I love to hear them say, and it will be forever etched in my mind in their voices:

“For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but power, love and self-control.” - 2 Timothy 1:7

The peer leaders featured in this month’s newsletter share with our New Life Program participants what the spirit of God has done in their lives, washing away the fear they may have had prior to coming to the Mission.

Being fearful when you come to the New Life Program is not uncommon. Our peer leaders come alongside our participants, sharing their own past fears and stories, letting them know how the love of Christ has changed them and can change others as well, and how a relationship with God helps with self-control so key to those fighting addiction.

Peer leaders let participants know they are here for them. They are servant leaders who have walked through difficulties that our participants are experiencing, and they have made it to the other side. They want to give back. They let these men know that they are not alone in their daily struggles and that there is hope.

Jesus said this same reassuring thing to His disciples (and to all of us as believers) when He said, in Matthew 28:20 “. . . and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

How reassuring that we can walk without fear because of His power, His love and the self-control He has given us. Thank you for making this work possible through your generous donations, prayers and volunteering.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



Looking Up

Having someone to look up to like Abel, Rodney and Tommy helps current participants at Harvest Farm feel supported and motivated on the road to recovery. As peer leaders, they are graduates of the New Life Program who are dedicating their time to share their experiences and mentor others in the program.

By listening, sharing their own experiences, facilitating fun activities, and more, peer leaders help promote the transformative power of a healthy community and provide an environment where personal growth and recovery can thrive.



MEET OUR PEER LEADERS

Growing up, both of my parents were drug addicts. I was on drugs since the age of 13, and was in and out of homelessness since the age of 18.

I was defeated by drugs and alcohol. Just spiritually dead. I wanted to end it all. I was asking God, if He existed, to come help me.

When I came here, I came ready to give it all to God. *My experience here has been life changing.* I found the tools necessary for me to keep myself connected to God. It was exactly what I needed.

I think what's helped me the most is the community. Just seeing others like me who were in the program who are doing good. Just knowing that there is a chance.

I wanted to come to the peer house to be able to share with others what helped me, which is Jesus Christ, accepting Him to the fullest and repenting.

I know that I can be a vessel to help others. I encourage them to reach out to staff and to us. I talk to them about how their day is going. I remind them about reading their Bible and to stay focused on the present moment. Just to be appreciative of the things that we have here.

My goals now are to continue to have Jesus first, second and third in my life. And then, of course, for me to be okay so that I can also be a good father, be a good friend, be a good role model. I want to someday become a peer coach specialist.



For my whole life, I had substance abuse issues. The first time I ever tried methamphetamine I was 11 years old. Then it just got stronger and stronger. My family tried helping me in so many ways, and I just didn't really want their help.

I really started going through depression. Once everybody pushed away, I felt alone. That's when I started feeling like I wanted to try something new.

When I came here, I didn't know if I was ready to be done with my substance use, but I told myself I was going to give the whole program a try. I realized I was done with it forever when I hit about six months in. *I had never felt better, and I was getting so many good things accomplished. Just having the opportunity to be somewhere where I could be clean and sober and around good people who were trying to better their lives helped me in so many different ways.*

I started filling my life with things that I enjoyed—hanging out with people on the Farm, working, creating my own art group, and going to school for digital cinematography. Now, I'm a peer specialist not only here on the Farm, but through the Murphy Center and Garcia House.

My goals are to keep saving money and keep focusing on school. Once I got clean and to a place where I was able to explore those options, it made life feel like it's fulfilled. I thank God every day for the opportunities I've been given.





I remember getting dropped off with my brother on our grandparents' front porch. Our dad was on drugs on the streets and our mom was struggling at the same time.

Then, at 25 I started my years of barhopping and experimenting with drugs. I was making some poor choices. Bad decisions.

This program is the truth because it's helping me realize where I was falling. We don't have to bring anything but ourselves here. *This program has helped me to build better and new habits. I have grown up, matured and found God.* Nothing else matters but the man upstairs and getting your life right.

Working with these men in certain situations, it's definitely showed me a lot of patience that I didn't know that I had. I want to give back any way that I can to the people here and the staff. I truly believe the peer house has definitely changed my life.

My Lord and Savior has molded me into a man I thought I would never become. I'm thankful to our donors and this staff, because I couldn't have done it without y'all. I'll definitely take it for the rest of my life.

For more of Tommy's story visit
DenverRescueMission.org/IHaveMyBrotherBack



Rodney was a mentor to Tommy before Tommy also became a peer leader. "Rodney really inspired me because he spent time with me. I really looked up to him. I connect with him like a brother. I love you bro, you changed my life."



Tommy

"I did get to give one of the donors a hug and shake his hand in church. Just that connection, I just started bawling. That was beautiful. He'll work miracles if you just give your life to Him." -Tommy

You have made a huge impact on Abel, Rodney and Tommy, and your generosity can make a difference for so many others at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Peer leaders intentionally reach out to men during their first 30 days in the program—often the most challenging time for men in recovery. After the first 30 days, our staff has “Thursday 30,” or a time to acknowledge and celebrate these men during devotions, by praying over them and giving them an opportunity to have a cup of coffee with their case manager outside Harvest Farm.



Last year,
peer leaders spent
998 hours making
3,146 connections with
program participants.



"Matt just hit his 30 days. I was able to connect with him and I saw a lot of me in him when I first got to the Farm. He was just thankful for the love and attention of someone to talk to."

-Tommy, Peer Leader

"It was one of the most impactful experiences of my life. The fact that the Farm prioritizes this with their resources and time shows me that I matter to you."

- Program participant at his "Thursday 30"

THE MISSION in my words




BOB DALTON

Bob is an entrepreneur, podcast host, TEDx speaker, author, and the founder/CEO of Sackcloth & Ashes. The company's mission is to donate a blanket to a local homeless shelter for every blanket purchased, and with a recent goal of donating one million by 2024.

Can you share how your mother's experience with homelessness inspired you to start Sackcloth & Ashes?

In 2013, my mother experienced homelessness. This experience changed my perception of homelessness, as I realized that hardworking individuals could also find themselves in such circumstances. I reached out to local homeless shelters to inquire about their needs, and they all mentioned the need for blankets. That's when I came up with the idea for Sackcloth & Ashes: for every blanket we sell, we donate one to a local homeless shelter.

What is the meaning behind the name Sackcloth & Ashes?

The name Sackcloth & Ashes is derived from ancient Jewish symbolism representing "mourning and repentance." The name signifies the act of wrapping oneself in a Sackcloth & Ashes blanket as a symbol of mourning for the homeless population and repentance through supporting a local shelter.

How long has Sackcloth & Ashes partnered with Denver Rescue Mission?

Sackcloth & Ashes has partnered with the Mission for approximately four years. The Mission has been instrumental in facilitating events where Sackcloth can invite local corporate partners to volunteer and learn more about the Mission's work. One memorable moment was when we hosted a blanket drop in 2018 in partnership with the executive team from World Market.

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 



In Less Than 20 Minutes You Can...

- Create or update your existing Will and health care directives
- Create a charitable gift to be more generous than you ever thought possible
- Assure a meaningful legacy for your family



Get started at DenverRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving

Volunteer With Us!



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



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