

CHANGING LIVES

133 YEARS OF SERVICE



It Takes a Village

“We appreciate our community for rallying around us. It takes a village, and they are our village.”

Dear Friends,



"He (Jesus) took a little child whom He placed among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'"

-Mark 9:36-37 (NIV). The Message version puts it this way, *"He put the child in the middle of the room. Then cradling the little one in his arms, He said, 'Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me and far more than me—God who sent me.'"*

I remember a song we sang in Sunday School when I was a little kid, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world...." Jesus loves kids, all kids. When He was on earth, He blessed them. He warned anyone against bringing harm to a child. He even told adults that they couldn't enter the Kingdom of heaven unless they had faith like a child.

At DRM we love and care for children who are experiencing one of the hardest times in their short lives. We do this because Jesus did, and He commands us to, as well. We have tiny infants and high school students and every age in between.

These children did not ask to experience homelessness. Growing up in this world is hard enough—imagine having to do it while experiencing this kind of difficulty.

Yet every single day the staff at DRM welcome all these children in Jesus' name. They care for them, tutor them, take them on field trips, and do their best to help them feel like kids, regular kids.

These children are a blessing! Last Thanksgiving our staff put up a gratitude tree. Anyone could take a paper leaf, write down something they were thankful for and then put it on the tree. Here are some of the things kids wrote down.

"I'm thankful for my family, school and God for giving us food and a roof over us."

"I am thankful for my mom, dad, teachers. And most importantly God!"

Faith like a child. Thank you for making it possible for us to serve and care for these kids! We simply could not do this without your prayers and financial support. The need has never been greater, but God is greater than any need. Thank you for allowing God to use you in supporting this ministry!

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION *in my words*



Rachel is the Spiritual Lead for the Mission's Young Professionals group and has been involved for about two years.



Rachel Langholz

What inspired you to get involved with our Young Professionals (YP) group?

Something that I really respect and admire about how the Mission approaches things is they, of course, are going to meet the physical emergency needs, but I'm continuing to learn about what they do more long term. YP is structured with three pillars: serve, learn, connect. It allows folks to come in and experience the work the Mission is doing, learn about why and connect with other people who care about it just like you do.

How has being a part of YP personally impacted you?

It's very easy to be self-absorbed in the life that we live, and so it really humanizes a group of people who are easy to stereotype. And

meeting people who work at the Mission has been very inspiring. Just their love for these people and how much they care for the population that many people tend to ignore has been really impactful.

How would you encourage others to get involved with YP?

Being part of an organization where you have the confidence that they are doing very intentional and missional work is something that isn't easy to come by in a big city. There are a lot of ways to be involved. We packed meals for Thanksgiving and decorated the youth room for Christmas. Every month you can serve dinner. We've been able to have different educational events. Being part of YP is a gateway to the broader organization for other ways you can plug in and support the work.

It takes a village

of people to support our kids and families at The Crossing and empower them towards a future unmarked by homelessness.

The Mission's Youth Center has long served as a safe haven for children and teens as their families transition out of homelessness and into stability. Made up of three age-specific rooms, kids participate in after-school activities, homework help, financial literacy classes, Bible studies, and more. These programs allow kids to simply be kids, while nurturing their confidence, character and lasting resilience.



The Youth Center has helped me with . . .

"My feelings because it's a **safe space** for when I feel sad or scared or overwhelmed."
-Jiera

"Feeling better, stronger and **happier**."
-Joshua

"The opportunity to learn more which has made me feel **more confident** at school and smarter."
- Jasilyn

"Making me feel better because my parents trust Miss Asha and Miss MC, so they know it's a good place for me to be. I learned that I can trust other adults that aren't my parents. It makes my family feel different because we are stronger and **building a better version of our family**."
- Kalley

"Making me see the **importance of kindness** and how to find goodness in people. I also learned how to use kindness to help when I am in arguments."
- Sophia

The Youth Center makes me feel . . .

HAPPY
FREE KIND
AMAZED





Why we show up for our kids

STAFF



Miss MC

Children, Youth & Family Manager

"The work we do is deeply relational. You have to build rapport with both the parent and the child in order to get either of them in the door. But once they are in the door, we have an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and do really great work with them during a time of instability and impressionability. Every day when they run in and they jump in my arms and they have a smile on their face, it immediately puts a smile on my face too. **Giving our kids and families access to opportunities like financial education, mentorships and spiritual guidance is laying a foundation for a brighter, more resilient future.**"



Miss Asha

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator

"I get to meet kids where they're at. I get to talk to them about the Lord and let the Lord heal them. I feel like I'm home and where I'm meant to be. **We're trying to show them that you see limitations, but we see that you can be limitless if you put in the work and you do it.** So, we're going to give you the opportunities, and we're going to pour all the love and resources that we have into you so that you can do it for yourself."



Mister Jesus

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator

"**I grew up navigating systems similar to these, going through the juvenile justice system and experiencing a stint of homelessness.** Fortunately, I had some people who really influenced me and so now I'm on the other side of that coin, and hopefully doing the same for some of our youth, and specifically our teens. I think there's no better investment into community than into our youth and that's the beauty of the programming that we do."

HOW WE TEACH OUR TEENS

- Life-skills workshops where, upon completion, they get a Chromebook*
- Career panels with professionals in the community and mock interviews
- Weekly Bible studies
- Financial management through Character Coins

*Provided by a grant from Google

VOLUNTEERS

"It takes a village, and they are our village. They are mentors, they are teachers, they wear as many hats as we do." - Mister Jesus



JOHN

"When the kids start coming in, and they give you a hug because they're glad that you're here, that really makes it all worthwhile. There's one young gentleman who doesn't like math, but after working with him for several weeks you could just feel that sense of accomplishment that he can figure this out. When you make that kind of breakthrough with a young one, it's always gratifying."



EMILY

"I try to tell them, 'Go through it, learn from it and know that you're going to be on the other side of it so much better for it.' And then I try to remind them that they are kids because I think they take on a lot of parent roles with their siblings. It's our responsibility to say, 'Go be a kid because it goes by really fast. Don't take that burden on.'"

INTERNS



KAYLA & KATIE

"I'm really hoping that we can make them feel so loved and valued and just empower them to believe that they can do this and they can be a person who can overcome really, really hard challenges. They know that they can rely on us being here, and the kids love Miss Asha and Mister Jesus because they consistently show that they care about them." -Kayla

"Every day we're here adds consistency for them, consistency

that maybe they don't get at home. Every day they walk in, they know there are people who will listen to them. I've watched kids run in all giddy, super excited to tell me about their day. And then over time, we talk about, 'You can go home and talk to God because He is your best friend at the end of the day.'" -Katie

Did you know? We rely on 30 Youth Center volunteers per week!

You complete our village

Our kids aren't here by choice, so while we can't prevent them from ever experiencing homelessness, you can join us to help prevent them from ever falling back into the cycle.

"We are going to invest in them, we are going to care for them and we're going to change the conditions so that they grow and thrive and become contributing members of society. That's what we're doing here."

-Mister Jesus

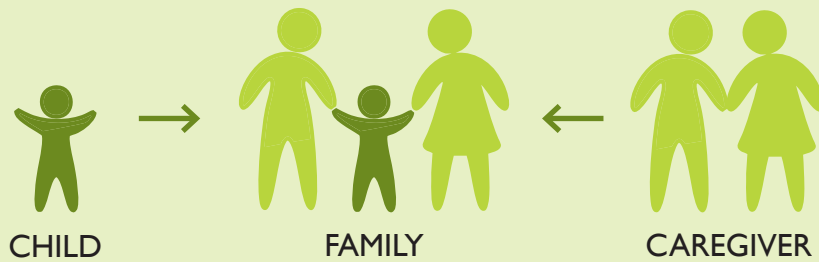
Our kids need you!

Donate today to rewrite homelessness out of their futures at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

How we are embracing the “2Gen” Model



BREAKING
THE CYCLE OF
HOMELESSNESS



"If we are really going to drastically shift the trajectory of their lives, we have to do work on all fronts." -MC

All of our Youth Center programs support at least one of the "2Gen" pillars, which reference Ascend through Aspen Institute and the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Back to School!



To kick off the school year, our youth received new backpacks and school supplies!

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



Join Young
Professionals



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:



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