

APRIL 2025

# CHANGING LIVES

133 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Anything is**

**POSSIBLE**

**DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

## Dear Friends,



As we enter this holy season of Lent which then leads us to Easter, the day when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord, we often ask ourselves, "Who am I?" The answer according to the scriptures is that we are people created in the Image of God. In Genesis 1:26 we read, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'" We have an inherent dignity and worth. Our God calls us to know Him and to be known by Him.

However, this image has been broken and shattered by sin. We need more than superficial cleansing. We desperately need to be resurrected and recreated in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians we see that we are, "to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Gregory of Nazianzus, who was born in 329 A.D., was also known as Gregory the Theologian, and served as Archbishop of Constantinople. Gregory said this in a sermon that he preached one Easter:

"Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am [resurrected] with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him...Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us...not gold, or silver or costly stones, but rather...Let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor the Archetype— [our God]; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died."

I am thankful to God that at Denver Rescue Mission we "Believe in Miracles." We are often blessed to see people whose image has been marred by sin restored by the Creator back into His Image and restored back into fellowship with Him as precious gifts that are of infinite worth in His eyes. And we thank you for joining us in this important work!

Gratefully,

Rene Palacios | Vice President of Programs

## THE MISSION in my words

**Kim has been involved with the Mission for three decades as a volunteer and for over two years through his nonprofit bike shop, "More Better Bikes," by repairing and replacing bikes for youth and adults at The Crossing.**



Kim Skattum

### **What does your involvement with the Mission look like?**

Before this bike shop, I pastored a church and would always gather people to serve at the Mission, usually downtown. And then I started the bike shop in 2017 where we do low or no-cost repairs. We hire high school and college students and have eight adult volunteers. We do a lot of servicing for the homeless, foster kids and people in need. We've gone to section eight apartments, The Crossing and libraries. We just try to get to places where people can't afford bike repair and do neighborhood clinics to empower people to fix their own bikes. We also got a trailer donated, so we fitted it for a mobile bike shop, and last summer, we did a hands-on training bike repair event for the community at The Crossing. It was really quite encouraging because they were so eager to learn and very, very grateful. Working with

Denver Rescue Mission is a very fulfilling way of spending your life for the betterment of somebody else. And what a great impact that has.

### **What kind of impact do you hope to make on the community through your bike shop?**

It's the way I can contribute a skill that I have to help a sector of the community with a basic need for transportation that's critical for those who don't have the ability to drive their own car. Last year, we were just shy of 1,000 bikes that we gave away and/or worked on with free repairs. We just do what I think we're supposed to be doing for our community, and it makes a big impact and has helped hundreds of people. The transportation aspect of a bicycle can change a life, so don't underestimate what acts of love and service can make a difference.

A close-up, profile shot of a man with a beard and glasses, laughing heartily. He is wearing a dark jacket. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting. A teal vertical bar is on the right side of the image.

# Anything is **POSSIBLE**

**Lloyd's life spiraled through addiction, loss and homelessness—until his daughter's heartbreaking plea pushed him to change. Through faith and determination, he rebuilt his life and found purpose in helping others do the same.**

# THE OLD LIFE

**“When my daughter said to me, ‘Dad, what are you doing? You’re hurting me,’ that’s what hit my heart. I told her, ‘Okay, kiddo, find me a program and I’ll go.’”**

After over 20 years of battling addiction, these words from his daughter were the spark Lloyd needed to ignite his motivation for change in his life.

Lloyd started drinking and smoking marijuana at the age of 14 as a way to cope with his anger and navigate his emotions. “I was adopted at four months, and so I kind of always carried this around with me, of why my true family didn’t love me enough to keep me.”

As he grew up, Lloyd watched his adoptive parents struggle with health issues. As a teenager, he had to perform CPR on his father two times before he later passed away. His alcoholism only grew worse after that, and that is also when he began using methamphetamines.

“When I lost him, it was very detrimental to my myself, my mind, my emotions, everything. I didn’t know how to control it,” Lloyd remembered.

Lloyd’s twenties were spent taking care of his mother, and at the same time he was deep in his addiction,

going in and out of jails and prisons, getting a divorce from the mother of his two children, and ending up in another toxic, codependent relationship.

“When my mom passed, she comes running out the front door saying, ‘Lloyd, I can’t breathe.’ And so I sat her down in a chair, and she died in front of me, like my father did. Both of these situations became very heavy in my heart and my mind.”

After each traumatic experience, Lloyd continued to turn to substances to cope. And when his last relationship ended, that’s when he started experiencing homelessness for the first time.

“I was living in a tent. I was going in and out of the 48th Avenue shelter, not knowing where my life was going to end up. I wanted to get sober. I just didn’t know how,” he said.

Lloyd’s children were calling morgues looking for him, not knowing if he was dead or alive. That was the wakeup call Lloyd needed, and his daughter helped him get into a program at Stout Street.

From there, Lloyd’s journey of sobriety began, and after a few months he joined the Mission’s New Life Program at The Crossing. “At this point, my sobriety started to stick,” he said. “I knew what I wanted. I wanted my kids back. I wanted my life again.”



# THE NEW LIFE

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”**

**- 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Lloyd's time in the New Life Program was a total transformation. Through counseling, taking classes, building relationships with the staff and other participants, and establishing a relationship with the Lord, his life has never been filled with so much hope.

“I started working on my relationship with the Lord, getting more in touch with where He wants me more than where I want me,” Lloyd said. “I'm just super thankful where I'm at now, because it wouldn't be without Him.”

Not only did his spiritual life improve, but Lloyd's physical and relational health improved, as he has since reconnected with his children and his sister. In addition, his education and training improved, through classes at The Crossing and through CrossPurpose, a nonprofit that partners with the Mission to offer free training and certification in various industries and trades. Through them, Lloyd received HVAC training, which helped him obtain the current job in HVAC that he has now.

“I made a promise to my kids: you'll never, ever be calling another morgue looking for you father; I will never do that to you ever again,” Lloyd said. “Because of that promise, I worked harder, I fought for it. I kept myself motivated.”

Lloyd also got connected with a peer coach who encouraged him during his time in the program and motivated him to also become a peer coach now that he has graduated.

“I am a peer coach to some of the guys [at The Crossing]. I'm the type that if you need me, I'm coming to see you. That's what my peer coach did for me,” Lloyd said. “I just want them to see that it's possible. It wasn't always easy for me, but there has got to be something that you hold onto that makes you not want to go back out [on the streets]. There's gotta be that one strong motivator.”

Today, Lloyd has another motivator for his life: to help others who are going through what he went through. He now lives and works at a sober living community, is a peer coach and is inspiring others to not give up on their journeys of recovery.

“I've lived in a tent. I was at 48th shelter. I was one of the guys on the street pushing shopping carts around, holding a sign. I've done all this. I just don't want it no more. I want better for my life,” he shared. “So, from me to the guys just coming [to the program], or the ones struggling with being here, the two things I want to be able to tell anybody is, don't leave, and find your motivator. Because this is the best I've ever done in my entire life. And it's all because of God.”



**Lloyd's story is proof that change is possible.** This Easter, people like Lloyd are relying on your generosity to provide hope for them to rebuild their lives. Give today at [DenverRescueMission.org](https://DenverRescueMission.org)/ Changing Lives



**Scan to Give!**

# What Does Easter Mean to You?

**Lloyd** “Jesus died for all of us. Look at the two people who were next to Him on the other two crosses. They were murderers and thieves, and He still forgave them and came back for them.

I think me being in the darkest moments of my life, He knew that I would call out to Him. He knew that I was just like one of the guys on the cross next to Him. I've had some dark moments, but because of my faith, He knew that if He called me, I would come running.”



## Thank you Volunteers

You spent **64,069 hours** serving in 2024  
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

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