

CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE

SIDE *by* SIDE

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

-1 Peter 4:10



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**



Dear Friends,

Every single day at the Mission we serve anyone who comes to us for help, and we strive to humble ourselves, like Jesus. In this newsletter you will read amazing stories of life change. Each of these stories include many people at the Mission who met the person exactly where they are, without judgment, and humbly served them.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible—and most challenging passages for me to live out—is Philippians chapter 2. The writer, Paul, starts by saying we should not do anything out of selfish ambition, but rather, value others above ourselves and look to their interests before our own. He drives the point home by calling us to have the heart and attitude of Jesus, who humbled himself, served and died for others, for you and me.

When Paul writes that we should value all others, it doesn't mean that there are any qualifiers like, "only serve these people or people like me, or people that I know, etc." Rather, the way of Jesus is to serve *all* others.

We remind ourselves here that Jesus knelt on a dirty ground and washed the feet of the disciples, even the ones who He knew would deny Him and the one He knew would betray Him. Jesus did not pick and choose. He humbled himself and served, and that is how and why we do what we do at the Mission.

Thank you for partnering with us in the ministry!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words

Brad and Margaret have supported the Mission since 1982 through their work with the City of Denver, the Downtown Denver Partnership, the National Western Center, and their ranch, Flying B Bar Ranch.



Brad & Margaret Buchanan

What inspired you to help support the Mission?

If we're not making a difference with everything we do and working to make the lives of others better, safer and more humane, then we're missing the point. The most important way to spend our time is to be of contribution to our community. We believe that this is the key to solving all the most critical challenges we have in our city, our country and our planet. It sounds cliché, but small differences and contributions become large and then enormous, and that is how we will change the world. That is what inspires us about the Mission. They make a difference one life at a time.

How do Flying B Bar Ranch's values align with the Mission's values?

Our ranch donates beef and pork regularly to the Mission. We strongly support providing healthy, sustainable protein to EVERYONE in our community, not

just those who can afford it. Everything we do and the way we do it, has been crafted with a priority for quality, sustainability, animal welfare, and leaving the land better than we found it. Our ranch supports building a truly sustainable community, and that is what the Mission does daily.

What would you say to encourage someone else to get involved with the Mission?

We've been to the Mission several times, and it's gratifying to see the passion their team has for what they do, from the leadership to the frontline workers serving the guests. They are all inspiring and they are an example to us and to our entire community on what it means to be "in community." We know of no more fulfilling experience than to be of service to others. Jump in, do your part; it's not an obligation, it's a privilege.

SIDE *by* SIDE

Work Readiness

As part of our rehabilitation program, men work in different departments around the Mission for an opportunity to:

Everyone who enters through the doors of Denver Rescue Mission has a powerful story to share—our neighbors in need, staff members, interns, donors, and volunteers. *No matter the person, no matter the story, whether they come to the Mission to give or to receive, we believe that God brought them here for a reason.*

Harold's Story

On a Mission to Serve Others



STAFF

“**A**t the Ministry Outreach Center (MOC), I have this policy with the men doing their work readiness: if you need to talk, come into my office. I take off my name tag and we're just talking—recovering alcoholic addict to recovering alcoholic addict. **That's why I work here—to see the changes in people like them and see these guys moving forward.**

I now have 11 years of clean and sober. God saved my life and brought me to recovery. I know what it's like to feel the despair and, in early recovery, feel like, 'I'm just gonna go have a drink.' You need somebody in your corner who says, 'Wait, wait, wait. These are tough times but they're only gonna get better.'

It's about all those old habits of survival and making new pathways. Here, they can set healthy boundaries and learn to work with others. At the MOC, we talk about how to run a forklift or drive some of the trucks, but the most important thing for me is teaching them how to get back into society, just like our mission statement says.

I tell them, 'You guys show up and you're doing stuff that helps people every day. When you leave here you should feel fulfilled like I do.'”

Develop a solid work ethic

Grow in their professional skill set

Gain valuable interpersonal skills

Learn to balance work and their personal life



Shermon worked in the store at the Ministry Outreach Center, where he helped low-income households in the community receive clothing, food and hygiene items. The staff members he worked alongside made a particular impact on him:

"Harold, we talked every single day. He made a huge impact on me, with just trying to be sober and look at life differently."

Shermon's Story

From Being Helped to Helping



GUESTS & PARTICIPANTS

"I was in the service for four years. We drank a lot, so I figured I had a problem, but I didn't want to admit it to myself. When I came back to Colorado, I found out that my family ended up moving.

All I had was my backpack, a couple of clothes and a bunch of documents. I remember I had about two nights left before coming to this program, and there was a guy next door to me in the hotel I was staying in who ended up passing from drinking. That's when I was like, I need to stop doing this and picture myself in a better place.

When I first came to the Mission, I was ashamed of who I became and I lost pretty much everything. But last year, I was able to talk to my family and now looking back, I don't feel too ashamed, because I came to start a new life and I've just been a lot happier.

This program did save me because of my struggle with alcohol. Having a support system here definitely helped me. I've been able to talk about things with a case manager, counselor, chaplain, and staff at the warehouse where I did my work readiness."

Damian's Story

Called to Serve & Learn



INTERNS

“*I* was a truck driver for 22 years and a functioning alcoholic addict for about 30 years. When I got a DUI, I wrote my family and everyone else off. I didn't have a job, didn't have a license, didn't have a house. I ended up living on the street for 12 years. One day, I was looking in the mirror, and I felt this hand on my shoulder and heard this voice in my head saying, 'Look in the mirror. Do you like what you see? You want to go out that way?' And I'm looking at these sunken, bloodshot eyes, my face is all drawn. I look like crap. The voice said, 'Grab my hand. It's right there. I'll help you out.'

From there, everything started to click. I successfully completed a two-year rehabilitation program, moved into an apartment in Denver and enrolled at Metro State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in

human services. One of the requirements for my degree was an internship and I was called to The Crossing to do mine.

When I come to my internship every day, I'm like, 'Yes!' I'm singing as I walk up to the door, always smiling and saying hi to everybody.

I help teach career readiness, and we're doing resume building. **When I talk to the guys in the program I can say, 'I haven't walked a mile in your shoes; I've walked a hundred miles in your shoes.'** It gives me a special kind of perspective and you establish an instant rapport with somebody that way.

At the Mission, we aren't giving somebody a hand up; we're giving someone the way out.”

MAKING STRIDES

Harold

Staff for three and a half years—from shelter custodian to the MOC's receiving and distribution supervisor.

Shermon

Medical school at CU Boulder to registered nurse and hopes to study cancer in honor of his aunt.

Damian

Seven consecutive semesters with a 4.0 GPA at Metro State University after a 40-year hiatus from education.

Thank you for coming alongside us as we work together to make an impact on those who need it. Give today to see your impact multiply at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



INTERNSHIPS



Interns at the Mission get hands-on experience in a variety of fields, including:

Accounting | Case Management | Communications and Events
Counseling | Food Service | Youth

19
Interns Have
Become Staff

74
Interns
Last Year



CELEBRATING DADS

WE ARE SENDING ALL OUR MISSION MEN SOME EXTRA LOVE THIS FATHER'S DAY!

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



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