

CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE



Sacred Spaces *of Hope*

"I come to the sacred space early in the morning. It's a safe place."

- Doug



Dear Friends,

I love Romans 8:31-39. These are some of my favorite Easter verses. Nothing can separate any of us from the love of Christ. Nothing. Not even homelessness, addiction, a criminal record, nothing! Jesus came for every single one of us. That is good news!

At Denver Rescue Mission, we see every single human being as someone made in the image of God. God loves every person, has a plan for every life and sent Jesus for everyone, period. It is because of that truth that we strive to see beyond the behavior and sometimes bad choices our guests have made and instead see them as someone God loves and has plans to prosper and not to harm.

We do this by trying to have the same attitude of Jesus who, Paul writes in Philippians 2, humbled himself, considered others and their needs above His own and became obedient, even dying on a cross for each of us. At the Mission we are at our best when we seek to serve with humility the way that Jesus has shown us.

So, this Easter we celebrate in the joy and hope of our resurrected Savior, and we seek to become even closer followers of Him by serving those who are often described as the lost and the least.

Thank you for investing in the work of Denver Rescue Mission and partnering with us in the work God is doing in and through His ministry!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION *in my words*



Stewart

Stewart is a nine-year-old who loves to play sports, board games with his family and read. He enjoys completing service projects at his school, St Vincent de Paul School (SVDP), and helping those in need.

How long have you been involved with SVDP Serves and why do you think it's important to give back to those experiencing homelessness at Denver Rescue Mission?

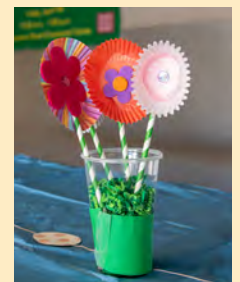
I started working on Denver Rescue Mission projects in first grade. I am in third grade now. I think it is important to help people who are having a hard time. It is nice to give to people because they don't have a home.

How does it make you feel to create things that those experiencing homelessness can enjoy?

It makes me feel happy knowing I am helping someone have joy. It was fun to do these projects and I want to do more of them because I like giving back and helping those in need.

You have helped create centerpieces for tables at our holiday banquets. Do you have a favorite centerpiece you've made?

I helped make tissue paper flower centerpieces for Easter and yarn trees for Christmas. I liked making tissue paper flowers because the colors would make people feel happy when they see them. My favorite centerpiece I made was the Christmas mason jars. We got to color a tag and write notes to make people feel better. I liked knowing someone would get to see my message.



Sacred Spaces *of Hope*



Spiritual guidance is one of the most valuable resources offered within our shelters and programs. Our chaplains lead the way, engaging with our guests and participants in many ways, including: ***Bible Studies, Movie Nights, Prayer Meetings, and Walk & Talks***

1,500

Chaplains connect with between 30 to 50 individual guests per week and up to 1,500 in groups each month



“I think a sacred space is vital in a rescue mission,” Rene, Director of Chaplaincy and Community Care, explained, “because it says that God is here, and this is a place where you can meet God.”

To help foster and encourage spiritual growth within our shelters and The Crossing, our chaplains have set aside sacred spaces—designated areas for guests and participants to have quiet time, pray and read the Bible. For New Life Program participant, Doug, the Mission is where he became a believer, and the sacred space is where he goes each day to grow in his newfound faith.

“Coming into the sacred space reminds me of going into any church. It’s calm. It’s peaceful. I just feel more connected,” Doug said. “It can get chaotic here sometimes with all the people. It’s a nice quiet place to come to pray and reflect. It’s a safe place.”

Doug came to the Mission after struggling with drug and alcohol addiction for several years. He always knew about God, but never made Him a part of his life until he came to the Mission and started engaging with the chaplains. “They are the reason why my faith grew,” he shared. “And my faith is the reason why I’m still sober.”

As a new believer, Doug is looking forward to this Easter, where he will go to church and truly reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

“This will be my first Easter as a believer. I was raised Catholic but fought it the entire way. So it’s kind of exciting,” he said. “It’s comforting to know that Jesus died on the cross for all our sins and so we could be saved. God gave His only Son to us and to be persecuted. It’s mind blowing because I have one daughter, and I could not think of giving her up for anything or anyone. So it kind of astounds me.”



A Life of Calling:

Rene Palacios



"I had a family member who was having some very bad addiction issues. He had called me in the throes of withdrawal, and I was able to take him to a program. Eventually, he turned his life around. Then on Christmas morning that year, I got a call that he had been murdered. He was just having a quiet meal with another family member, and there was a wild party going on at another house down the street, and people started chasing each other, and somebody shot a bullet right through the front window and killed him. I was so sad that I couldn't give him back to his mom or sister.

Within two years, I was serving as a chaplain in a rescue mission, running programs and shelters for men and women. I remember one time a mother called me and said, 'I haven't heard from my son. Can you please go check on him?' And so I found the room where he was, and he was lying on a bed, just covered in blood with empty alcohol bottles on the floor. I took him to the hospital and told his mom, 'I found him. He's in a good place.' Once he got out of the hospital, he came into our program, and I thought, 'I wasn't able to give my family member back to his mom, but over the years, God has allowed me to call many moms, dads, wives, and

husbands, and tell them that their family member is in much better shape.' And so over the years, I've been able to give that kind of good news back to people and, in a sense, give people back their loved ones, and that's really what drew me into rescue mission ministry."

Rene previously worked at Albuquerque Rescue Mission for 25 years and has now been at Denver Rescue Mission for five years, serving as our Director of Chaplaincy and Community Care.



Happy Easter from Denver Rescue Mission! We have been celebrating Easter at the Mission for over 30 years, providing an opportunity for our guests and program participants to feel appreciated and enjoy the season in community with others.

Through banquets filled with delicious food, Easter egg hunts for the kids living at The Crossing and gifting shoes and winter items for those in shelter, we are grateful to our volunteers, donors and staff for helping make our Easter celebrations memorable.



This Easter, thank you for showing those in need that they are valued. Give today to spread joy to others at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!





THE FOLDING STOOL

"In our chaplain's office at 48th Avenue Center shelter, there are Bibles, study books and all those things, but to me, the most important thing in that office is a little folding stool. When a chaplain goes out to do their rounds, visiting with people at their beds, they take their folding stool, sit down and look at our guests, eye-to-eye."

-Rene

Folded, I am carried around,
seeking anyone who's looking to be found

In the hands of chaplains,
we are there for those with lifted and lowered chins

Unfolded, I become a seat
for a chaplain and guest to meet

They sit eye-to-eye,
and I'm grateful that I'm the reason why

We talk, listen and pray
as we sit with those hurting and struggling every day

I may just be a folding stool,
but there's a reason I'm here that's not so miniscule:

To sit with those in need and fulfill a greater vision;
that's what I'm called to do here at the Mission

**YOUR BUSINESS
CAN WORK
ALONGSIDE THE MISSION
HERE'S HOW:**

**Sponsorships
Adopt a Meal
Host a Drive
Workplace Giving**



**Get your company involved at
DenverRescueMission.org/Corporate-Engagement**

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable



REHABILITATION

Equipping men through a life-changing program



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Providing essential needs for daily life



Volunteer With Us!



LOCATIONS

Lawrence Street Shelter | Lawrence Street Community Center | The Crossing | Ministry Outreach Center | Holly Center
Administration & Education | 48th Avenue Center | Harvest Farm | Fort Collins Rescue Mission

DENVER RESCUE MISSION
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



MISSION MEMBER
CERTIFIED EXCELLENT



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

