

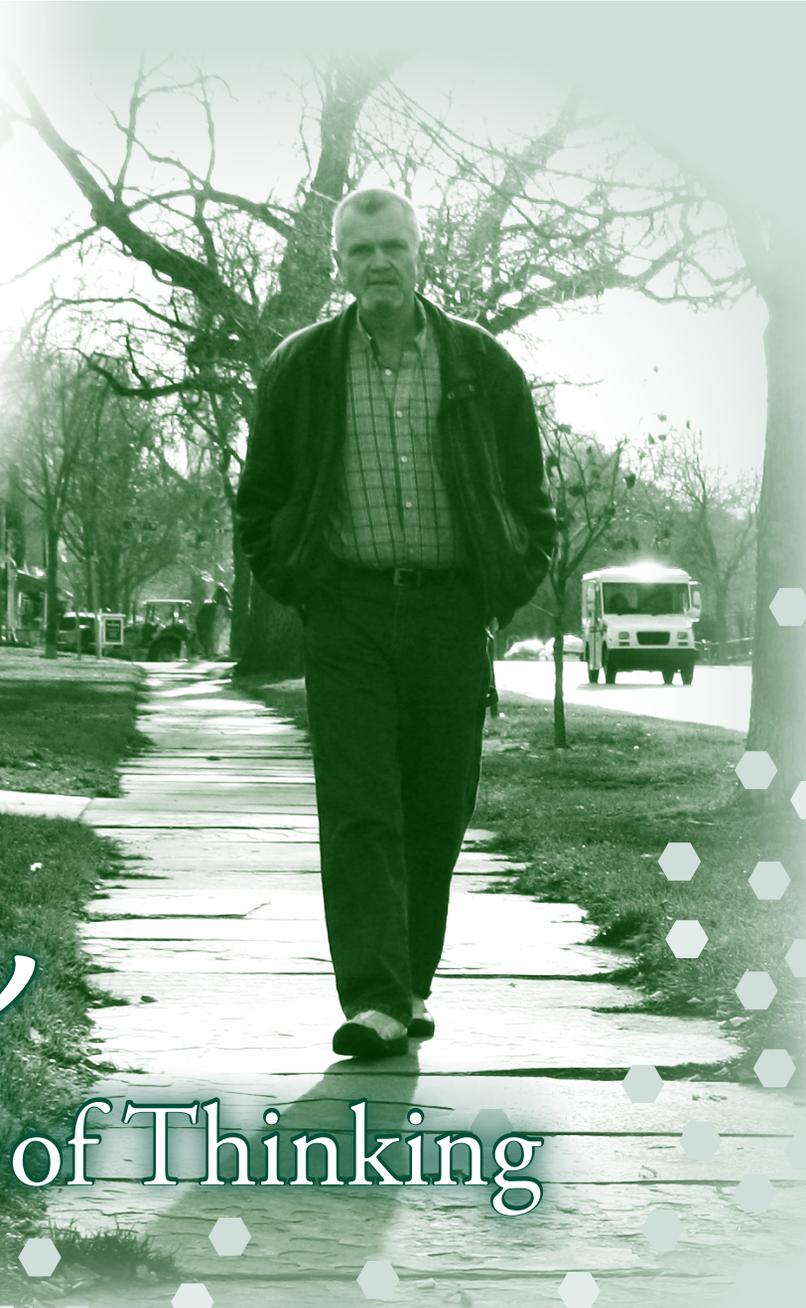


DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

119 Years of Service

Changing lives

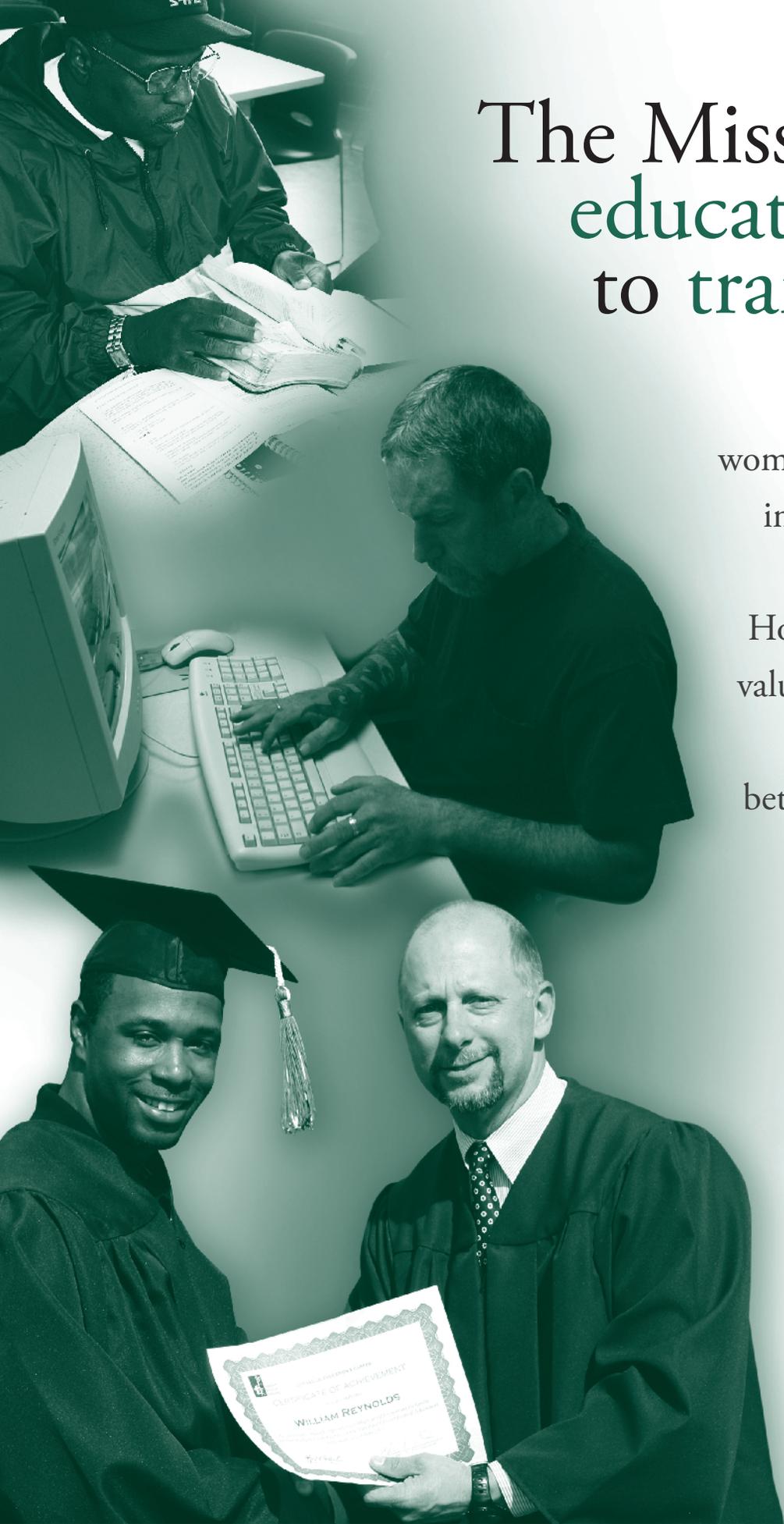
www.DenverRescueMission.org January 2011



A New Way of Thinking

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)



The Mission believes education is *vital* to transformation.

Whether helping men and women in our New Life Program improve their reading levels or providing STAR Transitional Housing Program families with valuable job and life skills, we're laying the groundwork for a better future one class at a time.

Last fiscal year, 30 program participants earned their GEDs, while 86 took a courageous next step and pursued higher education.

The power of learning is undeniable, and together we can help the needy uncover their life's true potential.

Break

Charles' Story

They put so much effort into you here. I got so much energy from being at The Crossing, even from doing things I didn't want to do at first.

When Charles began his journey through the New Life Program nearly two years ago, he bore the scars of a lifetime of unhappiness. Though proud of raising his son Chad as a single parent, he relentlessly battled alcoholism and employment issues and felt he was leading a life void of purpose.

"I was always getting signals that something inside me wasn't right, I just didn't know what it was," Charles recalls. **"But ever since that first night I came to the Mission, things started going right for me."**

Before officially entering the program in May of 2009, Charles completed his Program Candidacy phase at the

Mission's Lawrence Street Shelter. It was here, readying men for their overnight stay and keeping a watchful eye over guests from the shelter's indoor "tower" area, Charles felt an empowering sense of accomplishment.

"I advocated for the tower job, and working there made me feel responsible," Charles says. **"I felt good accomplishing something because I had really come from doing nothing."**

Two months later, Charles moved to The Crossing and began exploring the roots of his lifelong discontent. Through the program's Christian-based counseling, Charles realized the abuse he endured as a child led him to numb his hidden pain with drugs and alcohol.

"I didn't think [my childhood] bothered me, but looking back, I realize it did," Charles explains. **"I know now that I was drinking and getting high because I was trying to self-medicate;** they give you a lot of time to think about that stuff here."

Charles also discovered a concept that long evaded him—goal setting—while completing his work therapy duties as a driver for the Mission's

I had to accept the bad things in my past to get beyond it.

During his stay at the Lawrence Street Shelter, Charles found purpose in helping other guests settle in for the night. "It really lifted my spirits when I volunteered for jobs; you just get into the giving mode when you're at the Mission," Charles reflects.



Surrounded by the faith and support of The Crossing's chaplains, Charles celebrates completing the New Life Program.

through



"I was surprised how much my thinking changed."

Charles is working on his Building Performance Institute certification (BPI), and is learning to inspect homes for their level of energy efficiency. As a future Certified Energy Auditor, Charles is hopeful his new skills will lead him to successful employment.

warehouse. He recalls how this experience, along with The Crossing's employment classes, motivated him to begin working toward his Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification as part of the Denver Green Jobs Initiative.

"I never really set a goal in my life before this; I just went day to day," Charles says. **"I got so much out of every class I took here. My experience at The Crossing really gave me a new life."**

Above all, Charles believes his blossoming relationship with God was the main catalyst behind his transformation. **Once spiritually uncertain, Charles was inspired by the knowledge he gained from weekly Bible studies with Chaplain Rod Viera, as well as his attendance at nearby Grace Church.**

"The number one thing I've gotten from here is understanding my relationship with Christ," Charles reflects. "Things I wasn't too hot about, like going to Bible study and church, became things I enjoyed. **I was surprised how much my thinking changed.**"

Charles is currently in the New Life Program's Post-Graduate program and is on the waiting list to move into an apartment with his son Chad. **Thanks to your support, he also received newly fitted dentures, as well as a donated car, and is looking toward the future with confidence.**

"I had to accept the bad things in my past to get beyond it," Charles says proudly. **"I never thought I would be getting all this from the Mission!"**

To post a note of encouragement for Charles, log on to Facebook and type "Denver Rescue Mission" in the search bar to locate our fan page.

From the CEO

Dear Friends,

Right before Christmas I found myself sitting in a church at a children's Christmas program. For many years it was my own children that I watched on stage (often wondering just what they might do!), but I now have the great pleasure of watching my grandsons perform. Let me just add that it is a lot easier being a granddad than a dad on these occasions, as I have no responsibility but to sit patiently, enjoy the cookies and punch afterward, and tell my grandsons how well they did!



As I watched the program I could not help but notice my own son and daughter-in-law, along with so many other parents, snap pictures, take videos, lean forward in the pew so they could see better, and wave at their children who were up in front trying to stand still and sing their little hearts out! What hopes they have for their children, what joy they seem to express at seeing them join in this event, and what pride these kids take in having been in their first performance!

I think this is the way we as staff at the Denver Rescue Mission feel about the families we are privileged to help. We love seeing hope restored in the eyes of folks who have struggled with homelessness, their joy becoming real once again. We love seeing our youth director and volunteer mentors helping to build self-confidence in the children, and steering many of them out of the generational poverty that has plagued them from the beginning of their young lives.

Two years ago, one of my grandsons cried through the entire Christmas performance and had to be rescued by his dad. This year he made it through with flying colors, brimming with self-confidence supplied by those who love him. Thank you for allowing us to "love up" on the kids and their parents who come to us for help. We want to see them come through with flying colors in the performance of life. Self-sufficient, happy, hopeful, filled with tears of joy, changed forever by the power of Jesus Christ—these are our goals for the participants in our programs. As this New Year begins, please join me in wild anticipation for how God is going to work at the Mission in changing lives for eternity!

God bless!

Brad Meuli

The Great Thanksgiving Banquet

Because of your support, the Mission became family to the homeless and needy in our community at Thanksgiving. On Wednesday, November 24th, the Lawrence Street Shelter was full of life as nearly 400 men, women and children enjoyed a holiday feast. Led by Honorary Host Governor Bill Ritter, over 50 volunteers, including Governor-elect John Hickenlooper, helped feed the needy as well as give out a new hat, gloves and scarf set to all guests. Qwest also generously provided free long distance phone calls for everyone in attendance. Thank you to all who helped make The Great Thanksgiving Banquet a genuine success!



Thanksgiving Banquet-in-a-Box

With the help of faithful volunteers, the Denver Rescue Mission distributed over 1,100 Thanksgiving food boxes to low-income families on Tuesday, November 23rd.



Volunteers from Ponderosa High School National Honor Society filled each box with Thanksgiving treats ranging from cranberry sauce and yams to pumpkin pie filling. As always, thank you to all our volunteers who made this Thanksgiving a genuine celebration for the less fortunate.

Turkey Drive Runneth Over!

Thanks to a remarkable community response, the Mission received an incredible 18,175 turkeys during our annual turkey drive! Because of your generosity, we were able to provide nearly 17,000 turkeys to various organizations and churches in Colorado who help feed the poor and homeless. Thank you to each individual, business, church, and organization who donated!



Mission Events

Presidents Day Event

Thursday, February 17th, 11:00 A.M.

Lawrence Street Shelter.

For more information, contact Greta @ 303.313.2410.

Thank You!

Teaming up for the Homeless

Thanks to the men of Good Shepherd Parish and Trinity United Methodist Church, who teamed up to raise funds for the Mission through their "Guys Night Out" event hosted at The Kentucky Inn. Thanks also to Dean Hasse of Cherry Creek Wellness Center, and Darby Malone and Dan Davis of McQuay International for their outstanding contributions. Because of their generous support, we are able to help more people in need.

Making a Difference Over the Airwaves

Our gratitude goes out to the following radio stations for sponsoring drives and auctions benefiting the work of the Mission:

106.7 KBPI — **Hand That Feeds**

95.7 The Party — **Champ's Change Drive**

98.5 KYGO — **Feed the Need**

87.7 The Ticket — **Daniel Graham MVP Experience**

Legacy Giving

A Quick and Easy Option

If you'd like to make an estate gift, but don't want to schedule time with your attorney, there is another option. It's called a Beneficiary Designation.

People choose beneficiaries for their IRAs, life insurance policies and company retirement plans. To include Denver Rescue Mission as one of your beneficiaries, simply complete a 'Beneficiary Change' form.

And if you do, please let us know. We'd love to welcome you into the Goodheart Society.

To explore your options from the comfort of home, you may visit www.DenverRescueMission.org/giftplanning, or contact Alice by phone at 303.313.2487 or E-mail at acavanaugh@denrescue.org for more information.

Statistics

How You Help

	November	YTD
Meals served	43,206	500,519
Beds	21,146	161,388
Chapel attendance	7,789	82,698
Food boxes distributed	1,491	2,592
Furniture (households)	71	1,165
Clothing (lbs.)	54,488	367,597
Chiropractic	0	148
Dental	107	863
Medical	177	2,546
Optical	78	1,693

Our Outreaches

Lawrence Street Shelter

Emergency care: meals, overnight shelter, free health care, food box and clothing distribution.

Champa House

Residential facility offering long-term help toward self-sufficiency to single mothers with dependent children.

Harvest Farm

Long-term New Life rehabilitation program, farming and ranching operation, food and clothing distribution, youth camp, and maze.

The Crossing

Long-term New Life rehabilitation program; transitional housing for program graduates and homeless families; temporary housing for interns and visitors.

Ministry Outreach Center

Administrative and warehouse facilities; food, clothing, and household goods distribution.

Family Services

Transitional housing; assistance for permanent housing; mentoring for homeless working families, seniors and refugee families.

Global Ministry Outreach

Consultation, resources and support to city/rescue missions around the world.

Changing Lives is the monthly news publication of Denver Rescue Mission
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