

CHANGING LIVES

13 YEARS OF SERVICE



For Our
CHILDREN

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

Dear Friends,



Jesus loves kids. When He was on earth, He blessed children, He pointed to them as examples of what our faith should look like, and He issued stern warnings toward anyone who would harm a child.

We know that homelessness is increasing significantly in Colorado and around the country. HUD found that overall homelessness increased 18 percent last year in America. In the 2022-23 school year, 1.4 million school-aged children experienced homelessness at least once during the year. Nearly 50 percent were chronically absent from school. We also know that across the nation, at least 43 percent of adults who are homeless first experienced homelessness as a child.

These statistics are alarming! If we let them, they could demoralize us. However, our God is bigger than any of these statistics. At DRM we believe that through the power of Christ, together, we can turn things around for children, families and others experiencing homelessness.

In this newsletter you will read a story of one family we were able to help. This story is repeated with so many other families

throughout the year. As we move further into 2025, we are moving forward with plans to launch Prevention Programs in Denver and Fort Collins. The Prevention Program will seek to help families with children who are still housed but about to become homeless, stay housed. Frankly, it is far less expensive to help a family stay housed and become stable than it is to help them leave homelessness once they have entered in.

We also know that helping to stabilize the family and prevent them from becoming homeless helps the children. They get to stay in their own school, neighborhood and community.

For families who do enter into homelessness, at The Crossing we have special age-appropriate rooms designed for kids from zero to 18 with staff trained in helping them grow, develop and simply be a kid in the middle of the family crisis. At any given time, we are serving between 40 to 50 kids from our Emergency Family Shelter and Bridge program.

We could not do this without your faithful prayers and financial support. At DRM we love and serve families and kids because Jesus did the same. Thank you for making our work possible and partnering with us to change the world, one life at a time.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words



Bridgit & Sam Tingley

Bridgit and Sam have been involved with the Mission since 2021 as Pathways of Hope monthly donors and volunteers.

What do you love about serving at the Mission?

Bridgit: Part of what was surprising was how much I felt a sense of purpose. Sometimes my time is about a new volunteer who I get to share with how things go and why I am there, and other times, I'm the scanner and I get to interact with the guests. But it's not always about why I want to be there; it's how God wants to use me in that role.

Do you have a favorite memory that stands out to you?

Sam: We got to have one interaction with a guest who came in just to get a meal, and he began by thanking us for being there. It opened up a dialog of just, "Try to spend the night, see what you think, see if this is different from your past experiences." The next time we got to see him, he told us he was on the housing track. It was encouraging.

How does your faith influence your involvement?

Bridgit: We want to love these guests, want them to feel seen, want to show up for them, and want to be intentional. Some of the guests ask for prayer or tell us that they're praying for us, and I'm happy to be able to say that back and actually mean that.

Sam: Just trying to lead a life of service. Working every day to be open to everyone and to meet everyone where they are, letting go of judgment and just accepting people.

What would you say to encourage someone to get involved?

Bridgit: Just sign up for one shift, and you will be surprised where you go from there. I wouldn't have taken so long to serve if I had known that what we get out of it is so amazing and incredible.

A photograph of four children on a swing set in a park. A young boy in a red shirt is swinging happily. A boy in a black jacket stands behind him, smiling. A girl in a striped shirt is swinging, and a boy in a plaid shirt is pushing her. The background shows a building and a clear sky.

For Our CHILDREN

Homelessness
among families with children in
Colorado grew by
134%
in 2024

This is heartbreaking,
and yet, families all
across Colorado are
struggling to stay
afloat during the
current affordable
housing crisis.

LET THAT SINK IN.

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development report reveals that Colorado was one of four states where family homelessness more than doubled.

When Kalina and Danny faced an eviction, they feared for their children's future. But through the Bridge program at the Mission, they found not only shelter, but hope, support and the tools to rebuild their lives.

It feels hopeless for so many. For families like Kalina and Danny's who are doing their best to support their four children, it's a real challenge to work high-enough paying jobs and pay for all the necessary expenses.

"We had an eviction note and we had to get out right away from where we were living. We used to live in a hotel or motel or sometimes in our car if we didn't have enough income coming in," Kalina remembered.

Kalina shared that it has always been a struggle to save their money, especially because they just want the best life for their kids.

"Sometimes it makes me think, 'Why is it that families can afford [life] and ours cannot?'" she said. "As a mom, sometimes I cry, just cry. It always makes me feel like I'm not doing good, I'm not the best mom. But then here, all that heaviness, all the stress, I can feel it helps a lot. This place has helped a lot."

"I'm so thankful for the staff and everybody that has been a part of showing us love."

Do you feel like you had that love and support from others before?

"Not that kind of love and support, no."

Their family joined the Mission's Bridge program at The Crossing in October 2024, just in time for the winter. It was the saving grace they needed to provide their family with a safe place to be as they worked hard to save money and pay off debts.

In addition to case management, counseling and taking different classes, the Youth Center has been a huge benefit to not only their kids' futures, but their family's future as well.



"I've been looking at my kids, and I'm seeing a lot of changes in school. When it's almost 4:30 p.m. they just want to go [to the Youth Center] because they're in a good environment," Kalina said. "I don't trust just anybody with my kids because I struggled when I was a kid, but seeing them want to go, I know that something good is happening over there and I don't want to hold them back."

Danley (14), Daniel (12), Amarissa (9), and Danbi (7), always look forward to their time spent at The Crossing's Youth Center, not only for the fun, but to learn useful skills for their futures as well.

Danley said, "The teen room really helps because of how they're organized with the time of studying and working, with some breaks. And especially the workshops that we recently were doing about money, like what's investing, what's the debit card and credit card, that kind of stuff. It was fun, and it was very interesting for me to learn. It helped me a lot with saving."

Daniel added, "I like the tutoring. They're really helpful, and my grades are getting better than last year. I'm that kid who's always asking my mom when it's almost 4:30 p.m. We usually just run to it, and we have fun. Even though it's tutoring, it just gets us smarter."

Not only that, but each of their kids have their own Bible for the first time ever.

"I pray that my kids grow up and serve God with all their heart and be love to the community," Kalina said. "I want them to finish college and have a good job, so they cannot struggle like we do. I want them to become humble kids and help like how the people here are helping them."

Family is the most important thing, and Kalina is grateful that God led them to the Mission. "I'm grateful for what God has been doing, like answering all the struggles and helping us," she said, "giving us the best people and teams here with Denver Rescue Mission, leading us to here and the way they've been helping my family."

For Kalina, Danny and their children, the Mission has been more than just a shelter—it has been a new beginning. As the crisis of family homelessness has grown, the need for community support and places like The Crossing has become essential. No family should have to face homelessness alone, and together, we can help put an end to homelessness, one family at a time.



Last year we helped 574 households find more stable housing; join us to help even more this year. Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

Happy Mother's Day!

"I am thankful for my mom because of the way she takes care of us. Even though we struggle, she carries us and feeds us. I'm also thankful for her working and her buying me clothes."

- Daniel

"The thing I like about her is every time one of us is sick she stays right next to us and takes care of us."

- Amarissa



Thank you for helping moms like Kalina know that they aren't alone.

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
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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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