

DECEMBER 2019

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



## WRAPPED WITH LOVE

MISSION PROGRAM REACHES 86% SUCCESS RATE

CHRISTMAS AT FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION



Dear Friends,

Sometimes the hardest things we have to do in life shape us and help us become who we are today. Being homeless is one of those really hard things—something we would not wish on anyone. Experiencing homelessness is something that people never forget, and it impacts them for the rest of their lives.

But the good news, the hope, is in places like Fort Collins Rescue Mission and the Steps to Success Program. Stories like Preston's, which is featured in this edition of *Changing Lives*, are what keep us going every day—keep us fighting to make sure that the 118 people who joined the program last year have a path out of the cycle of poverty.

It is exciting for us to see people who have gone through the agony of homelessness begin to be hopeful, start to realize they can lead purposeful lives and know that we at the Mission care about them. We all need people who care about us and who want to go the extra mile.

We call this Changing Lives in the Name of Christ—making a difference for eternity because of the love of Jesus. This Christmas, please join us as a valued partner to our dedicated staff and volunteers. Together, we are making a difference, and we appreciate you!

Merry Christmas and God bless,



Brad Meuli  
President and CEO



DONATE YOUR CAR.  
TRUCK. VAN. SUV.

**Changes Lives • Free Pick-up • Fast, Easy • Tax-Deductible**

The Mission created the Vehicle Donation Program to provide transportation for individuals and families who graduate from our rehabilitation and transitional programs. These men, women and families require dependable vehicles to maintain employment and contribute to their communities. Provide the gift of reliable transportation by donating your vehicle today.

Learn more at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Donate-Vehicle](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Donate-Vehicle)  
or call 303.331.2938.



## CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

We are excited to welcome more than 120 guests to this year's Christmas banquet—a special Christmas dinner for men, women and families who come to Fort Collins Rescue Mission. The Mission may be the only place where they can receive a home-cooked meal this holiday season, and the volunteers will help create a positive dining experience by waiting on the guests—bringing them their plates, taking their drink orders and making them feel loved. The festive evening will include a chapel service hosted by Buckhorn Presbyterian Church and a special gift for each guest. Many of our guests haven't had the joy of unwrapping a gift in years, and we want to demonstrate Jesus' love and provision this Christmas to show our guests they are loved, they are cared for and there is reason to have hope.

# THE FIRST STEP

*Preston has slipped in and out of homelessness for most of his life but has been able to find help at Missions all across the country. When he came to Fort Collins Rescue Mission for a meal and place to sleep, he was encouraged by the staff to join the Steps to Success Program. He's now ready to take the first step in making a lasting change in his life.*

**“** I grew up homeless. My dad would work at one job and then he'd get fired, mess up, and the next thing you know, we've got to move again. I didn't have very many friends growing up, and we always lived in the worst parts of neighborhoods. My dad found work in different states, so we went and stayed at Missions—California, Oregon, New York, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee. Missions were just always there at the right moment, always. At Fort Collins Rescue Mission, they try their best to get more involved and help you out with jobs, with your birth certificate, with your license. **That feeling that they actually care gives us all that little bit of hope to sustain and thrive—to make ourselves better.**

The Bible says in the book of Matthew: 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, let tomorrow worry about itself.' If you put Him first, He will provide everything you need for that day. I live by that verse. Because of that, I got custody of my son back. My Veterans Affairs benefits are going through. Everything's finally falling back into place when I was losing hope.

Fort Collins Rescue Mission makes sure that you know this is a stepping stone. They're going to go out of their way to make sure you take all the possible steps that you need to succeed in life—whether it is anger management or life skills or whatever you need help with. The people who donate their time and their money, it's them who keep this place going. Thank you. God bless you, and thank you.”

- Preston, Steps to Success participant



## What is Steps to Success?

It's a faith-based program at Fort Collins Rescue Mission for adult men and women who are experiencing homelessness, addiction or other negative and destructive habits. The 3-10 month program is designed to help them take steps out of homelessness toward self-sufficiency.



Paula Ordaz, manager of programs at the Mission, said that by providing meals and shelter, the staff is able to build relationships with guests and learn their needs. When guests indicate that they want to change or get out of their situations, they plant the seed for them to join Steps to Success. The program offers basic life-skills training, helps participants find sustainable housing and full-time employment, encourages involvement in positive communities, and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“The people I've seen who have been successful in completing the program are really motivated from the beginning, and they have a clear goal of what they want, whether it's sobriety, getting their own place or getting out of the shelter environment,” Paula said. “They start addressing their obstacles, and they get connected in the community. When they leave here, they're building a community support structure outside, and **a lot of them are rebuilding their beliefs in Jesus and reconnecting that relationship.**”

\* Statistics represent Fort Collins Rescue Mission's Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Through your generosity, you can provide hope to people like Preston who call the Mission home this Christmas.  
**Give today at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org](http://FortCollinsRescueMission.org).**





### What inspired Buckhorn Presbyterian Church to get involved with Fort Collins Rescue Mission and provide the chapel services for its holiday banquets?

It's hard to ignore the many homeless and poor of this city. They should not be ignored. The Mission gives our church a way to reach out to those experiencing homelessness and

show them we care—that Jesus cares. Providing chapel services is a way every member of Buckhorn feels connected to our community.

### Will you describe what the chapel services entail?

The 30-minute service starts with music, then continues with a short sermon by a minister from our congregation. This year, we're planning to blend the music with short inspirational messages.

### How have you seen the chapel services impact the Mission's guests?

My favorite parts are before and after the service, when I talk to the guests. They may have been sleepy, hungry or distracted, but they come alive when someone pays attention to them.

### How else has Buckhorn Presbyterian Church supported the Mission?

The cash donations from Buckhorn's Christmas service often goes to the Mission. To the extent that the members of our congregation are able, they help serve food at the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas banquets.

### How have you seen Fort Collins Rescue Mission impact the community, particularly during the holidays?

People near the Mission seem to feel that this is their place. Everyone has a place at the Mission's table.

*Wolfgang Schmidt is a member of the Buckhorn Presbyterian Church congregation and plays the recorder and sackbut at Fort Collins Rescue Mission's chapel services. He is a retired programmer from Kansas City, where he worked for the Kansas City Southern Railway. He is married, has two sons and lives near the foothills with his three horses, two dogs and three cats.*

## Legacy Giving

### TURN ASSETS INTO EMPHASIS

Did you know that one out of 10 Americans rent offsite storage? The US is known for our tendency toward excess—holding on to assets we don't actually need.

Have you ever thought about giving away retirement assets to a ministry like Fort Collins Rescue Mission? Now that the Charitable IRA Rollover has been signed into permanent law, it's a great time to give—and reap the benefits!

Visit [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving](http://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/LegacyGiving) or contact Cindy Hendricks at [CHendricks@DenRescue.org](mailto:CHendricks@DenRescue.org) or 303.313.2441 to learn more.

## 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\*)

**23,910**  
Meals Provided



**8,597**  
Nights of Shelter



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