

# CHANGING LIVES

134 YEARS OF SERVICE



## NO LONGER INVISIBLE

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

Dear Friends,



Did you know Denver Rescue Mission serves more than just men? One of my surprises in my first two years was discovering how many people believe we only serve single men.

While it is true, the majority of people we serve are men, we also serve a significant number of women, children and families. We always have.

On the second floor of our Administration Building, there is a framed newspaper article from the Rocky Mountain News on March 11, 1923. At that time our name was Sunshine Rescue Mission. That story has several pictures, many of them showing children and women we served.



In this newsletter you will read about a very special woman, Mira. Our Complex Case team was able to help her when she was at her lowest point. I am so proud of the work our Complex Case team does each day. They literally are working with the hardest cases. They receive referrals almost every day from our partners. I think one of the reasons they have so much success is that they do not give up. They believe that with God all things

are possible including ending homelessness, one life at a time! There is a phrase we use a lot around here: "God's work through me is because of God's work in me." When we allow God to work in us, then God is able to work through us and help so many people like Mira.

We do serve everyone—men, women, families, youth—everyone, period. We strive to do so without judgement or condemnation but rather with love and compassion and hope. That was true in 1923 and remains true today. Jesus called us to love others, all others, as we love ourselves and feed the hungry, welcome in the stranger, care for the sick, and give clothes to those in need. Everyone, period.

I want to be clear that we could not do this work without your prayers and financial support. Our costs have risen dramatically, and we need your help more than ever. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

## THE MISSION in my words

**The HOPE Team provides housing-focused screening, outreach and assistance to address care gaps for at-risk patients experiencing homelessness in the hospital or emergency department.**

*Pictured: HOPE Team with DRM staff*



Denver Health's Housing Outreach, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) Team

### Why are partnerships so important in helping those in need?

In 2025, Denver Health cared for more than 13,000 patients experiencing homelessness with 63,000 visits. Many experienced care that is fragmented across health and community service providers, putting them at high risk for prolonged hospitalizations, avoidable readmissions, debility, and death. We utilize data tools to proactively identify and outreach hospitalized patients who are being served by DRM's Complex Case team, as well as refer individuals to their team, ensuring safe discharges and continuity of care. Bridging the divide between homeless service providers and health systems restores hope and helps put patients on the most effective pathways to both housing and health.

### What are some of the biggest challenges?

When people start over repeatedly with different medical providers, community organizations and case managers, it's hard to make progress in getting insurance, benefits, disability determinations, and level of care options.

### How have you seen this partnership help someone in a meaningful way?

A patient was admitted to Denver Health's intensive care unit and our electronic health records indicated that they were on DRM's Complex Case team's list, who had been actively looking for this individual. DRM met with the patient that same day and they were quickly accepted and discharged to a Skilled Nursing Facility.



# NO LONGER INVISIBLE

As a deaf woman new to homelessness, Mira felt isolated and unsure where to turn. With support from the Mission's Complex Case team, she found safety, community and a place to call home.

When Mira first came to Colorado, she had nothing and felt completely alone. As a deaf woman who is more fluent in International Sign Language (ISL) than American Sign Language (ASL), trying to navigate a new city was difficult. And yet, she felt better off navigating the unknown than staying in her previous situation.

“Where I was staying, it wasn't good. My son and his wife tried to control me and were always yelling,” she said. “They would hide food; I wouldn't get to eat with the family. It was an awful experience.”

Eventually they kicked her out of their place, leaving Mira with no family support and nowhere else to go.

“Nobody wanted to help me when I needed it. I was overwhelmed, very sad and crying a lot,” she recalled. “They would see me crying and would just laugh at me.”

Coming to Colorado felt like a fresh start—but not one without its challenges. For months she stayed in shelters without a stable place to call home.

Everything began to change when Mira met Campbell Fix, Manager of Complex Case at Denver Rescue Mission. With patience, kindness and consistency, Campbell became a trusted guide for Mira.

“I'm very grateful for her. She's a blessing from God,” Mira said. “I didn't know if I was able to trust her or not, but she is very nice and has been helping me.”

Campbell added, “I remember from the very beginning she had such a joy about her. She has been through numerous difficulties and very traumatic things. Many things were confusing to her due to the language and cultural barriers. **Now, she has been housed for over a year and has that same joy and light about her. She's very obviously at peace.**”

The Mission's Complex Case team serves individuals with high acuity needs that make it a significant challenge for them to find support anywhere else. For those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, navigating homelessness can be especially isolating.

That's why access to communication and community has been critical for Mira.

“I often hear guests say they feel lonely or scared to be in spaces where they cannot communicate with those around them,” Campbell explained. “Many deaf guests have learned to read lips, but I am grateful that we have access to video remote interpreting (VRI) for our guests who need ASL interpreting.”

## COMPLEX CASE TEAM 2025 IMPACT

135

guests served

Receiving 4,100+ hours of individualized support

70

guests housed

With 384 combined years of homelessness

78%

showed cognitive impairment

Dementia or Mild Neurocognitive Disorder

75%

age 55+

“Older adults now represent the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.”

-Denver Health's HOPE Team

The VRI device allowed Campbell to communicate clearly with Mira, helping her move more quickly into stable housing.

“Using VRI, we met some incredibly talented interpreters who were able to pick up on some of the nuances of ISL and help tell her story better,” Campbell said. “We also would use calendars and visual things to communicate. She and I taught each other a lot.”

Mira has now been living in an assisted living facility for over a year, where she receives care on a daily basis.

“Everybody here—I love them, and they respect me,” she said. “I get to do things. I’m not looking all messy and disheveled. I’m looking decent again. I get to shower and have nice clothes. Here I’m free. I know that I’m safe.”

With the Mission’s support, Mira not only secured housing but also gained access to medical and mental health care, clothing, toiletries, and—most importantly—connection.

She has even found a church that offers interpretive services. She looks forward to Sundays for socialization, conversation

and community with other deaf individuals.

“I just get excited to go, and I feel so much better,” she said.

Despite ongoing challenges, Mira continues to find joy in the little things: staying active with walking, drawing, knitting, and building relationships.

“I just love having conversations. It puts a smile on my face. I feel so happy,” she said. “I’m by myself here, but I’m not alone. I’m not lonely—there’s a difference.”

Mira’s story is a testament to the power of individualized support, accessible communication and consistent care. Through the Mission, she has found not only stability but also renewed hope and belonging.

“[Without the Mission], I would be poor and lost on the street,” she said. “I wouldn’t have communication—other people wouldn’t understand me. I would be very sad. I am so much better now, and it makes me feel very happy.”

Campbell added, “I am so thankful to have met her, and to see how stable housing has been inclusive to her brings me so much joy.”

**“It almost brings me to tears knowing that this is someone’s mother, friend and daughter who is now safe and not scared anymore.”**

-Campbell



Your support gives hope and belonging to those who feel invisible. Donate today at [DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives)



Scan to Give!

# Breaking Through Language Barriers

## The Barrier

Without a shared language, deaf and hard-of-hearing guests often feel **isolated, confused and unsure who to trust.**

## Our Response

Through **video remote interpreting, visual tools and patient, consistent care,** we restore connection, understanding and safety.



Mira and Campbell using a Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) device

# Happy Father's Day



**Sending love to all of the dads we serve!**

### OUR CORE STRATEGIES



#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable



#### RECOVERY

Equipping men through a life-changing program



#### TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability



#### PREVENTION

Helping stop homelessness before it starts



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

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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