

APRIL 2022

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

## HOPE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

**FORT  
COLLINS  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

OVERCOMING ADDICTION & FINDING HOPE

THE IMPACT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS EASTER SEASON



Dear Friends,

This month's theme for our newsletter is Hope for a Promising Future. When I pause during this Easter season to think about hope, I find myself thinking about Jesus' disciples on the Friday Jesus was crucified, died on a cross and His body was placed in a tomb. They were just a mess as they thought that people might be coming to do the same thing to them. They were frightened, their world was in shambles, their leader was gone, and they had little hope based on what had just happened.

This is how people like Andrew, featured in this month's newsletter, feel when they come to us—they do not have much hope. They are in trouble, and it is hard to be hopeful about the future.

It was only three days later—when Mary Magdalene came running to the disciples to say the stone over Jesus' tomb had been moved and that she had seen the Lord—that their lives changed forever. They found their hope again, their hope for a promising future, when Jesus appeared to them. They realized by seeing and touching His wounds, that He had been resurrected and was alive!

I cannot say that we have anything as exciting as the bodily resurrection of God's son at Fort Collins Rescue Mission, but we can tell all who come to us that Jesus is alive! There is great hope for the future for those who ask us for help. Our guests who have sadly been without hope, see the love of Jesus in our staff and volunteers' faces and are hopeful once again. The future is promising when you can shed the chains of addiction and get a second chance at life with Jesus at your side.

Because of you, and your generous gifts and prayers, we get to be like the disciples of Jesus' day, sharing the hope of the resurrected Jesus, not just this Easter season, but every day of the year. You too, like the people we serve, have a promising future because of the hope that Jesus brings.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



# HOPE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

A STORY OF POSSIBILITY WHEN ALL SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE

**Andrew's battle with addiction began when he was just 12 years old and became a coping mechanism for several difficult experiences throughout his life. But when he came to Denver Rescue Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm, he was deeply grateful for the second chance he was given to overcome his addiction. This Easter season, know that your support gives those who come to the Mission for help, the same grace and forgiveness that Christ has given us.**

## Addiction Isn't Who I Am

**A**ndrew was 12 years old when he had his first sip of alcohol. What started as a sip turned into drinking every weekend, which led to experimenting with other drugs. Before he knew it, addiction became the center of his life.

Andrew masked his struggles the only way he knew could instantly numb the pain he had felt from a young age. "[Alcohol] filled the void in my life and in my soul," he said. "It killed the anxiety, killed the pain and the things that I didn't want to walk through."

As a child, Andrew grew up thinking

life was good—until his father's struggle with alcoholism ended his life when Andrew was just 15 years old. Andrew became angry at God and turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with his grief.

Eventually Andrew dropped out of high school, and after spending five years in a cycle of addiction, he joined the Army National Guard as well as became a firefighter. However, his desire to help others despite struggling himself didn't replace his addiction; rather, it added to the trauma he already held deep inside. That trauma—becoming unbearable—led to an attempt on his life.

"On May 7, 2017, I tried to overdose," Andrew said. "I was drinking that



night too, and I woke up in a county jail but luckily, I was alive."

Andrew spent the next few years living on the streets, sleeping in his car and going in and out of sober living facilities. In June 2020, he came to Colorado for recovery. Still, he was not finding the help he needed, so a year later, he came to Harvest Farm where his life truly began to change.

"This place is really giving me the chance to realize that I'm a good person and that addiction isn't who I am," he said. "It's something that I've dealt with, but it's not who I am."

## Hope For the First Time Since I Was 12

From day one at Harvest Farm the staff members—such as Peer Support Specialist, Dan Spencer and Case Manager,



Rebecca Ogletree—have seen Andrew take transformative steps to attain a new life.

"Andrew has focus, steadfastness and persistence," Dan said. "From the very beginning, you could tell that he was going to apply everything he learned to his life."

But last August, Andrew witnessed a fellow participant get seriously injured in a bike accident, and triggering his PTSD, he decided to leave the program. Within about five days, Andrew knew he needed to go back to the Farm.

"[That second chance] meant the world to me," Andrew said. "I'm going to complete this and work through the things I need to work through so that I don't have to live that life anymore."

"THAT SECOND CHANCE  
MEANT THE WORLD TO ME."

Since reentering the program, Andrew has been baptized and is growing in his relationship with God, is working through his traumas in trauma therapy, encourages others as a chair at Alcoholics Anonymous

(AA) meetings, is working to overcome his social anxiety, and so much more.

Rebecca has seen a complete shift in Andrew. "He discovered self-worth again," she said. "The man I met when he first came was broken and hurting deeply, but now he has this brightness about him."

Now, Andrew is in the transition phase of the program and looking forward to graduating in August. He wants to finish his education for a degree in criminal justice and eventually become a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

"I have hope for the first time since I was 12 years old. And I truly mean that, from my heart and my soul, I have hope," Andrew said. "If you utilize the resources here properly and actually put in the work, you'll have a new life." ■

This Easter season, give men  
like Andrew hope for a new life at  
[FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).

Scan to Give!





# THE MISSION in my words




## David Burran

David is a retired sales executive who has dedicated his life to serving the Lord. He married his wife Cathy in January 2020, and together they have eight children and seven grandchildren. They live in Wellington and operate the Senior Draft Horse Sanctuary.

### What has your experience been like as a volunteer at the Farm?

I have been volunteering as a mentor at Harvest Farm for about a year. I have a heart to serve the Lord, and the mentoring program provides a meaningful way to serve the Kingdom. It has deepened my faith as I have called on the Lord to guide me with the men. My favorite part is getting to know the men and their specific needs. Through developing a relationship with each man and understanding his needs in faith, community and his new life journey, we tailor a plan together. I would recommend the volunteer mentor program to any man of God who is called to serve—you will receive blessings and He will reward you for your service.

### How have you seen your mentees' lives change at the Farm?

Harvest Farm offers men a new life much in the same way our Savior gives us new life. Men are given a new start, a new journey, redemption from their past, and a path for a new life. My most recent mentee has been radically transformed by Jesus and has accepted his newfound faith and the abundant forgiveness, redemption and blessings that come from Him.

### You are planning to bring your mentees over to interact with the horses in the future. How have you seen the horse sanctuary benefit those who come visit?

My wife and I have seen the difference that these gentle giants make in people's lives in meaningful ways. Recently we have seen a woman freed from depression, a heart full of hurt turned to joy and a non-verbal child begin to speak. The Farm will be offering the sanctuary to the men in the near future, and we are excited to see how the Lord will work in equine therapy with the men at the Farm.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

*You spent 70,703 hours serving in 2021*

*Volunteer Appreciation Month is here,  
and we are grateful for YOU!*

DENVER RESCUE MISSION  
IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



## 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



## BE A VOLUNTEER

[DenverRescueMission.org/Volunteer](https://denverrescuemission.org/Volunteer)

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