

JULY 2025

CHANGING LIVES

133 YEARS OF SERVICE



BECOMING ME
AGAIN

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

Dear Friends,



In perhaps His most famous sermon, Jesus shares the best possible way to live. In what is called the Sermon on the Mount, one of the things Jesus says is, *"Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."* **Give to the one who asks and do not turn away.**

It is easier to give to someone who asks who we know or believe is worthy. Yet, this is not what Jesus commands. Jesus does not qualify by saying, "Give to only those you know or those who appear worthy." He calls us to give, period. In the same way, Jesus commands us not to turn away. It is so easy to turn away. It seems as if there is need everywhere.

In this newsletter you will read about Randy. He bravely shares his story of hardship and challenge. Randy came to Denver Rescue Mission and asked for help. I am so grateful that the staff welcomed Randy in, they gave to him, they did not turn away. In doing so, Randy's life was changed. In part because the staff decided to follow the words of Jesus.

This is who Denver Rescue Mission is. Jesus is why we do what we do. We are working to change the world, one life at a time, through the power of Christ. Yet, we could not do this work without you.

I am amazed at how God works all things together for good. Not everyone can work for DRM and work closely with guests like Randy. But everyone can follow Jesus and play a role in this work. We could not do this without you and your prayers and financial support. Every time we ask, you respond and do not turn away, and that allows us to give to guests like Randy and not turn away. This is the beauty of God's Kingdom.

On behalf of the staff and guests of DRM, thank you for your unwavering support. Know that we will be good stewards of all we are given as we help those who come to us.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION *in my words*



Mark has been a volunteer with the New Life Program since 2014 through his nonprofit, A Stronger Cord, where he leads a weekly workshop and an offsite "Service Saturday" opportunity.



Mark McIntosh

What inspired you to get involved with the Mission?

There was a time in my life where I was going through disappointment, and I was doing way too much unhealthy consumption of alcohol and recreational drugs. But only through God's grace, I got through that. I felt God saying, "McIntosh, I've given you certain gifts and talents, go help those guys." They needed somebody to run the morning devotion for the New Life Program guys, and so that was the birth of A Stronger Cord, and we've been doing it ever since.

What do you do every week with the New Life Program participants?

I have a slogan, "See what others can't envision." That's what I try to encourage, saying, "Some people can't envision you having a

successful life, but I know Denver Rescue Mission sees it, and A Stronger Cord sees it. We just have to convince you to see it." We talk about sports, we talk about life, we talk about faith. We weave in Scripture and bring in various sports personalities. It's a way to build a social network for when they graduate.

Is there a moment of impact that stands out to you from your time serving?

It's really fulfilling when you see guys graduate and they move on, and you see how they're doing well. And you have an understanding that maybe A Stronger Cord played a role in that. I think God calls us to use our gifts and talents and serve others and so I'm just trying to be obedient. I mean this is not work; this is a calling. I just am enriched and filled up when I hang out with these guys.

BECOMING ME AGAIN



From broken relationships, to getting his car and belongings stolen (including his mother's ashes), to ending up in a wheelchair, Randy has been on a grueling journey of homelessness.

There he was, outside Lawrence Street Shelter, ready to be done with life, when an interaction with a Denver Rescue Mission staff member sparked a new hope in him. **One that saved his life.**

"This angel came walking out to give this one guy a bus ticket because his dad died. She brought him out stuff for the trip, so he had something to eat. I was listening to her," Randy remembered, "and I said, 'I wish I could find something like that.' She goes, 'What do you mean?' I explained to her, and she wheeled me inside, and for four hours we talked. I stayed the night there, and the next day was at 48th. I had her crying because I told her, **'You were made to do this job. You just saved my life, and you don't even know. God sent you to me.'**"

Randy was at his lowest moment at that point. Neuropathy had limited his mobility significantly to where he could no longer get around without a wheelchair. He could no longer work his manual labor job because of his disability. He was alone, and yet he wasn't. God was there guiding him, leading him directly to the Mission.

"It's been a whirlwind. There were several times where I didn't think this was going to happen—me being back on my feet again, me being me again," Randy said.

The hardships Randy endured made him question God. "I had given up on God. Every time I got up, I got put down. I realized though, that maybe I was making the wrong choices. So I started thinking, 'How can I change it?' I didn't know, but this Mission has been amazing."

"He approached me looking discouraged and tired. What struck me most was his unwavering optimism and resilience in the face of so many hardships."

-Mara Wood, Intake Specialist

Having a reserved bed at the Mission's 48th Avenue Center allowed Randy to not only get the physical resources he needed, but the spiritual and emotional support he needed as well. Because of his peer navigator, case manager and chaplain, he was able to get his birth certificate, an ID, his own Bible, and now an apartment. "They've all collectively inspired me to get where I am now. It's just amazing that three people could change one person's life."

The biggest gift he received? Randy says that Chaplain Josh gave him the gift of believing in God again.

"It was bigger than even this apartment. There is nothing bigger than getting your belief back again, and he brought that to me. I didn't care about anybody or anything when I got here, not even myself. Just the way he talks, with such a kind heart, he wasn't judging me, wasn't telling me what I should or shouldn't do. Just gave advice. He never not listened. I could not be here if it wasn't for him."



And thanks to Randy's work and help from his case manager, he moved into a place of his own for the first time in three years.

"I haven't been me in three years. I'm ready to be me again. I'm ready to venture out into the world again," he said. "I thought that I was going to be *placed* in an apartment, I didn't think I was going to get to *pick* mine. In a million years I wouldn't have thought this was going to happen. And thanks to the Housing Choice Voucher, I can walk through that door and know it's my home."

Now Randy is looking forward to the simple things of life, like watching T.V. in his own living room. But most importantly, he wants to give back to those who helped him and to those going through what he went through.

"I want to give back to the place that gave to me. I want to help other people who think this can't happen to them, but it can. They just got to put the work in. No one should ever have to go through this," he said.



**"Without donations,
I wouldn't be here.
Without donations,
I'd be in the grave.
Thanks to Denver
Rescue Mission and all
the donors who made
this possible, I got my
own place."**

You make home
possible. Give today at
[DenverRescueMission.org/
ChangingLives](https://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives)



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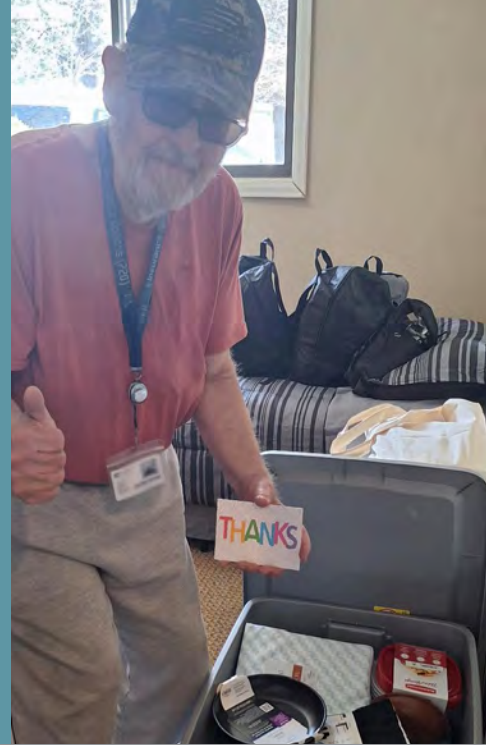
Did you know

that evictions are at an all-time high in the summer months?

Give a **Housewarming Box** to help those like Randy not have to choose between paying for rent or for household necessities.

"All the essentials, that's huge. I have nothing, no spoon, fork, nothing. This has been the scariest part, not knowing what I'm going to be able to get and not be able to get." -Randy

DenverRescueMission.org/HousewarmingBox



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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