

CHANGING LIVES

131 YEARS OF SERVICE



A Place to Call Home

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

Dear Friends,

Sometimes our path is unclear, sometimes it seems like it is uphill all the way or that there is no trail or enough light to guide us. When I think of young Mary, laying her son Jesus down in a manger after a trip to Bethlehem while nine months pregnant, with no room at the inn, I think her path was not one that seemed all that easy or very clear at that moment.

I am sure she was encouraged that she was on the right path when the shepherds showed up and let her know that an angel had appeared to them and proclaimed, “. . . a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” -Luke 2:11b-12.

As a result, “Mary treasured up all of these things and pondered them in her heart.” -Luke 2:19. And how about the shepherds who had no idea that their path would lead them to see a multitude of angels, visit the Savior and now return, “. . . glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen which were just as they had been told.” -Luke 2:20. I'm pretty sure their path was never the same again.

In this month's newsletter we share the story of Jerome's path, one where a lot of people were involved. Through our Pathway Home program, we had the opportunity to teach him some of the life skills he needed as we worked with him to find his home. We are proud of him and so many others who we have been able to help find housing and a new life.

This Christmas season, we thank you for helping make someone's path a little easier, a bit more clear, maybe more well-lit. It takes all of us working together, Mission staff, volunteers and generous donors, trusting God that we are walking on the path where He is leading.

Jesus loves you,

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



BLESS OUR BROTHERS



Every holiday season we celebrate the men in our New Life Program with a special meal and gifts from their wish lists.



“I have always loved Christmas. I still love Christmas, but it is not the same when you have no family.

I realize Denver Rescue Mission is my family. They truly care. The gifts meant so much to me, I cried. God has blessed me, and I truly am thankful for all DRM has done for me. It has been the best Christmas I have had in many, many years.” -Tim

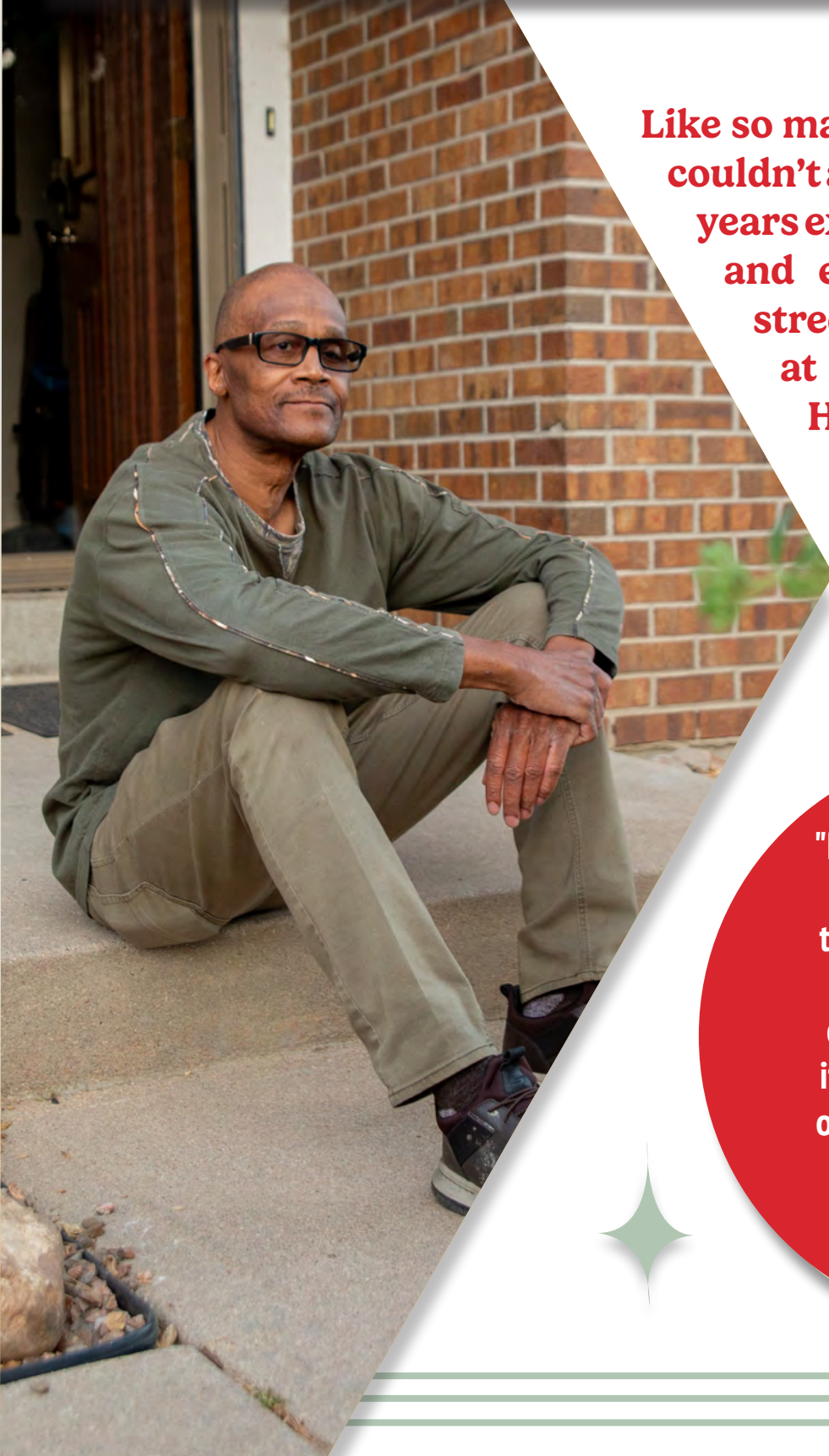


This holiday season
we expect to serve
over **210,000** meals

“Being able to serve our guests a traditional Christmas dinner gives them a sense of belonging. It makes them feel accepted when they’re sharing a meal with people who care about them.”

-Steven Kreis, Denver Food Services Manager

A Place to Call Home



Like so many others, Jerome simply couldn't afford rent. After spending years experiencing homelessness and enduring winters on the streets, he came to the Mission at a moment of surrender. Here, he found a pathway out of homelessness and into a place to call home.

"Back then, Christmas was just like another day. At the time, I was still doing drugs and alcohol, so I didn't really think about it. But once I gave my life over to Jesus and got into housing, Christmas has been pretty good."

-Jerome

“I remember getting up in the morning after sleeping outside on church steps and trying to walk. My feet were numb. It was so cold. I thought alcohol would warm me up, but it didn't. It just made me colder. It was terrible.”

As Jerome thinks back on the winters he spent on the streets, he can't help but be in disbelief over what he experienced. “Wow. It's just hard to believe now,” he said.

He spent about eight years experiencing homelessness, consumed by drugs and alcohol. After years of staying in shelters and on the streets, Jerome finally hit his lowest point.

“I was not wanting to give up the drugs and alcohol. But in 2007, everything changed,” he said. “God just showed me a new way.”

Jerome was hungry and someone pointed the way to a place called Christ's Body Ministries, where he could get something to eat. “They helped me get my life together, clean up and give my life to the Lord,” he said.

Jerome was a volunteer and worked for them for four years. It was a place for him to help others like he was helped.

He remembers the Christmases in particular that he would spend serving meals. “We would go out and give people on the street, like I was, hot meals,” Jerome said. “Some of them would see me and say, ‘Hey, I remember

you were out here and now look at you.’ So that's a good testimony for the Lord.”

Wanting to continue helping others, Jerome then got a job with Hope Center where he facilitates activities in the community for adults with disabilities. However, he also needed a new place to live, and when he couldn't find anything he could afford, Jerome came to Denver Rescue Mission.

“Going to Denver Rescue Mission really helped me out. I did counseling, Bible studies, started a budget, and started putting money in a savings account,” he said. “Just having a safe place to call home, and not be outside, I just really appreciate what they did for me.”

Jerome lived at The Crossing where he was able to continue working and save money for a place to live. After six months, he moved into a shared, sober living home, thanks to the Mission's Pathway Home program. This program connects individuals and families with a case manager and needed support that may be financial or community based.

“I couldn't do it on my own,” he said. “When I left that room at The Crossing, I thought, somebody else is now in that room and is able to get the help that I got.”

As Jerome thinks back on who he was on that bitter winter night on the streets, he is grateful to God for leading him to where his is now. Thanks to God, to the Mission and to people who truly care, Jerome found a path home. “This is a path home. Exactly,” he said.



This Christmas, Jerome is grateful to you for providing a pathway out of homelessness. Give today to help so many others find a place to call home at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.



Scan to Give!



THE MISSION in my words




SCOTT STREBLE

For over 40 years, Scott has worked with nonprofits and NGO's, photographing over 50 homeless shelters—including Denver Rescue Mission for 15 years—food banks, hospitals, family farms, and international relief organizations.

What inspired you to take photos for nonprofits/Rescue Missions?

Initially I wanted to be a fashion photographer but was given a chance to take photos for the Los Angeles Mission and felt like this is the work I should/need to do. I believe in the missions of those I work with, and I realized that photography can be used to shine a light on both the need for services and the results of the good work that is being done by those I am working with. Denver Rescue Mission does such valuable work especially considering the large number of people they serve. Everyone is gracious and welcoming, and I consider it an honor and privilege to work there and use photography to help people.

Are there any memories that stand out to you during your time with Denver Rescue Mission?

I photographed David waiting to check in for the night. He wrote me an email saying, "I know a lot of people out there are way too narrowminded and prejudge anyone at a shelter. I would be glad to do my small part if I can, to possibly reshape a few minds to change their thought process to think all sorts of people can find themselves homeless." David felt empowered to be able to help the Mission and clearly felt like he was being cared for, which is the best-case scenario.



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 

Volunteer With Us!



DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION MEMBER CERTIFIED EXCELLENT



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