

OCTOBER 2025

CHANGING LIVES

133 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Coin Flip

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION

Dear Friends,



Recently we celebrated the retirement of Lisette Williams from our team. Lisette served the Mission faithfully for 33.5 years! If you ever met Lisette, you would remember her. Her infectious enthusiasm was impossible to miss.

Lisette did so much for the ministry. She led our golf outing, she built strong relationships with sports teams and she secured countless pallets of donations of food and other goods for the Mission, literally saving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Most important to Lisette is her faith. She would never accept any credit. If you thanked her or congratulated her on an accomplishment or donation, her response was genuine and always the same, "It's all the Lord, thank you Lord!" She was quick to share the reason for her hope and that reason was Jesus.

In many ways Lisette is an example to all who know and love her. An example of humility, kindness, grace, and faith. She will be so missed. We wish Lisette all the best in the next season of her journey.

In scripture, Jesus shares a parable about a man who entrusted his wealth to three of his servants before he went away. When the man returned, he asked each person what they had done with the wealth. One person used the wealth and multiplied it. The man was pleased and he said, "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a few things." To Lisette, a servant of God and faithful employee of DRM, we say, "Well done good and faithful servant of God, you have been faithful with all you were given by God!"

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION
in my words 



Lisette Williams

After 33.5 years, Lisette retired as the Mission's Community Relations Manager. Her dedication to the people we serve and building relationships with the community has been an incredible blessing. Well done good and faithful servant!

What did it mean to you to build relationships with the community?

I always thought of it as building friendships for the Mission. I made so many great friends working alongside wonderful, humble people and also in the community. It was such a privilege to tell them about Denver Rescue Mission, what we were doing and what we needed. The world measures your importance by the number of people who are serving you, but God is more concerned with the number of people we are serving. I wanted to bless people and instead, I ended up being the one who was so blessed. My first day, I was so excited, and my last day, although I was incredibly sad because I was leaving, I still pulled up and was so happy that I got to work there. Working at the Mission isn't a job, I really think it's a calling.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time here?

I would do the raft trip for the guys in our New Life Program, and I remember one

guy said, "Thank you. I never knew I could have fun in nature without drinking or doing drugs." It was neat to see—through kind people donating things that we think are expected or ordinary—that doors would open for people. Also, just all the kind people in the community and how willing they are to help. It was the Lord who opened so many doors for me and touched so many people's hearts. People who sometimes feel unseen—we see them at the Mission, and we love them. It really is an incredible privilege that the Lord lets us do that.

How do you hope the Mission continues on into the future?

The Mission is in such great hands, with all the wonderful people who are currently working there. The Mission is not just making a difference by providing a meal or clothing or a safe place to stay. Everybody at the Mission is making an eternal difference for the Lord. The Mission really is holy ground. When I see our Jesus Saves sign downtown, especially when it's illuminated, it just brings tears to my eyes because Jesus does save. It's a beacon of hope.



The Coin Flip

A single coin flip brought Dan to the New Life Program, where he found faith, community and a life worth living.

Heads I go to a hospital, tails I end my life.

Dan was at his lowest point—living in his car, driving across the country trying to run away from his depression, anxiety and PTSD. But that's the thing about running away from yourself—no matter where you go, there you are.

He was struggling with addiction, had isolated himself from his family and had already unsuccessfully attempted to end his life two times before. He had traveled his whole journey across the country with a half dollar coin in his pocket, and as he pulled it out to flip for the decision to alter the course of his life, **it landed on heads.**

"It's like God was acting through a coin that day," Dan said. "I still have that coin. I wear it as a necklace now, and it has my birth year on it."

That moment led Dan to seek help for himself for the first time, a journey that led him straight to the Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm in Wellington, Colorado. "This Farm is blessed ground, and because of that, there's a peace here. I actually feel comfortable being here, and I started feeling comfortable just being myself here," he said.

Dan's work readiness portion of the program was with the agriculture team, tending to the greenhouse and plants around the Farm. Right away his supervisor and Farm Operations Specialist, Darrol Telck, noticed a unique work ethic and drive in Dan.

"Dan came in very shy and not knowing how to act in a setting like this, but very grateful to be doing something to better his life. He was very active in helping get the greenhouse back up

and running and along the way found himself looking into pursuing a future in becoming an electrician," Darrol said. "From not knowing where he fits in, to attempting suicide and overcoming that, the Farm has opened up excitement for the future for Dan."

Now, as Dan looks at the greenhouse—all the things he helped cultivate and build—he feels proud of himself and grateful to Darrol for helping him along the way. "I couldn't have done it without him. As we were working on the greenhouse, I was going to therapy. Everything I've done is one small thing at a time, and now we have this amazing thing in front of us," he shared. "I definitely feel proud of how far I've come, and the work I've done to get to where I am."

The personal growth Dan experienced working in agriculture coupled with



the spiritual growth he experienced working with his chaplain completely changed his life. "I started to talk with Chaplain Dave about my beliefs and the idea of, I could have been dead from a coin flip, but it came up heads. Either that's a coincidence, or that's someone leading me on my path."

"This Farm is blessed ground, and because of that, there's a peace here"
-Dan

After isolating himself for so long from people, he learned the power and importance of community. "That's something I didn't realize I needed—having support, not just here on the Farm, but outside the Farm. The first time I ever hugged a stranger in my life was my first time going to church here," he said. "And I was very lucky with the dorm I was in; there were four of us and we made each other laugh and had some deeper conversations. Community was definitely a thing I developed here."

Now Dan looks forward to getting back into the workforce, giving back to others at the Farm

and implementing the tools and skills he has learned in real-life scenarios.

"Here on the Farm, I'm in a bubble, but once I'm out there working, no one is around to watch what I do," he said. "It's going to be exciting to be able to put all those tools and everything I've learned into practice and to continue to stay sober. It's like an excitement to say no."

Dan's life could have been drastically different had that coin landed on tails that day. And yet, God had a plan and a purpose for his life beyond anything he could have ever imagined.

"When guys ask me how I am doing, I always tell them, 'Living the dream,' because it can be a whole lot worse than this," he said. "Something I learned is that there's going to be so much that's out of your control, that at a certain point you have got to stop controlling it and just live. It's not always going to be great, but if you keep pushing forwards, keep living your life, that's all that matters."



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Work Readiness



The New Life Program is the Mission's rehabilitation program, located both in Denver at The Crossing and in Wellington at Harvest Farm. Work readiness is a component of the program where men work in different departments as an opportunity for them to:

- Develop a solid work ethic
- Grow in their professional skill set
- Gain valuable interpersonal skills
- Learn to balance work with their personal life

We Broke Ground

Thanks to our amazing community, we were able to start breaking ground in September on our new homeless resolution center in Fort Collins!

We are beyond grateful for the community's support! Yet, the work doesn't stop there—we still need people to come alongside us as we work to help end homelessness for more men in Northern Colorado.

**Learn about ways you can
be part of the growing impact at**
FortCollinsRescueMission.org

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Fort Collins Rescue Mission

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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