

# CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE

## Growing Trust

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION





## Dear Friends,

As you read this, I am closing in on six months with Denver Rescue Mission. It has been a blessing! I have been asked a lot what has impressed me the most—my answer is seeing how God is working in and through this ministry.

God is working in and through you, our donors, our prayer warriors, our volunteers, and our staff to do great things in the lives of the people we serve. Recently some in the media have questioned whether our results are good enough. The numbers they report do not take many factors into account, but that is a story for another day. Today I want to share with you one story that is representative of stories that happen every day through the Mission.

Recently, a man graduated from our New Life Program at The Crossing. During his time here, he reconnected with his daughter and obtained visitation rights due to showing a recovery-focused attitude. Additionally, he maintains employment as an electrician and moved into a market-rate apartment with the help of our Pathway Home program.

Praise God for this story and for the Mission. Throughout my career working in this space I have often wondered, *'What if we were not here?'* That is not to say that we are the only ministry or organization doing great work—there are so many others! But what is it about the Mission?

Last year we helped 539 households obtain housing and are on track to help even more this year! Countless people voluntarily found faith or grew in their faith. Dozens graduated from our rehabilitation program, clean and sober. We served almost 11,000 unique individuals, many who suffer from mental illness, in emergency shelter, offering dignity and a path to stability.

Simply put, the work of this ministry could not be done without you, your prayers and your financial support. I am grateful that the Mission is here, and that God has called us to carry out this work together to make a difference one life at a time!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

## THE MISSION in my words



Linda Rieger

Linda has supported the Mission since 1990, is a Pathways of Hope monthly donor and a Goodheart Society member.

### What has personally impacted you from your time supporting the Mission?

When I started donating, someone at the Mission reached out to me and wanted to meet me. I never would have thought that would happen. It made it more personal and made me more connected to and informed about what all the Mission does.

### Do you have any favorite memories from your experience with the Mission?

The time we ate in The Crossing cafe and took a tour of the whole place. I remember the room for the kids where they did homework and seeing individual housing options where families could get a foundation under them and have someone work with them. That, to me, is the most impactful thing about Denver Rescue Mission. Yes, they do "hots and cots," but the fact that they can give people

a foundation to build a life on, to maintain sobriety, to reunite with their families, to get a job, to become independent, to become educated and responsible. The entirety of the programs is what keeps me committed and involved. And that's why I am in the Goodheart Society, because I want to make a long-term impact, just like Denver Rescue Mission.

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

I did not realize the networking between the Mission and others and how much they work together. I was totally unaware of that. It's a lot more than the "Jesus Saves" building downtown. It's not a one-size-fits-all; it's much more than that. If donating funds isn't your choice you can go volunteer. They can use people with all different gifts to give, whether it's time, money or knowledge.



# Growing Trust

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In the New Life Program at Harvest Farm, men often find healing through caring for animals. It was through a special bond with a calf named Bolt that Ron learned to trust again, set and achieve goals and find purpose in helping others.

“I feel like the animals are the ones that saved my life.” -Ron



**Y**ou see it all the time in movies—Snoopy and Charlie Brown, Toto and Dorothy, Mushu and Mulan, Lassie and Timmy. There’s a special bond that takes place between humans and animals, not only in movies, but at our very own Harvest Farm.

For New Life Program participant, Ron, the Farm is where his relationship with Bolt, a young calf, began.

After coming down with pneumonia, Bolt was given a five percent chance of survival. “He couldn’t walk, or even stand up by himself. We had to call a vet to help who told us some steps we could take to attempt to save him,” Darrol Telck, livestock coordinator, explained. “Ron stepped up big time and fed Bolt five times a day with milk replacement and electrolytes and stayed in the barn with him every second he could.”

Ron would check on Bolt in the middle of the night, and within a few weeks, Bolt was getting better. He found a sense of purpose in taking care of Bolt, but when another cold

snap hit the area, Bolt sadly passed away. Although difficult to process, Ron is grateful for the bond he built with Bolt and credits him for restoring his trust in people.

“I feel like the animals are the ones that saved my life,” Ron shared. “When I took care of Bolt when he was sick, all he needed was somebody to love him, give him attention and talk to him. **It taught me how to let people in, to love people again and give people chances.**”

Cows, goats, pigs, chickens, donkeys, and more—the staff at Harvest Farm know how beneficial animals can be to recovery. Counselor Christopher Kaplan explained, “There’s an endless amount of things that you could derive from developing a relationship with an animal. Now we don’t want it to end there. It needs to be a stepping stone back into healthy relationships with other people. But it certainly is a profoundly useful, therapeutic tool that helps reengage with human beings, grow and trust again and learn how to set boundaries.”

Darrol added, “The animals play the most pivotal part in their healing—allowing them to be themselves and not be judged for anything in the past, because the animals only care that you are consistently there to take care of them.”

For Ron, losing five of his best friends in high school set him on a spiral with alcohol abuse and losing the trust of those he loved. “My family and friends, I’ve lost everybody’s trust,” he said. “But gaining the trust of the animals has helped me a lot. I just needed something to trust me to help push me forward.”

Not only has Ron gained the animals’ trust, but he has learned to trust the staff at the Farm, and even encourages newer participants of the program to open up and connect with staff and others in the program.

“I’m surrounded by a lot of good people who have faith in me and who I can come and talk to,” he shared. “When I’m not thinking straight, or if I need advice on something, I go to them.”



# New Life Program

The New Life Program (NLP) offered in Denver and in northern Colorado provides an ideal place to start many men's path out of homelessness. For those who thrive in a more rural environment, the Farm offers unique work therapy opportunities and open space for a fresh start.

**86%**  
Farm NLP  
One-Year  
Success  
Rate in  
Housing  
Last Year

While in the program Ron set and achieved several goals—he got his driver's license, passed a food management license test and completed his GED. Now his goals include repairing his credit as well as helping others.

"That's what I try to tell these guys here, to set a few achievable goals and work for it. It gives you accomplishment—even if it's the slightest goal—it gives you strength and courage to make another one," Ron said. "I think that's my calling, to help others. That's when I'm happiest."

Ron graduated from the program in April and looks back on his time at the Farm, his time with Bolt, as a time of transformation.

He credits the New Life Program with helping him feel calmer and less angry. "I just feel more at peace with myself. It brings pride to know that I've made it this far," he shared. "I know I can connect with people because I was homeless for five years and I know the struggles they go through. If they see me doing the right thing and doing good, I'm hoping I can touch them to do better."

**YOUR GENEROSITY**  
can help us nurture growth,  
healing and renewal for  
people like Ron on their  
journey to recovery.

Join us by giving at  
[DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).

Scan to Give!



# Bids For Connection

Requests to connect, whether in the form of verbal expression or physical outreach

"Human-to-human relationships can often be complex. With animals, it is a very simple relationship

that is frequently rewarded with obvious signs of affection. **When an animal is answering those bids for connection** constantly, through petting and things like that, the animal clearly likes it, and you feel liked and seen by that animal. And then, the animal rewards that behavior with a desire for more attention. It's something that pulls you out of yourself—**you're taking care of that animal and at the same time, you're taking care of yourself.**"

- Christopher Kaplan, Harvest Farm Counselor

## 4 REASONS TO GIVE MONTHLY

1

### CONSISTENT IMPACT

Ensure steady support for essential services.

2

### SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Help break the cycle of homelessness.

3

### CONVENIENT GIVING

Set it and forget it—make an automated gift, hassle-free.

4

### EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Get priority opportunities for volunteering, educational events and more.

## JOIN US

[DenverRescueMission.org/PathwaysOfHope](https://DenverRescueMission.org/PathwaysOfHope)



**PATHWAYS OF HOPE**  
MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

### 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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