

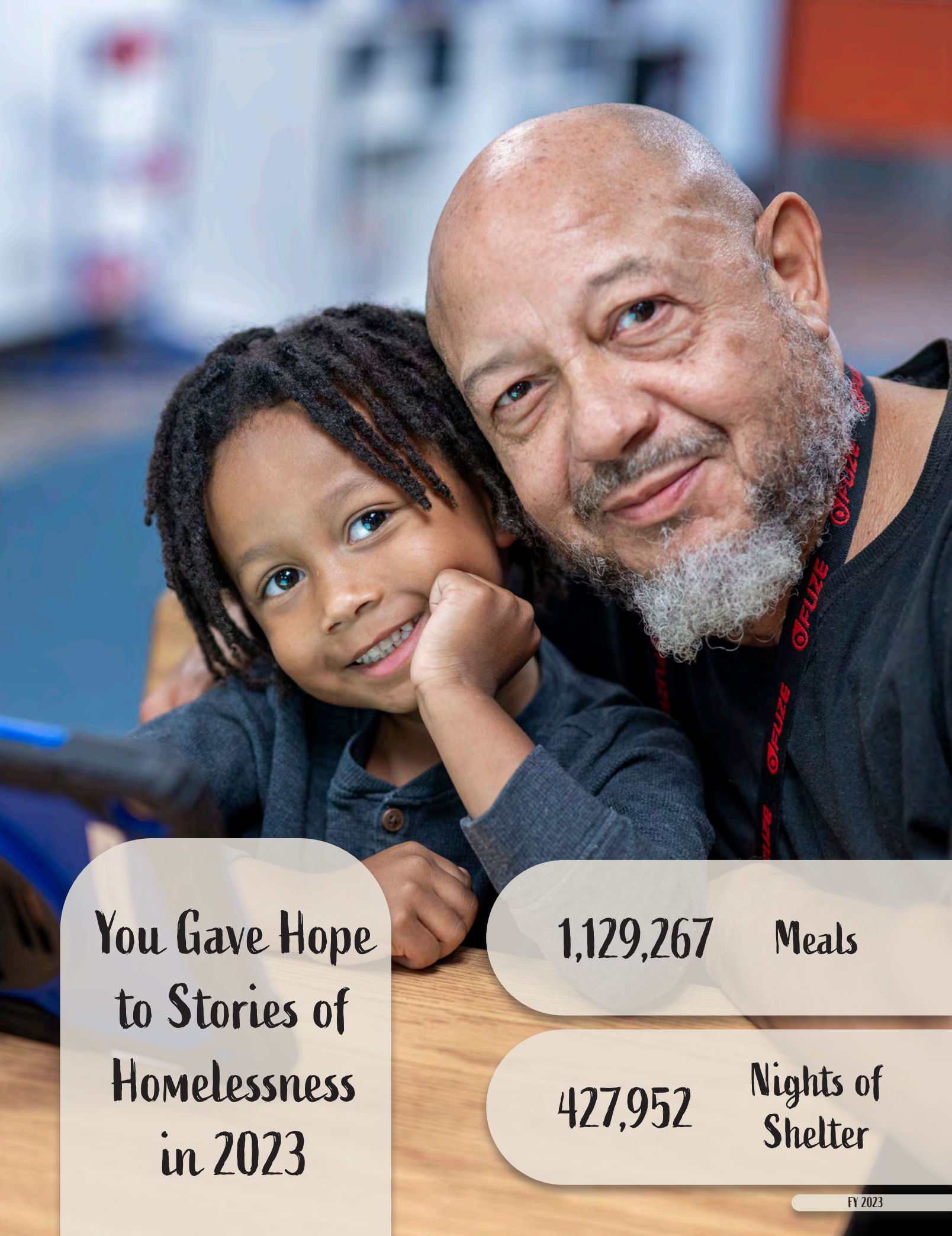
CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHO WE ARE
Called to be



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**



You Gave Hope
to Stories of
Homelessness
in 2023

1,129,267

Meals

427,952

Nights of
Shelter

Dear Friends,

This will be my last letter for our *Changing Lives* newsletter. I sometimes find it hard to believe I have been writing these for nearly 25 years, sharing the stories of lives changed. During this time, we have tried to keep Jesus at the center of this ministry, as Christ's love for us is what motivates us to love all who come through our doors. I believe you will find our Christ-Centered Approach, articulated in this month's newsletter, aligns with what we have been doing for a very long time.

We have an intern program where people come for several weeks and work alongside and learn from us about helping people experiencing homelessness. A recent class of interns had this to say about their experience here:

- "I am more humble because of my time here."
- "My faith and perspective regarding homelessness and the people experiencing it has grown."
- "I loved that I can be real here. It does not matter my color or gender; I have learned that the most important thing is to be real when you are working with people struggling."
- "I was surprised and amazed by the resiliency of both staff and participants."
- "I am leaving here with 'gratitude for giving' for people who donated money to the Mission."
- "I have learned the power of community."
- "I was surprised by how passionate I have become to continue helping people experiencing homelessness. I want this to be my life's work."

I believe I share all of the same thoughts about my own experience. I would admit that I did not really know what I was getting into when I came here. Over the years, I have become more passionate about helping people experiencing homelessness, and I have been so blessed to make this my life's work. There has been nothing quite like watching God work at the Mission. Thank you for making this possible with your prayers and generous donations. I am excited for what's to come for Denver Rescue Mission as Dennis Van Kampen shepherds us into the future.

Grateful for you,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



WHO WE ARE Called to be

In an ever-changing world, Christ has always been at the center of our work. As we have progressed with our three-year strategic plan, one of our initiatives was to clarify how we have been and will continue to show up in this ministry. We settled on four key points: engage mercifully, work holistically, speak truthfully, and believe in miracles.

Christ-Centered Approach

God's work through me is because of God's work in me

To Our Supporters,

"Thank you for your *generosity* and *investment*. There are people struggling out there who are really good people, and you are making sure that there's somebody there when people need help." – Bob

"You got me over a bridge that I needed to get to this side. Please keep giving because *there are more like me* who need that bridge." - Joella

"*I just got accepted for an apartment.* I want to thank everyone, whoever you are out there, you know who you are. I thank God for you for donating to this place because it does work." -Anthony

"I am very *grateful* for every single donor. When you know that you have help and support, *it helps you push forward*, keep going and accomplish those goals. It truly does." -Tonya

"Thank you for helping to change and *save my life*, I am a much better person in all aspects of my life." -Mike

From a Few of the Many You've Impacted



ENGAGE *Mercifully*

We recognize all humans are made in God's image and strive to live out Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves, without judgment. Every day we practice mercy by:

- Welcoming all, with a low barrier to shelter entry
- Never giving up on people
- Handling difficult moments with patience and remembering the trauma of the people we work with

"In our Bridge program we had a single mother with a young child who had disabilities. The mother had become homeless because there was no care or support for her son, so she could not work. As she came into the program, she was forceful in her approach with the staff and could be hard to work with. The staff worked together, encouraging one another to engage mercifully. Over the course of two months, the mother saw something different here and began to relax, trust and engage. The staff was able to walk alongside her and help her navigate the challenges she was facing. When she left Bridge a few months later, they had secured care for her son, which allowed the mother to work, and then obtain housing."

Tracy Brooks, Vice President of Homelessness Resolution

Loving our neighbor as ourselves, without judgment.

WORK *Holistically*

We are rooted in the Mission's historic goal of meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need. As Christ commanded, we love God with our whole self and recognize that we are complex beings who require complex solutions (biological, psychological, social, and spiritual). Every day we provide holistic support by:

- Providing for guests' physical needs through food, shelter and life-changing programs
- Facilitating access to physical and mental health care
- Providing spiritual care and comfort

"This approach involves more than just providing food and a place to sleep (biological). We also need to help individuals work through their thoughts and emotions, which might include support for mental health challenges (psychological). Additionally, we can address the rules and systems in our society that create barriers to stable housing, while assisting people in building healthy habits and social connections to maintain their homes (social). Through all of these efforts, we act in the name of Jesus Christ. As people witness the positive impact of our holistic approach, our hope is that they will inquire about our motivation. At that moment, we are ready to share, in both words and actions, the transformative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Recognizing that we are complex beings who require complex solutions.

John Thexton, Senior Director of Community Life



Welcome Our New President/CEO, Dennis Van Kampen!

Dennis Van Kampen comes to us from Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan, after serving as the President/CEO for 10 years. Dennis will transition from his current role through the end of the year and start as President/CEO at Denver Rescue Mission this month.



SPEAK Truthfully

Following Jesus' example, we recognize the ongoing need to speak hard truths: first to ourselves and then into the lives of the people we serve and systems we engage within. Every day we honor truth and speak:

- Responsively instead of reactively
- At the appropriate time
- With honesty, transparency and hope

"Many years ago, I was helping a participant study for the GED, and he shared all the criticisms he had of me, personally and professionally. As I listened, I remember thinking, 'I know his story. He has seen everyone he loved leave him because of his actions, and I bet he's wondering if I'm going to do that too. I wonder what might happen if I just listen, stay connected to him through this and speak honestly to him?' So that's what I did. I said, 'I really want to keep working with you because I think you can accomplish a lot of incredible things during your time here, but I am getting the sense that you are trying to push me away with all these things you are bringing up. I want you to know that I'm committed to hearing as much as you want to share, and it doesn't change my commitment to working with you. Are you willing to continue working with me even with all my faults?' He was speechless. I could tell he heard what I was saying because his whole posture relaxed a little bit. More importantly, he showed up for our next appointment and eventually he received his GED and he graduated."

Speaking hard truths: first to ourselves and then into the lives of the people we serve.

Seth Forwood, Senior Director of Fort Collins Rescue Mission

BELIEVE in Miracles

Recognizing God's greatness and our frailty as humans, we believe that all lasting growth and healing depends upon the miraculous work of God. Every day we live out our faith by:

- Instilling hope in what God can do
- Knowing that apart from God we can do nothing
- Believing that as people behold the glory of God, they are being transformed into the same image

"It was close to 7:30 p.m. on Christmas night in 2022. I was at the Lawrence Street Community Center and two young women with children came to us for help. They were from a country in South America and had arrived in Denver after a very long journey.

Believing that all lasting growth and healing depends upon the miraculous work of God.

They were able to get into a cab and communicate to the driver to just start driving so they would hopefully find help. When they saw Denver Rescue Mission's 'Jesus Saves' cross they told him to stop. They told our team that they literally felt a presence leading them to us for help that night. When they saw the cross, they knew they were at the right place. Our intake team spoke with them and then called the City of Denver's Migrant Resource Center. The City's team sent a bus to come pick them up and got them a motel room for the night. To me this was an example of God's miraculous intervention through extraordinary circumstances to care for a family without any resources on a very cold Christmas night. All glory to God."

Rene Palacios, Director of Chaplaincy and Community Care



Thank you for answering the call to love our neighbors in need. Your generosity's impact can cast an even wider net at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



THE MISSION in my words




DAN HARTMAN

Dan has been a weekly volunteer, mentor and donor at Denver Rescue Mission for two years. He is an engineer and has been married for 33 years with three children and two grandchildren.

What initially inspired you to get involved with Denver Rescue Mission?

My life was turned around when the Holy Spirit opened up my heart to Jesus and pulled me out of the dark. I enjoy and love giving back, helping people in need and giving them hope. The second most important thing we can do according to Jesus is, "love thy neighbor as we love ourselves," and I wish everyone could give back to make this world a better place.

Can you share any favorite memories from your experience with the Mission?

As a mentor, getting to know Matt and seeing him grow in faith and getting back into society was a wonderful experience. I also have loved getting to know the guests at 48th Avenue Center, the staff members of the Mission who show love and compassion for the people in need and the other volunteers who really want to make a difference. Going to the Mission is like being part of the family.

You and your wife have also donated two vehicles through our vehicle donation program. Why was this important for you to do?

As a mentor you get to hear about the struggles of the person you are with and want to do whatever you can to make things easier for them. After seeing the struggles that Matt had with transportation when trying to get to work, our eyes opened as to just how important transportation is. Giving hope back to people in need is one of the most fulfilling things a human being can do for another human being.

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 

Need a New Year's Resolution?



In just 20 minutes, you can create a free Will through our partnership with GiftWise.

Get started at [GiftWise.com/DenverRescueMission](https://www.GiftWise.com/DenverRescueMission).

Volunteer With Us!



DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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