

CHANGING LIVES

134 YEARS OF SERVICE



BUILDING MY PURPOSE



Dear Friends,

Can you imagine becoming a caregiver at just 12 years old?

In this newsletter, you'll meet Cai, whose childhood was shaped by caring for her mother—a weight no child should have to bear. For years, she coped in unhealthy ways, leading her to struggle with addiction. I think about my own daughters at that age—playing sports and making plans with friends—and I'm reminded how different one childhood can look from another.

Her story reminds me of Ruth from the Bible. After Naomi lost her husband and sons, Ruth made the remarkable decision to stay faithfully by her side, saying, *"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."* (Ruth 1:16).

Like Ruth, Cai carried a deep sense of loyalty and responsibility for those she loved. And just as Ruth and Naomi found hope through God's provision, we remain committed to walking alongside the women, families and men who come to Denver Rescue Mission seeking help and healing.

At The Crossing, those in our Bridge program find support, encouragement and caring people to guide them on the journey forward. That journey is rarely easy, but it is always rooted in hope.

The DRM journey over the last 134 years has also brought times that are not easy. Recently, we had to make the difficult decision to close Harvest Farm, the northern Colorado location for our recovery program. This is a choice that hurts our hearts yet is vital to our long-term ability to help more people, more effectively. Current participants are receiving support from our case managers to find a place to continue their recovery, including the option to transfer to The Crossing.

We remain deeply committed to serving northern Colorado with the new Homeless Resolution Center in Fort Collins, which is currently under construction and expected to open in early 2027. This state-of-the-art center will have dorms dedicated to recovery with licensed clinicians so that we can maintain the legacy of fostering recovery from addiction.

Even in difficult transitions, God's faithfulness continues to shine through. As He has for so many years, He provides for every step ahead. Thank you for standing with us, praying with us and continuing to care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness during this journey.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words



Kyle McPherson

Kyle has worked at DRM for six years and is the first Executive Director for Pathways of Life Recovery Services, LLC (PLRS), a new subsidiary of DRM.

What is Pathways of Life Recovery Services, LLC?

We're in a season of strengthening and restructuring how we deliver care. Essentially, we're taking all of our clinical services and placing them under a new LLC called Pathways of Life Recovery Services (PLRS), which is working toward licensure through the state of Colorado as a behavioral health entity. We've been building toward this for a couple of years, and it's a big step in aligning with state requirements. This will also improve the quality of care we provide—more licensed staff, stronger clinical oversight and the ability to integrate counseling services more fully into our programs.

How will this serve the men in our New Life Program?

It will allow us to build on the strong foundation that already exists within DRM's various programs. Staff will have

access to additional training, support and clinical resources, helping us respond to the increasingly complex needs of the people we serve with more individualized care. Ultimately, we hope this will contribute to strong, lasting outcomes in areas such as sustained sobriety, stability, employment, and long-term success after program completion.

What encourages you most about this shift?

It allows us to continue our mission in a way that is sustainable for the future. We remain a faith-based organization committed to walking alongside people, while also expanding access to clinical expertise and support. The combination of faith, professional care and long-term support creates an environment where meaningful transformation can take place.



This will improve the quality of care we provide.

BUILDING MY PURPOSE

After 17 years of addiction and instability, Cai slowly rebuilt her life through the support of the Mission's Bridge program—finding stability, purpose and hope for the first time in years.

BUILT ON SURVIVAL

At just 12 years old, she became a caregiver.

After her mother became bedridden with fibromyalgia, Cai not only had to learn to care for herself, but for her struggling mother as well.

"I was just a kid, and I was kind of forced into the parent role," she recalled. "I was taking care of her hygiene, making food for her—I was doing all of those things. The pressure just got to me; I needed an escape."

By 13, she had started experimenting with drugs and things escalated from there. **What began as an escape slowly turned into a 17-year battle with addiction.**

With addiction came cycles of toxic and abusive relationships, crime and dangerous living situations that led to utter hopelessness. She spent years trapped in environments marked by instability, fear and trauma.

At the moment she felt like she had nothing left, everything changed.

"It was a God moment when I got arrested," she said. "I was sitting in the back of the cop car, and I had nothing left in me anymore. I couldn't keep going. That was the point I was just like, 'This is enough already.'"

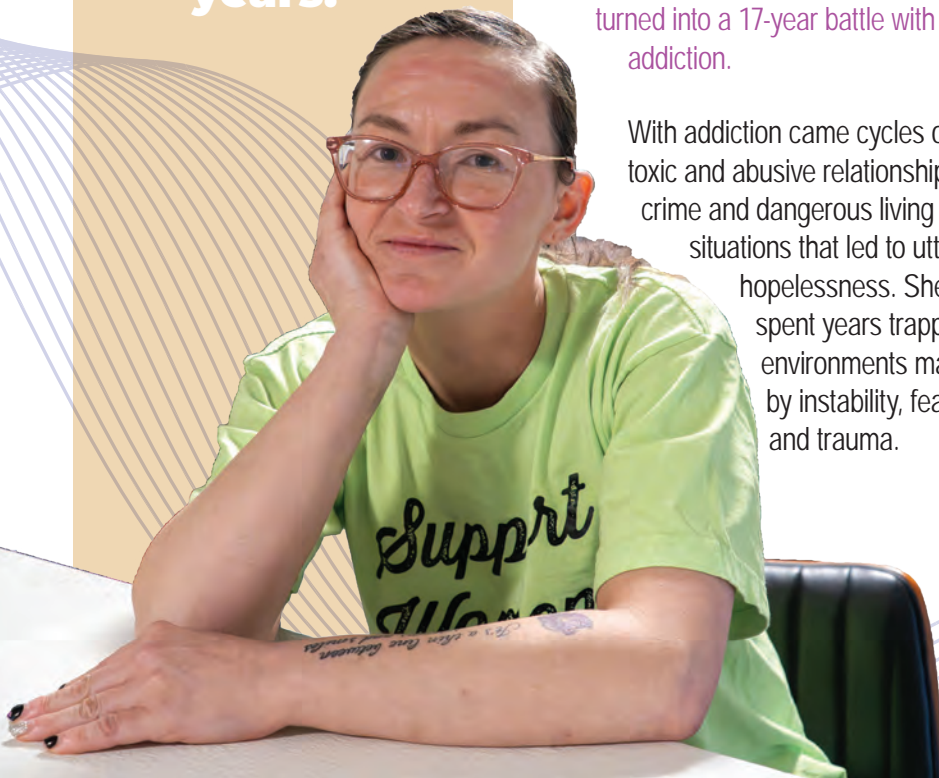
REBUILDING STEP BY STEP

After years of survival mode, that moment marked the beginning of a long journey toward recovery.

"I did everything in baby steps. I went from jail to rehab to sober living to transitional housing to living with a roommate, then to my own place," she said.

When Cai first went to sober living, she began rebuilding a new foundation for her life. During that time, she also discovered something unexpected: a passion for sheet metal work.

Through a pre-apprenticeship program for women entering the construction trades, she found purpose in the hands-on work.





**"I did everything in baby steps. I went from jail to rehab to sober living to transitional housing to living with a roommate, then to my own place."
-Cai**

"I love it," she said. "I feel like I was born to do it."

Today, Cai is a third-year sheet metal apprentice and works full time in the trades—an accomplishment she once never imagined possible.

"I'm so proud of myself," she beamed. "If you told me that I'd be where I am now, I would not believe you. I've amazed myself."

But even as she gained sobriety and employment, another challenge remained: learning how to build longer-term stability.

After leaving sober living, Cai didn't yet have the credit, rental history or financial footing needed to move into a place of her own. That's when she learned about the Bridge program at The Crossing.

The program gave her something she had never truly experienced before: a safe place to be while given the time to properly prepare for independence.

For the first time, Cai was able to build credit, save money, take classes on budgeting and healthy relationships, eat three healthy meals a day, and begin planning for a future filled with hope and purpose.

"I could cry thinking about it. I just had the motivation to do better," she said. "I had a good career, but I had no self-esteem. I'm in a male dominated trade, so I learned how to navigate that and how to regulate my emotions."

Cai built this ductwork by hand and proudly displays it in her home.



A LIFE REBUILT

After leaving the Bridge program, Cai received a car, furniture and help with her first month's rent through the Mission. She moved in with a roommate, knowing she still wasn't fully ready to live on her own. Then, earlier this year, she moved into a place of her own for the very first time.

Now, some of the things she is most grateful for are things many people would overlook:

A junk drawer.

Two closets.

Furniture she gets to choose herself.

A home that finally feels peaceful.

"Those are little victories for me," she said.



Recovery has not been one dramatic overnight transformation, but steady progress through every stage.

"I really did it right this time," Cai said.

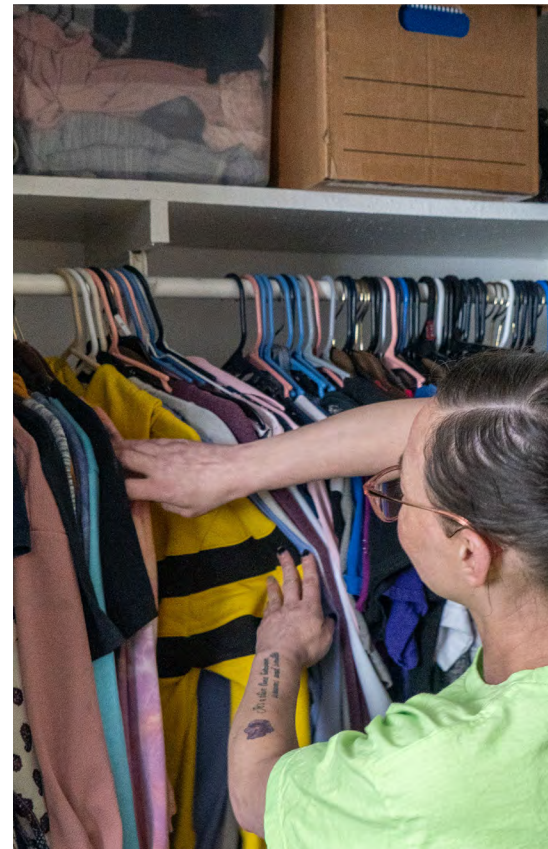
Today, she is continuing to build a future she once thought was impossible. She volunteers at a recovery-focused church and shares her story with women entering the construction trades—knowing firsthand how powerful it can be to see someone who has made it to the other side.

Next year, she hopes to graduate from her apprenticeship program and officially become a journeyman sheet metal worker.

"I've been through a lot in my life," she said, "and if I can make it out of it, I can share my story and help other people make it out too."

While not every step has been easy, each one has carried her closer to stability, healing and hope.

"The Bridge program changed my life," she said. "I'll forever be grateful."



You help strengthen every pathway to recovery.

Give today at DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

Rebuilding Step by Step



The Crossing

FOR WOMEN SEEKING STABILITY

The Bridge program supports families and individuals like Cai on their road to long-term stability.

FOR MEN IN RECOVERY

The New Life Program meets men at their point of need through case management, work readiness and stability while preparing for housing and income—now with PLRS licensed counseling services as an even higher standard of care.

FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Family Shelter added five times the number of rooms to meet a growing need in the last two years.

30
From 6
Families to



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

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