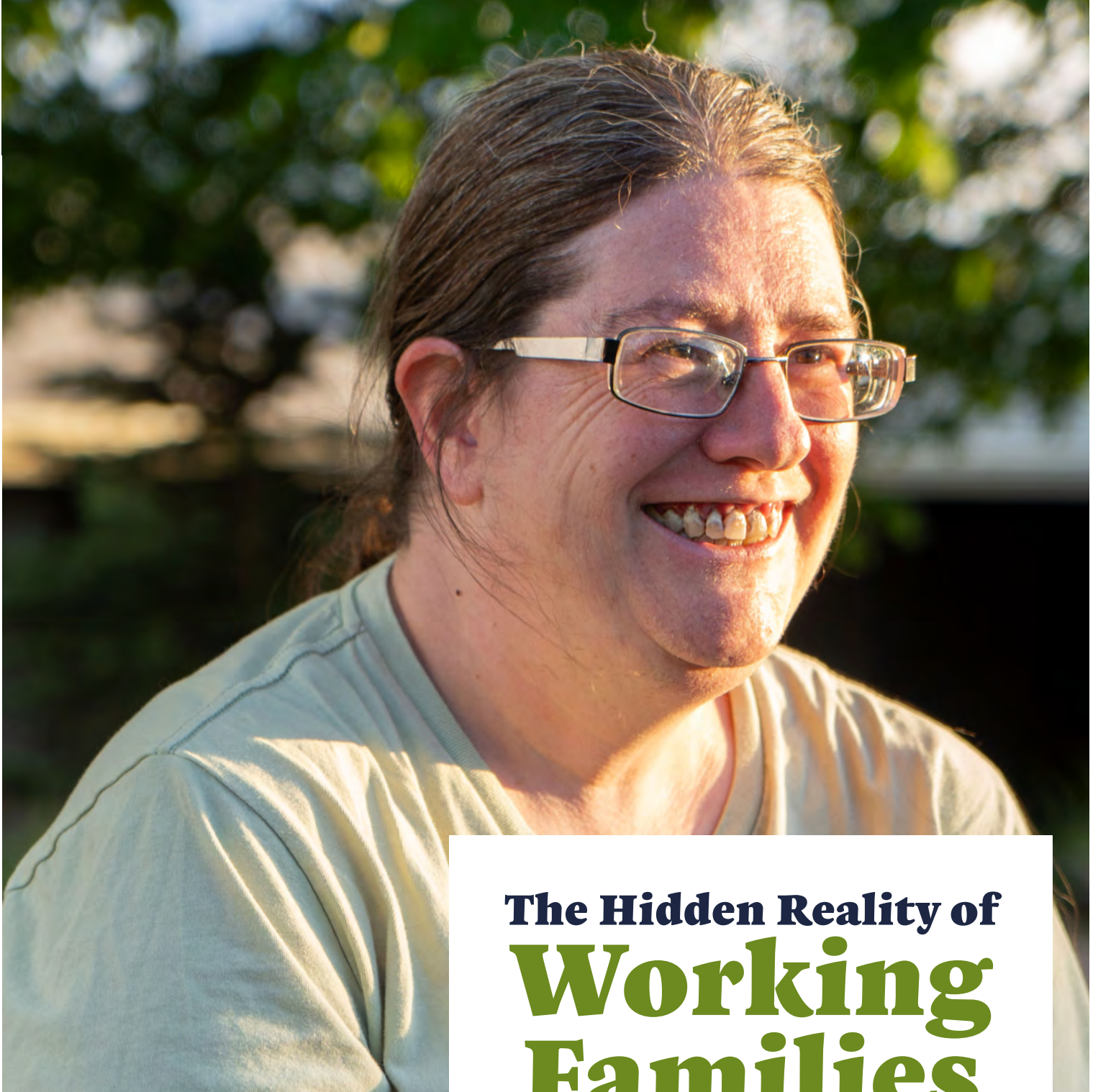


AUGUST 2026

CHANGING LIVES

134 YEARS OF SERVICE



The Hidden Reality of Working Families

DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION



Dear Friends,

One of the things that has frustrated me the most throughout my mission ministry career is the misconception of who people experiencing homelessness are. Too many times, I have had people tell me that those experiencing homelessness

are lazy, they don't want to work, they are choosing this way of life, they are all addicted. While it is true that a very small minority of people fall into these categories, most do not. In fact, our Chief Program Officer, Tracy, shared with me that **around 50 percent of those we serve have jobs.**

Tracy shared a story about a single mom in the Bridge program at The Crossing. She has a toddler. She has two jobs and she is working on a workforce certification that would allow her to get a job that better provides for her family. The problem is that she does not make enough money to afford housing. She is not lazy. She is not addicted, and she certainly has not chosen to be homeless.

In this newsletter you will read a story about another mom we are helping. These stories are countless and sometimes tragic. But they are also hopeful and hope filled. Most of the people we serve are resilient, they persevere, they love their family, and they will do anything for a better life. Many also have a faith that is deep, and so many have hearts filled with gratitude. So, what do we do with this?

As I hear about and read these stories, I become convicted. In the story you will read, Kat spends three hours each day commuting back and forth for work. That is commitment. That is work ethic. I take for granted that I have a car to drive every day. I have a job that pays me enough to afford housing. I have money to put food on the table. Yet so many do not.

Jesus said that to whom much is given much will be required. I, and perhaps you, have been given so much. Throughout scripture God commands us to help those in poverty. I am so grateful that for 134 years DRM has done exactly that. We could not have done this work, and we cannot continue this work without your prayers and financial support.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Thank you for considering a financial gift. Thank you for seeing those who we serve for who they really are. Not lazy or unacceptable but rather as human beings made in the image of God. The God who loves them and has plans for them. Human beings who God gives us the opportunity to help and bless so they can be a blessing to others.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

THE MISSION in my words

Joan has supported DRM for five years as a faithful donor and Goodheart Society member.

Pictured: Joan with Heather Wachter, Donor Relations Manager



Joan Schoenheit

What initially made you decide to start supporting the Mission?

There was a time in my life when I benefited greatly from other people's gifts. You don't forget things like that, and they set an example for how I want to be there for somebody else. Now I'm to a point in my life where it's like, "Thank you, God, now it's my turn." What I see and hear Denver Rescue Mission doing—helping people help themselves—I would like to see it continue.

What is a moment at the Mission that has impacted you?

The day I took a tour through the shelter downtown and saw the size of the room and realized how many people every night need clean linens—that impressed me as much as anything. Realizing again how fortunate I am and how many people need help.

"I like the sense of being a part of something I respect, something positive."

As a part of our Goodheart Society, what inspired you to include the Mission in your Will?

It was a matter of evaluating priorities. My family is my top priority, but I always want others less fortunate to know they, too, are important and cared about. I like the sense of being a part of something I respect, something positive. I don't think of my donation as anything special or unusual; I think it's what we all should endeavor to do if we can. If my contributions can help it keep going, that's great. I have a towel that has the phrase, "Let love guide your life," and I think that's a pretty good formula for making decisions. We ask for guidance and the courage to carry it out, but we are expected to do what we can do, and I believe God works through all of us.



The Hidden Reality of Working Families

After an eviction notice, Kat faced a difficult reality: employment doesn't always guarantee stable housing. But thanks to support from the Bridge program at The Crossing, her family has hope for a more stable future.

Just a year ago, Kat came home to find an eviction notice on her apartment door.

Immediately, anxious thoughts flooded her mind:

Where will my kids and I go?

How will I afford a place to live?

What do we take—and what do we leave behind?

As a single mother for 20 years, Kat has carried the responsibility of providing for her family. But with her son, Jamie (20), and daughter, Ari (17), still living at home, the challenge ahead felt overwhelming.

"I just lost my home with everything in it," Kat remembered. "I could only take what was in the suitcases I was able to pack. I lost a lot of sentimental things. We were forced to leave our cats behind."

Friends' houses only lasted so long before Kat needed to find another solution. They found a temporary housing program, moving from church to church. While she was grateful for a roof over their heads, life still felt uncertain.

"It's a very humbling experience, not one I want to go through again," she said.

That's when Kat found the Bridge program at The Crossing.

They moved in the day before Thanksgiving, just in time to celebrate the holidays in a safer and more stable environment.

For the first time in months, Kat could focus on more than just making it through the next day. She could begin rebuilding.

While she has never stopped working, Kat found a new job around this time as a preschool teacher through Catholic Charities. The full-time job helped her catch up on some overdue bills, but finding affordable housing remained an uphill battle.

Like many families across Colorado, Kat's story highlights a difficult reality: having a full-time job doesn't automatically mean being able to afford a home.

"It's expensive out here," she said. "I technically need a three-bedroom, but I have to take a two because I can't afford it."

Every weekday, Kat spends nearly three hours commuting by bus to and from work. She balances long days of learning things like budgeting in classes at The





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Crossing, with apartment searches and the responsibilities of caring for her two children.

“There are days when I just want to pull the covers over my head and not get out of bed, but I need to make money in order to live, and so I have to get up and go,” she shared. “There are days when I’m just tired, I’m exhausted. Mentally, emotionally and physically exhausted. It’s almost an everyday thing.”

Through it all, their family keeps moving forward.

Ari found friends and support through The Crossing’s Youth Center, which also helped encourage her to take her SATs. She has even recently earned honor roll recognition at school. Jamie continues pursuing employment opportunities while working through challenges of his own.

And while life is still far from easy, their family now has something they didn’t have a year ago: more stability, more support and more hope for the future.

“I’m grateful for the roof over my head,” Kat said. “I just want my own space.”



And as of July, Kat found that space.

Simple comforts—a couch to relax on after a long day at work, a kitchen of her own to cook in and a place where her family can spread out and simply be together—are all things she is excited to have again.

When asked what she would say to another parent facing a similar situation, Kat offered the encouragement she reminds herself of:

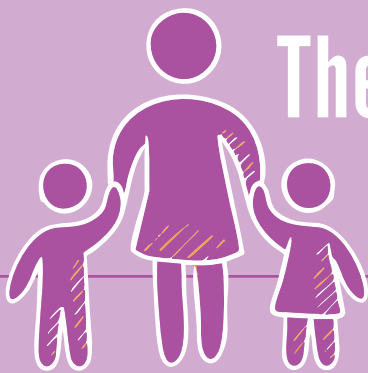
“Realize it's not going to last forever. You will come out on the other side; it just might take a little while. You still have your family. You're still here. You're still standing. Just keep moving.”

Every family deserves a safe place to call home. Help provide stability and hope for families like Kat's at

DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!



The Hidden Reality of Working Families



**Record-High
Evictions¹**

Two years in a row
Denver saw record-high
numbers of evictions

**240+
Households
waiting for family
shelter services
in Denver²**

Our Response

5X

**Increase in Family
Shelter rooms at
The Crossing in
two years**

106

**Families helped
by our Prevention
program**

Source: 1. Denver County Court Records 2023-2025 2. Colorado's State of Homelessness Report 2025

Back to School!

Thanks to our Young Professionals
group, our Youth Center kids will get
a new backpack with school supplies
and more, plus support during the
school year to help them thrive!



OUR CORE STRATEGIES



PREVENTION

Helping stop homelessness before it starts



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable



RECOVERY

Equipping men through a life-changing program



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability

It's Make a Will Month!

Create A Will
For Free



LOCATIONS

Lawrence Street Shelter | Lawrence Street Community Center | The Crossing | Ministry Outreach Center | Holly Center
Administration & Education | 48th Avenue Center | Fort Collins Rescue Mission

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IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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