

CHANGING LIVES

132 YEARS OF SERVICE

Welcome
To Your Next Step



**This team of case managers
has one main goal:
to help those experiencing homelessness
find stable housing**



Dear Friends,

Before I began working in rescue mission ministry many years ago, to be honest, I judged people experiencing homelessness and many others too. I saw their behavior and I jumped to judgment.

One day, I sensed God reminding me that Jesus says in Matthew 7, *“Judge not unless you want to be judged.”* He also asks, *“Why do you look at the speck in someone else’s eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?”*

The truth is, every single human being is made in the image of God. Because of this we all have enormous value—those experiencing homelessness, those struggling with addiction, those with a criminal past, those who look different than ourselves—every single one of us.

Throughout these pages you will read the story of Larry who struggled in many ways, and for years. His story is not unlike the many we see come through our doors. And yet, there is a God who loves each person and has created them for a purpose. At the Mission, we work to love and help each person find that purpose and their next step out of homelessness.

When God was transforming my own perspective many years ago, He reminded me that He does not hate any one of us and He did not give His son for only *some* people. Rather, God LOVES all of us, the whole world. John 3:17 says that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it. So if Jesus did not condemn people, why do we think we can?

I am still human and sometimes I still find myself falling into judgment. The difference is, now I ask God to help me act differently, to see as He sees. And *that* is the work of Denver Rescue Mission.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words



Rachel Mouyos

Rachel is the Customer Service Manager at Sysco/Sygma, which has been supporting the Mission since September 2022.

What initially inspired Sysco/Sygma to get involved with the Mission?

We at Sysco/Sygma wanted to find a way to give back to our community and we quickly learned The Crossing was right in our backyard. The first thing we did was assemble care packages, then volunteered to serve dinner as a leadership team and the rest is history. Sysco/Sygma’s purpose is “Connecting the world to share food and care for one another.” Donating time, inventory and more gives us the opportunity to do just that. It helps bridge some of the social and economic gaps we face in the community.

Housewarming boxes help provide basic resources for newly-housed Mission guests and program participants. Why were these important for Sysco/Sygma to donate?

It gives the chance for all of our colleagues to give back as a team, while helping someone who may need it. Everyone bands together to fill the boxes by bringing in a basic item that will positively impact the life of a stranger. It’s really special. I hope they help families by easing pressure off them, while they are working to get back on their feet or starting over completely. Moving into a new home is stressful no matter what the circumstance and I think housewarming boxes help relieve even the smallest amount of pressure.

What would you say to someone considering supporting the Mission?

Do it! It costs nothing to donate your time, and time is something that is beyond valuable. It may make someone else happy and that is a reason to smile.



A Letter from Larry

"I was a man with a troubled past. Growing up a poor Black kid, I faced many challenges and struggles. After graduating from high school, I enlisted in the Navy, hoping to find a sense of purpose and direction in my life and to get away from the violence that was happening in my neighborhood.

After eight years of service and the loss of my children from two failed relationships and one divorce, I turned to crime that would ultimately land me in serious trouble.

As I sat behind bars and reflected on my life, I knew that I had made mistakes, but I also knew that Jesus Christ had the power to turn my life around. With a newfound sense of determination, I vowed to serve God, in the name of Jesus Christ, to make the most of my time in prison and emerge a changed man.

When I was finally released, I dedicated myself to doing God's will, rebuilding my life and making amends for my past mistakes. With the support of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, family and the amazing staff at Denver Rescue Mission, St. Francis Center and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, I was able to start fresh and leave my criminal past behind me. I may have been a man with a troubled past, but I was and am determined to create a brighter future for myself.

I would like all of the Mission staff and its board to please continue doing what you are doing because it is truly 'Changing and Saving Lives.'

How do I know? Because it is my life you all have helped me change and save."



Your support helps us nurture growth and offers hope and transformation to people like Larry every single day.

On the wall of the
case management office
at 48th Avenue Center it says:

Welcome To Your Next Step



“From the moment I first walked through the doors I was greeted with warmth and professionalism. I have felt supported and encouraged every step of the way.”

-Larry

He came to the Mission with a past of crime, severed relationships and current health issues. Shortly upon arriving at 48th Avenue Center—a 24/7 shelter operated in partnership with the City of Denver— Larry decided to get connected to a case manager, which offered the structure he needed to take the first step of many on his journey out of homelessness.

With 513 men staying at the shelter, the team of case managers has one main goal: to help those experiencing homelessness, like Larry, find stable housing.

“It’s the structure in my day-to-day life that helps move and propel things and helps me set a schedule for myself,” he said.

Once Larry was connected to his case manager, Julia, she asked questions to determine his immediate and long-term needs and his current barriers to housing. Some questions included:

- *Are you connected with a primary care provider?*
- *Do you need mental health or substance use support?*
- *Do you have any income? If so, what kind?*

“We’re addressing a lot of different things,” Julia said. “Even things like, ‘Are you building community outside of the shelter?’ We’re trying to build up a support network that is still going to exist when they leave shelter.”

Once identifying what those needs and barriers are, a case manager can then direct a guest, like Larry, to the right resources.

“I got the bus pass. I did ‘Dress to Impress;’ that’s where I got this beautiful shirt,” Larry said. “She gave me the hookup for medical transport to transport me to appointments for free. It has kept me functional. I’m rested and meeting all my appointments.”

Several organizations even come directly to the shelter, such as WellPower and Veteran Affairs, making it easier for guests to access resources.

“When Larry came to case management he had already applied for housing and needed to gain some understanding about the best organizations for additional resources,” Julia shared. “I’ve been working with his case manager at Colorado Coalition for the Homeless to make sure we’re setting Larry up for success when he moves out.”



Many guests get connected to the Mission's Pathway Home program when they leave shelter, which provides families and individuals with assistance with their first month's rent and deposit toward long-term housing as well as mentors from the community.

"We want to be a source of stability within instability, and we do that by offering honesty and integrity in everything that we do with them."

"We need to offer all these various connections to make sure that they're supported when they are in housing," Kelsea, next step manager of housing stability, said. "It involves so many different organizations, but that part is so important."

The Mission can also assist guests with household items and furniture when they first move into housing. Many guests are referred to the Ministry Outreach Center to get donated furniture for free, and the Mission's Housewarming Box program helps provide household essentials with donations from the community.

The Mission also has a team of staff who research and meet with providers to vet resources in order to offer our guests the best possible support.

"We don't just Google something and say, 'Hey, try this out,'" Kelsea said. "These guys have been let down a lot. We want to be a source of stability within instability, and we do that by offering honesty and integrity in everything that we do with them."

For Larry, he is grateful for Julia and the whole case management team for supporting him from the day he walked in, to when he will soon move into his own apartment.

"From the moment I first walked through the doors I was greeted with warmth and professionalism," he said. "I have felt supported and encouraged every step of the way."

Case managers offer hope that, with one step at a time, guests can live a life beyond homelessness.

"People like Larry remind me that you can impact people in ways that you'll never understand," Julia said. "Just greeting guys in the morning, smiling, addressing them by name, and offering them dignity is a huge way to impact people."

PATHWAY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

INTAKE

CASE MANAGEMENT

Helps People Secure
 Vital Documents
 Benefits & Services
 Income
 Community Connections

CASE LOAD:

Up to 30

people at a time

20

hours/week engaging with guests

HOUSING

574

households moved into housing last year

AFTERCARE



Scan to Give!

Give today to support others

on their next step out of homelessness at

DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

Moments of Impact



John

"One guy had a tough background, but we were able to get him housed. I think all the gentlemen here show resiliency, but we pray for a time where they don't have to be resilient anymore."



Chloe

"A client talked about being on the sidewalk with a cardboard sign and how he felt so cast out by society. He said, 'I don't feel like I have any close people in my life who take the time to listen, and I feel like I can get listened to here.'"



Kelsea

"One guest was experiencing massive health issues, had gone through a divorce and lost a custody battle for his kids. He was able to be housed and seeing him go from sadness and despair to tears of happiness was just the greatest thing."



Julia

"There was one client who dealt with strokes that impacted his cognitive abilities and I worked with him until he got housed. Seeing the transition and progress he made was impactful for me."



**THE RiNo 5K is
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024!**

Five percent of all registration fees are donated to Denver Rescue Mission.

Register at Rino5k.org



HELP PEOPLE LIKE LARRY
with the essentials
as they move into their new home

[DenverRescueMission.org/
HousewarmingBoxes](http://DenverRescueMission.org/HousewarmingBoxes)

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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