

OCTOBER 2019

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



## A MAN AND HIS GOAT



WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM'S FALL FESTIVAL?

HOW MISSION HOMES CO IS SUPPORTING HARVEST FARM

Dear Friends,

Several years ago, there was a young man who traveled from the East Coast to Colorado to visit Harvest Farm's Fall Festival. He was planning to spend some quality time with his sister and her children. His sister, on the other hand, had planned this trip for a different reason.

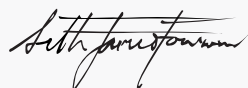
She noticed her brother's life on the East Coast becoming progressively more dangerous, and his substance use increasing. He had been pushing the boundaries, even in his recreational activities—seeing how fast his motorcycle could go on the interstate—and was getting into brawls outside of bars late at night.

By the way things were going, she felt he was destined to one day show up in the papers—a story ending in destruction and loss. But on the hay ride during the Fall Festival, this young man heard the story of someone similar to his, who had been equally lost and yet was finding a path back to wholeness, health and a life with meaning.

This young man eventually entered the New Life Program at Harvest Farm. Over the next year, he learned how to control his emotions and urges, how to read and write, and he found a purpose in life that had been alluding him through the relationships he built. Now, almost a decade later, we hired that same young man for a much-needed renovation of Harvest Farm's commercial kitchen. He owns his own business, and is not only helping us do our work better, but making a positive impact across Northern Colorado every day through his skill and craft.

Thinking back on this man's transformation, I'm reminded of the last lines of Dante's Divine Comedy. Dante writes that his work is only made possible by "the love that moves the sun and the stars." When you come out to support the Fall Festival, when you donate to Denver Rescue Mission and pray for those who are lost, you participate in the work we do at Harvest Farm. If Harvest Farm is a place where even one man's life is transformed from hopelessness to purpose, then I believe this is a place where love moves the sun and the stars.

Thank you for making Harvest Farm a place where that miracle can happen.



Seth Forwood  
Director, Harvest Farm



On the first week of April, Harvest Farm gained two new guests—similar in some ways, though very, very different.

Both guests have a brother and a sister but have lived fairly different lives from their siblings. Both have faced feelings of rejection from a parent. Both found the companionship they needed at the Farm through one another.

Chris grew up in Estes Park, where drinking and drugs became his hobbies in an environment of small-town living. He started using meth at 15, got kicked out of his father's house at 16, and when living with his mother didn't work out, he eventually found himself homeless on the streets of Fort Collins. By the time he was 19, he had nine felony charges and was given a six-year prison sentence after running away from a halfway house. Chris was eventually granted parole, which resulted in his move to Harvest Farm to join the New Life Program.

Belle the goat is a triplet and was born on the Farm. As a baby, she wasn't getting enough milk from her mother, who was only able to nurse her other two children, which led to dismal malnourishment for Belle.

Chris and Belle's paths crossed when Chris noticed that the young runt was underfed and weak and decided to take initiative. For two weeks, he bottle fed Belle every 30 minutes, including night shifts. For weeks after that, he fed her every two hours, then every four hours and then every six hours, until she was in better physical condition.



"She's a very dependent goat," Chris said. "I think it's more that I'm her emotional support than she's mine, but I guess it works both ways."

Lee Wynkoop, livestock coordinator at the Farm, said that Belle would probably have died if Chris had not intervened.

"It gave him a really distinct purpose early on in his program and just gave him something to care for—something of value in his life," Lee said.

Through the LifeSkills, Education and Career (LEC) classes in our New Life Program, Chris has learned how to use Microsoft Word, check his credit score and get his license reinstated. His chaplain, Dave Sterner, is helping him start the process to remove the "Hell Bent" tattoos on his eyebrows.

Before arriving at the Farm, he made the choice to stop using drugs and has been clean for almost a year. He said the community aspect of the Farm has had a major impact on him.

**"THERE'S A LOT MORE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE LIKE ME THAN I REALIZED AND THEY GO THROUGH FAIRLY SIMILAR STRUGGLES."**

Belle, now strengthened, recovered and content, follows Chris around the Farm. When Chris rides his bike, Belle chases him. When Chris leaves Belle in her pen, she cries dramatically. When Chris rides the tractor, she's on it with him.

"It's not unusual to go up to devotions in the morning at the dining hall and have Belle standing outside the dining hall waiting for him, kind of like a dog," Lee said. "I've never seen a goat do something like that."

Every morning, Chris gets up and makes sure Belle has enough hay and water in her pen. Caring for Belle has brought healing and purpose into his life.



*Come see Belle at the petting zoo at this year's 17th Annual Fall Festival. While you're there, take a wagon ride with the men in the New Life Program to hear more stories like Chris's—stories of healing and redemption through life on the Farm.*

Buy your tickets now at [HarvestFarm.org/Fall-Festival](https://HarvestFarm.org/Fall-Festival)

"It's definitely made me realize that I like having someone who depends on me to take care of them," he said. "That's just a good feeling."

His goal is to work for Centennial Livestock Auctions during the final stage of the New Life Program and eventually attend the WyoTech Automotive Technology program after he graduates from the Farm.

"I've always been kind of an animal person," he said. "I feel like the Livestock Auction is going to be one of the few places that doesn't judge me for having a goat that follows me around all the time!"

**By supporting Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm, you are providing opportunities for men like Chris to find healing, companionship and purpose.**

Give today at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org)





**Will you share about the purpose and heart of Mission Homes Colorado?**

Our vision is to help rediscover affordability in the new home marketplace. We desire to give purchasing power to potential buyers who don't need or can't afford the current average American new home by providing single-family homes priced from the mid-\$200s. Our heart is to build quality homes that help people create wealth, while sharing a portion of our profits with select charities that help those in need.

**Why did you choose Harvest Farm as one of your charitable partners and how are you supporting the Farm through this partnership?**

Stephanie: I have a dear friend whose brother successfully completed the New Life Program at Harvest Farm. While he was there, I joined her in praying for him, which was such a personal blessing, and he's gone on to work for Denver Rescue Mission. In addition, Mission Homes CO has a Charitable Giving Advisory Team who bring charities to us for our consideration. Christian Anderson, an advisory team member, advocated for Harvest Farm, and it was chosen as one of our 10 2019 Most Valuable Partner (MVP) charities. Twenty-five percent of Mission Homes CO's profits get split between 10 local, Northern Colorado and international MVPs. We are excited to give a contribution to Harvest Farm as its MVP portion from our phase one construction of 17 homes.

**Why does Harvest Farm and Fort Collins Rescue Mission matter to you?**

All of the charities we support have a strong emotional tie to our collective history, whether it is a path our personal lives have taken or some kind of support we've needed or received. It is a blessing to support organizations like Harvest Farm who go deep into saving lives with love, hard work, camaraderie, and in-depth knowledge of support systems to help men get clean, learn skills, have realistic and fair expectations, and live productive lives.

*David Gregg, an architect and home builder for 25+ years, is the chief of Mission Homes CO's daily operations. Stephanie Gregg, director of charitable giving, distributes funds and connects and volunteers with the MVP charities. Adopting their teenage daughter in 2013 was a catalyst to a new mindset to focus on giving time, talent and treasure in meaningful ways. Through Mission Homes CO, their vision is to build affordable homes that are "Built Just Right, Built on Purpose, and Built to Give."*

**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, rehabilitation programs, family services, transitional programs and services, permanent housing assistance and clothing distribution



**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.

**STATISTICS**

**How You Help**

YTD (fiscal year\*)

**8,179**  
Meals Provided



**4,559**  
Nights of Shelter



\*Fiscal year July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



316 Jefferson Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524  
970.224.4302

