

APRIL 2024

CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE

*A Healing
Place*

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION



Dear Friends,

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares some challenging words. He informs us that we are to feed the hungry, give clothes to those in need, care for the sick, and welcome in the stranger. Jesus says that in some mysterious way when we do this, we are doing it to Him. When we do not, we are refusing Jesus. He does not qualify who we are to serve.

I am so excited for you to read Nancy's amazing story, which illustrates how Denver Rescue Mission strives every day to follow Jesus and serve those in need. She needed a place to stay, and she was welcomed in. She was fed when she was hungry. She was diagnosed with a terrible disease, and she found care and eventually healing. Her healing was more than physical. Her needs were met at the Mission.

Even more, she was greeted with kindness and compassion. I believe the staff who work at the Mission are heroes. Each day they strive to serve every single person as if in some mysterious way they are serving Jesus. They do not do this for recognition, fame or fortune. They do this simply because they love Jesus, and this is what He said we should do.

Thank you for partnering in the work of Jesus through Denver Rescue Mission and making it possible!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words

Kathie is a Denver native, whose family grew up giving to the Mission, and she has personally been donating to the Mission since 2008. As a retired nurse, Kathie believes that "God loves a cheerful giver," and she truly values helping others.



Kathie Ruesch

What initially inspired you to get involved with the Mission?

It always makes me feel good to write checks to charity, and I truly feel this habit is one that was instilled in me since I was a child, as it was one of my mom and dad's charities they supported. I am so thankful for the example they set, and because God blessed me with the ability to earn a good living as a nurse, I have some funds to be able help others.

You mentioned you were diagnosed in 2020 with stage four pancreatic cancer. Why is it important for you to give back to others when you, yourself, are going through a trying time?

I have been on chemo every other week since April 2020 and still living, which makes me in the two percent of people like me. God has been so good at getting me through this time. If we really live

our faith and we think about what Jesus did for us, to go through cancer, we should take Him along the journey. Whether we're sick or not, we need to continue to think of others because this life is not just about us. That's why you keep giving, because if you are just focused on you or me, you don't gain anything. Whether you volunteer or keep others in your thoughts and prayers, doing it to the end is what our mission is to be. And I think sometimes adversity makes you think about that a little bit more.

What would you say to encourage others to support the Mission?

Come see it, because when you see the effects of the people and the place, you want to keep supporting. You think you know Denver Rescue Mission, but I personally didn't know how many programs, services and the number of people they serve until I was given a tour and talked with those at The Crossing.

A Healing Place

After learning she had stage four cancer, Nancy came to the Mission seeking a place to live. A year later, she left with much more: a community of support, a strengthened faith and a cancer-free diagnosis.



A Time of Adversity

*I*t was the one place Nancy knew she could go. It was as if she was guided there. When she walked in the doors she was greeted with the biggest hello and most authentic, “How are you doing?” that she had ever received.

“I came to the Mission’s office and was greeted as if they were waiting for me,” Nancy remembered. “I was like a child, taking little steps toward this beautiful, happy person. I walked up to the counter with tears in my eyes, and I said, ‘I need somewhere to stay.’”

When COVID hit, Nancy had gone to the doctor and received a diagnosis she wasn’t expecting—stage four ovarian cancer. It was a ripple effect of adversity from there. “I told my family and they just left me. No one called. No one asked, ‘Can I help you?’” Nancy said. “I had to retire, so I had no job and no place to live. I had prepared my vehicle to live in for a while. I was alone.”

Yet despite it all, Nancy’s faith never wavered. “When you know that God is on your side, there’s comfort.”

A Journey of Healing

Nancy never thought she'd end up at a place like Denver Rescue Mission, but when she walked through the front door, she knew she was there by no mistake. "I knew it was the place that I needed to be to heal," she said.

For a year, Nancy was in the Bridge program at The Crossing, where individuals and families have a safe place to live while they transition out of their circumstances—or in Nancy's case—where they can heal.

"Through the classes, the prayers and the community, I started to heal," Nancy explained. "I would go to the doctor to get chemo and the results came back every time that I was healing. The spirit of God through this is phenomenal; it's something I can't explain."

Nancy's daughter and granddaughter also joined the Bridge program during that time, giving her the family she needed. The staff at the Mission were also like family, as they rallied around her with support.

"That was the healing I needed. That was the family I needed," Nancy shared. "I could not be here today if it wasn't for them. It was my healing spot."

Nancy experienced
**FIRST-TIME
HOMELESSNESS**
she wasn't alone

Last year,
44% were also
homeless for
the first time

These *two barriers* are more
common than you think

31%
Chronic health
condition

25%
Disabling condition



The Upper Room

Nancy named her room at The Crossing “the upper room,” because, like it was in the Bible, it was an intimate space for her to pray, worship, fast, heal, and connect with God.

“That’s how powerful it was in there. The upper room, that space, it was where I was led to grow, recharge and rebuild, so for the glory of God, He can use me. I’m healed for that reason.”

A Future of Hope

The Mission is where Nancy was healed in more ways than one: spiritually, mentally, physically, and financially.

With her counselor and case manager’s help, Nancy prayed, took classes, processed difficulties, and laughed for the first time in a long time. She began a physical journey of healing by starting to walk for exercise. And she connected with God like she never had before.

“Food for my spirit was there, and I was stuffed on all those levels,” Nancy said. “The Mission watered a seed that hasn’t left—for my faith to continue, to heal and to help someone else.”

Now, two years later, Nancy is cancer-free. She is in an apartment and looking forward to staying healthy and living out the purpose that God has for her life. She wakes up each morning with a smile on her face, knowing that God has directed her path and will continue to guide her.

“I’m one of those who came out better than I was before cancer,” she said. “My faith is bringing me through each day, and I don’t worry about what’s going to happen tomorrow because God is in control.”



Nancy with her Denver Rescue Mission case manager

Thank you for helping Nancy find the healing and comfort she needed during a time of loneliness and adversity. Give today to help others find healing at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



A Supportive Community

Nancy is grateful for the support she received from staff at the Mission, her daughter and her healthcare team.



Nancy and her daughter



Nancy with her oncologist and nurse

“They were a blessing to me. When I needed paper towels or when I didn't have a mop, they were there.”

Maintenance and Custodial teams

“I was greeted as if they were waiting for me. It was amazing. When I walked in the door, I got this big, ‘Hi, come on over. How are you doing?’ I mean, this big welcome that was authentic.”

Admin Front Desk

“Olivia and I would burst out laughing and Joy has been such a rock in my healing process. The laughter is healing, and just someone being there to share with and a shoulder to cry on, that was big. I needed all of that.”

Case Manager and Counselor

“Chaplain Shaun blessed us as well. She did a couple of classes and we prayed. It wasn't just food for my body, but food for my spirit.”

Chaplain

Thank You Volunteers

You spent 60,373 hours serving in 2023



Volunteer Appreciation Month is here, and we are grateful for YOU!

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 EXCELLENCE



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

