

JULY 2019

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



POSITIVE STEPS

ONE MAN'S JOURNEY OUT OF DARKNESS AND INTO NEW LIFE

FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION

Dear Friends,

Have you ever seen someone rise from the ashes of a disappointment or failure and regain their honor and dignity? It is one of the most satisfying feelings! It's why we go to the movies, read great novels and inspiring non-fiction. It's also why I feel so privileged to work at Denver Rescue Mission—Harvest Farm.

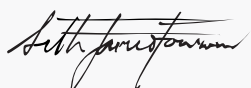
Phil's story is one of many that I have witnessed where a man who was broken, traumatized, and profoundly lost found his way through the support and safety of Harvest Farm. There are so many more stories every day at Harvest Farm.

One young man, just paroled from a six year prison stint was tending to a goat who just birthed three babies. The runt was left to fend for itself and most likely starve, but this participant took to feeding the baby goat every 30 minutes until it strengthened and recovered. Now "Bella" follows him around the Farm, and the part of this man that cares and protects the weak arose from being long buried and beaten down.

Another recent graduate has a long history in the criminal drug world and struggled to redefine himself apart from that life. He's experienced all that this world can offer him and found that what he really wants is a relationship with his daughters. Now he works hard and saves his money in order to move near them and be their father.

We believe God's love transforms these men through their experiences with nature, our staff, and their own desire to live a more whole life.

Courageous people like Phil do all the hard work, the Harvest Farm staff walked with them every step of the way, and our amazing donors make it possible for Harvest Farm to be a sacred place of transformation. Thank you!



Seth Forwood
Director, Harvest Farm



POSITIVE STEPS

Each path out of homelessness is unique to the individual. Regardless of statistics and pervasive societal issues, men and women have to address the problems that led them to the streets. Often, people have to deal with significant hurt and brokenness alongside their more overt destructive behaviors.

Philip's path to homelessness started when he was very young. After being abandoned by his father, he was left in the care of a mom who had her own set of challenges, leading Philip to be raised by his grandmother. As a teenager, he began to feel the effects the abuse and absence of love from his parents, which led him to abusing alcohol.

After struggling with alcoholism for several years, Philip was introduced to crystal methamphetamine, changing his life forever. He found that this new drug left him feeling invigorated, full of life. Meth created a false sense of joy and suppressed his previous pull toward alcohol. He lost his job, his home and his sense of self.

Twelve years into his addiction with crystal meth, Philip attempted to take his life. "My mind played games with me that horrified me and drove me to insanity. God was with me in this desperate moment and He showed me a new way, His way," he explains. Philip feels that God came to him in his darkest moment and guided him towards a better, brighter life for himself.

"All the brokenness was going to take time to heal and I had to let the Holy Spirit work in me."

He began his journey of recovery at Denver Rescue Mission; two months later he joined the New Life Program at Harvest Farm in Wellington. He got rid of all of his belongings and left his old life behind. Philip chose to purge himself from all triggers his old life sparked. He came to the Farm without a single pair of socks to his name.

Surrounded by supportive staff and other men experiencing similar struggles and addictions, Philip had a newfound sense of hope. "All the brokenness was going to take time to heal and I had to let the Holy Spirit work in me," he shares. "Daily, the Lord repaired and put the shattered pieces of my life back together."

During his time at the Farm, Philip aspired to go to college and pursue a nursing career. He wanted to take positive steps toward living a successful, Godly life. "In the beginning, school was hard for me because of the self-defeatist belief system that I had about myself that had to be dismantled," he describes. The support and love he received from the Harvest Farm staff was invaluable. Lee, one of the Agriculture Supervisors, was especially helpful to Philip. With Lee's kind, gentle manner he served as a role model. Philip developed a brotherhood within the Farm community that still exists today.

"Daily, the Lord repaired and put the shattered pieces of my life back together."

It took time for Philip to gain the confidence he needed to overcome his fears and sense of inadequacy. "I was insecure, fearful and didn't have a direction in life. When I decided to become a nurse, I was propped up on the shoulders of the Harvest Farm giants that showed me the way to lead a disciplined life that is fruitful and pleasing to the Lord," he explains. As Philip opened himself up to those around him, he found that others were very complimentary. They expressed their admiration for his compassion, bravery, and professionalism.

Philip graduated from Harvest Farm in June of 2017. He is currently in his third semester of Nursing School at Front Range Community College. The journey to sobriety and self-sufficiency wasn't an easy one. Philip worked step by step with the support of staff members to rid himself of his previous destructive behaviors and low self-esteem. He truly sought to "put on the new self" (Ephesians 4:22-24) and transform his life, from the inside out. Philip committed himself to the program and the Lord. Additionally, he has reconnected with his mother. They are working on their relationship. Philip has made the effort to understand his mother's choices when he was growing up. He is excited to graduate this winter and pursue his new career. He also aspires to own his first home and eventually receive his Masters in Nursing.



Every day, Harvest Farm and Fort Collins Rescue Mission fight hard for the men and women we serve. With your help, we are able to help men like Philip encounter their own worthiness through relationship with God so that they can live meaningful, self-sufficient lives.



***You can change a life today.
Donate now or visit
FortCollinsRescueMission.org***



How long have you lived in the Fort Collins community? What brought you here?

Sheri grew up in Greeley and came to Fort Collins in 1985 to attend CSU. I moved from Kansas to Fort Collins that same year to work at HP. A lot has changed over the years, but it's still a great place to live.

Why does Fort Collins Rescue Mission's work matter to you?

We are happy to support FCRM because it ministers to people's spiritual needs as well as their physical ones. Jesus set this example and we are impressed at how FCRM seeks to do the same. Their focus goes beyond tactical, daily needs as they also work to have a transformative impact. By helping people get back on their feet, FCRM improves not only the lives of individuals but also our community as a whole.

One of the ways you give back to your community is volunteering at the Mission. What was that experience like for you?

It's always good to see that those who benefit from FCRM's services are so similar to us. When helping with holiday meals, we've encountered so many friendly, appreciative people who are not only sincere in their needs but also in their desire to participate in FCRM's programs. If anyone is thinking about volunteering but is a bit hesitant, we encourage you to briefly step outside your comfort zone. God is likely to expand your heart in the process.

Randy & Sheri White have been faithful supporters of Fort Collins Rescue Mission for many years.

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES

People are invited inside, off the street where their immediate needs are met and critical relationships are built with Mission staff.



REHABILITATION

Men living with an addiction are equipped with work readiness skills, receive help to overcome destructive habits, find permanent housing, and begin a new life.



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Families and individuals in need receive case management, develop life skills and save for permanent housing.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

People struggling in our community receive assistance with food, clothing, furniture, household items and holiday meals.



Calling all KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS!

In the summer our volunteer numbers tend to drop...
but you can step up and save the day!
Come volunteer at the Mission!

MEAL PREP: 1-4pm • SERVE DINNER: 4:30-6:30pm
Sign up at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/volunteer



STATISTICS

How You Help

May

YTD (fiscal year)

Meals Provided

7,857



96,084

Nights of Shelter

4,701



52,855

LOCATIONS

**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**

Meals, shelter and programs
toward self-sufficiency



Harvest Farm

Rural rehabilitation
program near Fort Collins



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

Meals, overnight shelter, emergency
services, clinic, rehabilitation programs,
family services, transitional programs
and services, permanent housing
assistance and clothing distribution

