

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION

"HIS MERCIES NEVER
COME TO AN END. THEY
ARE NEW EVERY MORNING."
- LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

HOPE
STARTS
HERE

FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FRONTLINE EMPLOYEE

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS

Dear Friends,

If you've ever spent time in a shelter, your first impression would likely be that they are places without hope—without love. Much of the comforts we enjoy in our homes are not present, and sometimes the sheer scale of seeing people with nowhere else to sleep can be overwhelming. Yet I am reminded of a quote from St. John of the Cross, a fifteenth-century Christian theologian: "Where there is no love, put love—and you will find love."

This is the task of staff members like Desiree and many others here at the Mission. We are suiting up and showing up every day. We are going into the places that lack love and looking into faces that lack hope and putting love and hope there. On hot summer days, I'm reminded of another St. John of the Cross quote: "In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God." Though it has been a hot summer, many of our guests are still living in a dark night of the soul, and we believe that God has positioned Fort Collins Rescue Mission to be the bright flowing river of God for those individuals. Throughout May and June, through a funding partnership with the City of Fort Collins (see the back page), we have been able to operate our shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

One more St. John of the Cross quote: "In the twilight of life, we will be judged on love." There are two ways of reading this quote. First, how much and how well we love our neighbors and God will determine the worth and weight of our lives in the end. Second, what we love will be our judge. For this reason, I am so grateful to work at a place like the Mission, because it offers an opportunity to love others in the name of Christ.

At the twilight of my life, I hope to be judged by what I love: Jesus, because He first loved me. It was when I had no love that He gave me His love to give to others. He has also used all of you, our supporters and donors, by putting His love into your hearts for our guests. Thank you for your support of our staff, our work and our shelters, where love can now be found where there was none before.

God bless,



Seth Forwood
Senior Director
Fort Collins Rescue Mission



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FRONTLINE EMPLOYEE

2:00 P.M.

When Desiree walked into her office on a Friday afternoon to start her workday, she was elated to see a piece of mail on her desk: a housing voucher for a guest she'd been working with. She beamed as she made the call to share the good news.



2:30 P.M.

A former guest, Thomas, stopped by. He had recently received a housing voucher, but his apartment application got rejected because he needed to submit additional paperwork. Desiree helped him fill this out, and they hopped in the Mission van to drop it off before the weekend. "Desiree doesn't take no for an answer," Thomas said.



DESIREE: THE ADVOCATE

I asked the Lord to put me in a place where I could do the most good for Him. I'm relieving suffering. Having experienced it myself, I know the despair and horror of it. I've been homeless. I've been addicted. I've struggled with anxiety, depression and PTSD. I've felt hopeless. I've felt unworthy. **I've apologized for my existence.**

It was like you had to hide your own body. Nobody wants you around.

The dedication and resilience of staff members like Desiree is essential in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Guests need to feel supported, not alone; accepted, not judged. Your support is enabling us to do God's work.

Desiree Anthony is more than an emergency services and community outreach coordinator at Fort Collins Rescue Mission. She's an advocate. Her days are filled with plans that are constantly changing but a goal that remains the same: meet guests' immediate needs while helping them take steps toward securing housing.



Watch Desiree's video story on our YouTube channel: @DenverRescueMission.



She's often taking guests to appointments, such as to the DMV and social security office. Her goal is to help guests secure all the documents they need to be ready for housing.



FCRM recently started offering 24/7 sheltering.

"Twenty-four-hour shelter is the best way to get people housed, because I can get them resources and keep the line of communication," Desiree said. "It's much easier to get a hold of people [when] I'm able to find them in the facility."

After returning to the office, another guest, Maverick* came in—in desperate need of Desiree's help. He is a refugee who just found out he was losing custody of his kids and not able to secure housing. "I'm going to do whatever I can to figure this out," she told him.

Desiree typically works with about 20 guests at a time on their housing solutions. When she's not in the office, she's attending meetings of various committees, such as the City of Fort Collins Homelessness Advisory Committee, to stay updated on housing opportunities and resources.

Once she wraps up her meetings, Desiree often helps at the Mission's dinner service and starts checking guests in at the men's dorm.

While managing the guest list, Desiree assigns open beds to guests who need a place to stay. She also hands out hygiene products, socks, underwear, and other clothing items upon request. She sees this part of her shift as an opportunity to get to know the guests, learn their needs, establish trust, and build relationships.

Once the guests are settled for the night, Desiree is ready to head home to her family of six. After a busy day—mixed with hopeful news, unexpected changes and challenging conversations, she remembers that God moves mountains. "When we hit roadblocks, we pray," she said. "The Lord does for us what we cannot do for ourselves."

3:30 P.M.

4:30 P.M.

6:30 P.M.

10:30 P.M.

*Name changed for privacy.

You lose your checking account. You lose your ID. There's nowhere to charge your phone. You don't have transportation. You don't have a good night's sleep. You literally have no control over your own life.

Terrifying isn't even the word.

It brought me so much closer to understanding Jesus Christ—what Christ's consciousness truly is. There's a depth to it, that for these guys experiencing homelessness,

just cannot be duplicated. You realize that you do not need anything but God, when that's all you have, is God.

I am an advocate. I stick up for people who cannot stick up for themselves and speak for those who don't have the words.
I value everybody as a child of God.

My cup of hope is overflowing; my cup of resilience is never ending. //



Give today at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

THE MISSION in my words




Brittany Depew

Brittany Depew joined the Social Sustainability Department at the City of Fort Collins in 2017 and has been the homelessness response and solutions lead specialist since February 2021.

Why is it important to the City of Fort Collins to partner with Fort Collins Rescue Mission (FCRM)?

Homelessness is a complex issue that requires community and system-wide collaboration, and the City's partnership with the Mission is critical. Only together can we make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in Fort Collins. It takes data-driven solutions, rebuilding broken systems and planning at all levels to support our houseless neighbors. We must all be united in this common goal.

How has the City's support of FCRM grown since COVID-19?

COVID-19 highlighted many gaps in our homelessness system, including insufficient capacity, particularly for single adult men. To provide space for these men, the City worked closely with the Mission to relocate to the Blue Spruce Temporary Shelter. We have grown our partnership with FCRM and hope to maintain this strong teamwork even beyond emergency pandemic response. We are stronger together.

The City recently provided funds that allow FCRM to operate as a 24/7 shelter for the first time. What inspired the City to support this?

As the Mission was preparing to return to its main location, we discussed how the City could best support this transition. Given our increased ability to support homelessness programs due to federal relief funds, we devoted additional funds to the Mission to increase its staff to enable 24/7 sheltering. This shift in operations has allowed more people to be safe and protected during the day and focus on rest, resource navigation, employment searches, and other critical daily needs.

How has being involved in this partnership with FCRM impacted you personally?

I am blown away daily by the thoughtfulness, dedication and kindness of the Mission staff. At all levels, the staff is committed to providing life-changing services with empathy. I continue to be inspired to do my best every day. The Mission has been a strong partner from the beginning and continues to provide service with vision and determination.

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES



REHABILITATION



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LOCATIONS

**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**

Meals, shelter and access to resources and services



Harvest Farm

Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins



**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

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



Become a Mentor, Change a Life

Harvest Farm needs mentors to support men in the New Life Program as they work to overcome addiction. Apply today at [HarvestFarm.org/Become-Mentor](https://www.HarvestFarm.org/Become-Mentor).

THOUGHTS?

Send your questions and comments to Newsletter@DenRescue.org.

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



316 Jefferson Street • Fort Collins, CO 80524
970.224.4302

