

CHANGING LIVES

133 YEARS OF SERVICE



Can We
Stop Homelessness
Before It Starts?

Dear Friends,



Jesus cares deeply for children. When he was on earth the culture of the day did not value children at all. They were less than. It is in this culture that Jesus says some pretty important things. He takes children in His arms and blesses them. He tells His listeners that unless they have faith like a child, they cannot enter the Kingdom of God. He even says that if anyone causes harm to come to a child it would be better for them if a stone was tied around their neck and they were thrown in the river. Jesus cared about and valued children and He still does.

According to the latest HUD report, family homelessness increased 39 percent in 2024. During the 2022-23 school year, 1.4 million children and youth experienced homelessness in America. Forty percent of all people evicted in America are children. Finally, we know that at least 44 percent of the adults experiencing homelessness first experienced it as a child.

What if we could get upstream? What if we could do something to keep families with children in their homes and not become homeless? The great news is that we can. Many Missions around the country have had great success launching prevention programs and keeping families in their housing. Last year the

Mission I used to lead prevented over 300 families on the verge of becoming homeless from ever losing their home. In 2025 Denver Rescue Mission will launch a Prevention Program pilot to get upstream, keep families with children housed and impact the number of adults experiencing homelessness we see years from now. We want to try to break the cycle.

Helping a family remain housed makes sense. It makes economic sense. One of our partners who works with families on a national scale reports that we can prevent a family from becoming homeless on average for a one time help of \$1,400. It is far more expensive to help them leave homelessness once they have entered the system. It makes sense from the perspective of breaking the cycle of homelessness and impacting future homelessness. It also makes sense spiritually. Jesus loves the little children. These kids did not ask to be in this situation and did nothing to cause it. At DRM we are excited to bless children and families and help them out of their current situation, one life at a time.

In coming months, you will hear much more about this exciting program. As always, we cannot do this work without you. It will take extra resources to launch this pilot program. I would humbly ask you to prayerfully consider helping this become a reality.

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words



Anna Leer

Anna is the Senior Vice President of Programs at Young Americans Center, which has been involved with the Mission's Youth Center since summer of 2024.

How do Young Americans' values align with Denver Rescue Mission's values?

We come together in our unifying mission of providing financial education to kids, no matter their background or circumstances. A big component of that is saying, "We get it. A lot of these financial structures are set up in such a way that maybe you don't feel like they were set up for you, but let's teach you about them so you can benefit from them just like anybody else."

What are some of the things that you teach our youth?

Our YouthBiz curriculum, which is our entrepreneurship curriculum, teaches students how to come up with a

business idea, how to do the research and how to figure out how much it's going to cost. Then we host bank sessions and talk about how you can get bank accounts started. For many groups, we provide the initial deposit funds to make it accessible to start utilizing those financial tools in real time.

How does this partnership aid us in the effort to prevent homelessness?

It's working with kids where they are with respect and dignity and providing them with the exact same tools and information that we provide any other young person. It's important to let kids understand how they can make their money work for them, how they can generate passive income through interest and the safety of banking, which helps kids see a future that's different and creates self-efficacy.

Can We Stop Homelessness Before It Starts?

"We believe we can."
-Dennis Van Kampen

**You know the
Mission as an
organization that
helps people find
a pathway out of
homelessness.**

**Today, we are
sharing our
present and
future approach
to make a greater
impact—stopping
homelessness
before it even
starts.**



PATHWAY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

What if we never met Gloria?

Gloria came to the Mission after living several months on the streets with her boyfriend and dog. She never learned how to read or write, so getting a job has always been difficult. But with the Mission's help, she was able to move into an apartment.

“

I had nothing and they helped me with my furniture, my house and then they helped me with my car because it broke down and they fixed it.

-Gloria

Gloria's struggles didn't end when she got into housing because maintaining housing is a whole other challenge that many individuals and families like Gloria face.

"Gloria faced significant health and mobility challenges following surgery on one leg. She relies on her car to attend medical appointments and grocery shop, which is vital to maintaining her independence and housing stability," Manager of Housing Services, José Kabeya, said. **"When her vehicle required urgent repairs, the Rapid Resolution contract covered the cost. This support allowed Gloria to reallocate her limited financial resources to pay rent and other essential bills, preventing potential eviction."**

By restoring her transportation, Gloria was able to avoid reentering the cycle of homelessness. Providing such assistance is exactly what we want to do more of at Denver Rescue Mission, swimming upstream to ensure people get help **before** homelessness becomes their reality.

In Gloria's case, our team was able to help prevent her from losing her housing. Now imagine if we can help even more people and **prevent them from ever experiencing homelessness at all.**

RAPID RESOLUTION

136

households helped

"Rapid Resolution assistance is like oxygen for individuals and families facing homelessness, meeting them at their most critical moment and helping them transition to and maintain stable housing. Without it, just like in the ICU, they risk falling back into the vicious cycle of homelessness, with no hope of finding a way out." -José

The purpose?

Focus on getting people quickly out of homelessness (diversion) or prevent them from entering homelessness altogether

How?

Assisting with first month's rent and deposit

Paying an auto repair bill

Providing gas money or bus or plane tickets

Paying rent arrears

Impact On Our Guests?

Secure and support stable housing

Pay rent and bills to avoid eviction

Maintain employment

Reunite with loved ones

This contract was awarded to us in 2023 alongside other organizations through the City of Denver and has been renewed for 2025.



scan for more
about our case
management teams

574

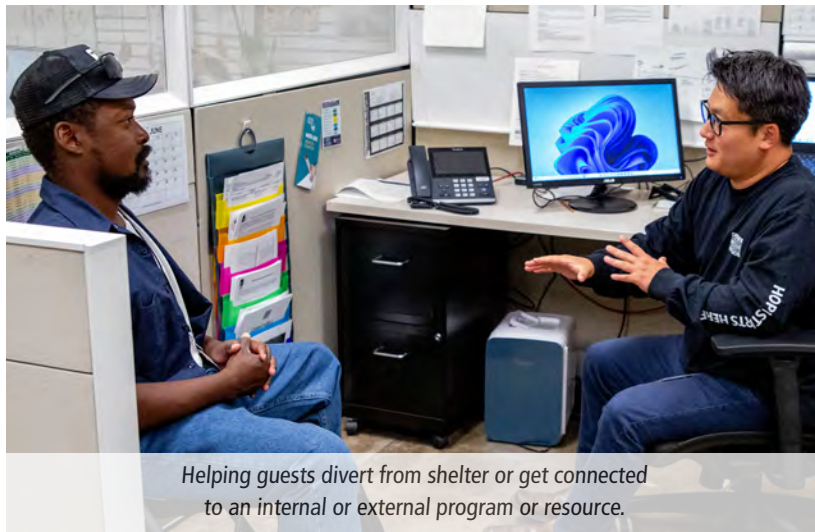
households moved
into housing last year

INTAKE APPROACH

"It costs a lot for someone to enter the homeless system, and once they enter, it's really hard to get out and they're exposed to a lot of traumas," said Deb Butte, Senior Director of Homelessness Resolution. "So, we are not being kind by letting anybody in that doesn't need to be in it."

At every location, the intake team asks each guest questions to evaluate if we can divert people from shelter if there is a better choice for them. For us, the diversion conversation most commonly centers around transportation, or lack thereof. Often, we are able to help guests reunite with family or loved ones by providing gas money or bus or plane tickets.

"We coordinate everything, making sure that everything aligns with the same goal of moving them into long term, stable housing," Manager of Housing Services, José Kabeya, said. "That is diversion, so people can be there instead of that person being on the street while they're waiting for their rent approval or whatever it is."



Helping guests divert from shelter or get connected to an internal or external program or resource.

For many of the guests who we help obtain more stable housing (574 households last year), we work hard to set each person up for success so they can **maintain** their housing.

Our Future Impact

This year we plan to launch a Prevention and Diversion division that will build upon what we are already doing in this space and do even more.

We will seek to identify and

work with families and children who are not currently experiencing homelessness but are on the edge through partnerships with school systems and our Youth Center. The goal is to help keep them from ever becoming homeless, as data has proven it is far less expensive to prevent a family or individual from becoming homeless than to try to help them leave homelessness later.

Thank you for helping us in this work!

Stop homelessness before it starts.

Give today to help prevent homelessness, reunite families and support individuals on their journey to independence at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.



Scan to Give!



Our Client Services Store

We are also helping families and individuals who need extra support receive hygiene items, clothing, food, and furniture through our Ministry Outreach Center.

“It's very rewarding being able to help people and see the smiles on the kids' faces when they get new shoes or certain items.”

Shannon Farr
Client Services Coordinator

“I come here primarily looking for hygiene products. I'm very grateful for it. It's a humbling experience to seek out these resources, but you realize you're very fortunate that the goodwill of the people in the community makes this possible. It could literally prevent someone from getting sick. It can give someone hope to be an active participant in society. For example, hygiene products could help someone get a job interview and be successful in a job. You just help extend life and extend hope.”

Justin, 48th Avenue Center Guest

“They have very, very nice stuff here, a lot of clothes and shoes. It's very much appreciated. It fills in the gaps and takes the pressure off, because I have a set income, so now I don't have to worry as much about that.”

Matthew, Former Bridge Program Participant

“It's a tremendous help. I try to come once a month, but even that, we've noticed it makes a difference. Thank you. You help a lot of families.”

Consuelo, Mom to Three Kids



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 EXCELLENCE



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