

APRIL 2020

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

THE GLORY OF EASTER

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

HARVEST FARM EMPLOYEE SHARES HIS STORY OF REDEMPTION

Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the great blessing to speak to several leaders of rescue missions across the country. I took this opportunity to talk about how our world is changing and how it is important to be able to reinvent our rescue missions to meet the changing needs of those experiencing homelessness. We have worked hard to be attentive to those we serve and tweak our programs when needed to better help people move out of homelessness. We know that change is constant, and at Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm, we are unafraid to meet this challenge with whatever it takes.

But what I also told this group of leaders is that one thing cannot change. We have to keep Christ at the center of our lives and of our rescue missions. This one thing must remain if we are going to continue Changing Lives in the Name of Christ.

This is what makes Easter such a special time. It reminds us of what Christ did for us. Jesus died for us, and at our annual Easter Banquet, we focus and reflect on His unselfish love, His sacrifice and His grace. Humanity may have turned its back on Him more than 2,000 years ago, but He has continued to show His love to all of us through the ages, changing our hearts and filling us with His love. Thank you for your support as we continue to show Christ's unconditional love to our guests and participants.

Happy Easter!

Brad Meuli
President/CEO



CELEBRATING *Easter* AT THE MISSION

Jesus died for us, carrying the weight of our pain and suffering and bringing us freedom and salvation. At our annual Easter Banquet, we serve guests in ways that help them understand the power of the Cross and the new life they have in Christ. Here's what's coming up at Fort Collins Rescue Mission to celebrate Easter:



MEALS

We *nourish* through a delicious home-cooked meal made by our team of Mission chefs.



A PLACE OF WORSHIP

We *share* the gospel at multiple chapel services and partner with Buckhorn Presbyterian Church to serve communion to our guests.



FOOT WASHING

We *refresh* as we wash guests' feet while encouraging and ministering to them.

GIFTS

We *give* away a special gift to guests who attend the banquet.

It's because of your generosity that we're able to portray the gospel in a tangible way this Easter.

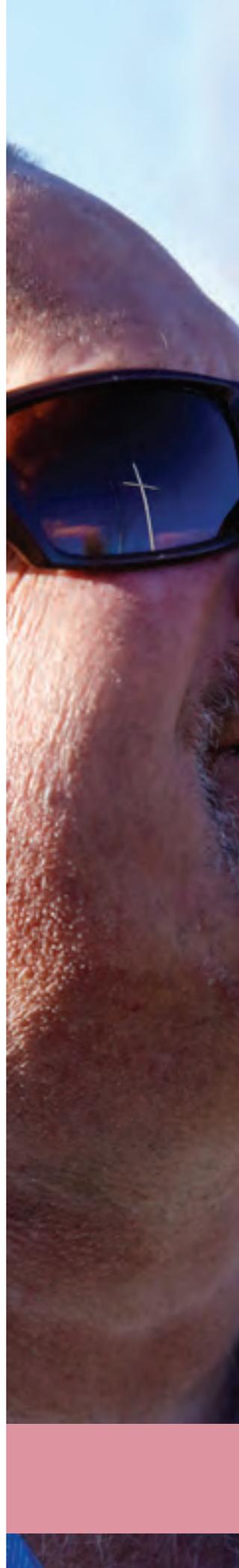
HEY VOLUNTEERS, WE APPRECIATE YOU!

National Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 19-25

Last year, volunteer hours at Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm totaled 11,620! Volunteers are our lifeblood at the Mission and a vital part in serving our homeless neighbors.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer?

Learn more at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Volunteer.



WALKING IN VICTORY

Tim Hutson is a compassionate, tender-hearted listener.

During the first two hours of his day, he listens to God during his time of prayer. As he drives the shuttle every couple of hours to take New Life Program participants to their job interviews, doctor's appointments and other errands, he listens.

"Honestly, I don't do a whole lot of talking," said Tim, who is a driver at Harvest Farm, a 100-acre farm and rehabilitation center for men in Wellington. "Sometimes these guys have to vent, and sometimes they're just looking for an 'attaboy.'"

He finds joy in watching them regain their driver's licenses, start new jobs and make progress in their journeys of recovery. When he attends the Farm's daily devotion, he listens to the prayer requests of men who are going through struggles that hit close to home.

Tim started smoking and chewing tobacco at the age of eight. His alcohol use ramped up throughout his teenage years, and when he reached his early twenties, it had started to form a stronghold over his life. "I was chronic," he said. "I couldn't function."

Feelings of fear evolved as Tim's sister, Debbie, watched her brother suffer from a destructive addiction for more than three decades. But she never stopped praying for him, and when she recommended that he join the New Life Program, he listened. "It had reached the point where it was life or death," she said.



Every time Debbie visited Tim during his time in the program, she saw a transformation. "You could see that God was redeeming and renewing his life. So much of the heaviness and condemnation that he had carried for so many years was lifted," she said.



Driving the Farm shuttle is Tim's time to connect with program participants. "I really like helping other people with their battles," Tim said. "I get to do that every day."



Learn more about how we support New Life Program participants in addiction recovery at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Blog.

During his first couple of months in the program, Tim worked in the kitchen as part of the work readiness phase, which helped keep his mind off of using substances. "The whole idea of the program is to start changing the way you think, act and behave," he said.

After 13 months of diligently meeting with his chaplain and counselor and surrounding himself with solid peers and a strong community from his church, Tim graduated from the program and walked wholeheartedly into a new life. "The Farm saved my brother's life," Debbie said.

Now, Tim is a daily encouragement to the men who ride in his shuttle. He is in the process of becoming a Certified Addiction Counselor and has been certified as a Peer Support Specialist, an individual who has lived experience with a substance use disorder and can help others in their journeys of recovery.

In the thick of the pain that Debbie felt during Tim's addiction, she wrote his name in her Bible next to Psalm 56:13: *For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

This Easter, Tim is celebrating almost four years of sobriety. Today, he walks before God in the light of life. Today, he's walking in victory.

"Jesus died on the Cross for me. And for you," he said. "Listen and ask for His help. Real change comes through Jesus."

At Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm, we believe that true healing comes through Jesus. To partner with us in serving others this Easter, give today at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.



What inspired you to start a Bible study with participants in the New Life Program?

First and foremost, I would like to give all glory to Jesus Christ for providing this ministry for me to serve in. I was inspired to start the Mighty Men of Valor Bible Study after I met a few participants of the New Life Program. What came upon my heart was to start a group that included men from the Farm and men who attend Timberline Church and have been in community and following Jesus faithfully for a long time. We had our first Bible study in the fall of 2013. Over the years, we have seen 60 to 70 men attend our

Sunday group, with a consistent number of 8 to 12 men on any given Sunday. We also recently started meeting at the Farm on Wednesday evenings to help bring Jesus and a sense of community to new program participants. I believe it's important for these men to be valued from the start of their journeys of recovery.

How have you seen the New Life Program participants grow in their faith through this group?

A few men who have graduated from the program still attend our group and have become pillars for the other men by displaying stability and leadership and embracing Jesus in their journeys of recovery in remarkable ways.

How have the other men in the group been encouraged and challenged in their faith through hearing the stories of the program participants?

In walking with the men who are in the program, we have witnessed God's restoration firsthand. We have seen true miracle-working change and that their journeys of recovery take obedience, dedication and focus. The process requires transparency and accountability, and we have been challenged to see what that looks like in our own lives. It has been humbling to see that addiction, homelessness and mental illness does not discriminate. Anyone and everyone is vulnerable, and we want to continue to demonstrate God's love, grace and mercy because of this reality.

Why do you think the New Life Program at Harvest Farm is important to the Northern Colorado community?

I have seen Harvest Farm resurrect long-buried talents and abilities in men recovering from addiction. The New Life Program has given so many men a sense of value, and it provides a safe place for men to grow and turn their lives around.

Rob Jones is the founder and leader of the Mighty Men of Valor Bible Study at Timberline Church. He moved to Fort Collins from Nebraska at a young age and has a son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. He has been in recovery from opioid and cocaine use since 2004 and is able to encourage others through his testimony.

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*)

68,788

Meals Provided



36,936

Nights of Shelter



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

