

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

I HAVE MY BROTHER BACK

A Relationship Restored

"A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a
time of adversity."
— Proverbs 17:17

**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**



Dear Friends,

Very early on in my time here at the Mission, I learned how we have the opportunity to help restore relationships. Time and time again, I have had the great pleasure to see men in our New Life Program restored to their wives, their children, their mothers, and to other family members. This comes when men take responsibility for their actions and learn about Jesus' love for them. Surrendering to Jesus and then working to set aside their addictions is not an easy thing to do. This action comes with a lot of humility.

This month's *Changing Lives* newsletter talks about something we do not often see—two brothers, Tommy and Jay, whose lives are being restored at Harvest Farm. I know that you will be excited to read about them and how they have been reunited as brothers for a common cause. If you are like me, when you look at their photo, you realize they could be anyone's family members, anyone's brothers. Addiction can cripple anyone, and we are thrilled to be able to help anyone who comes to us for help.

As I look at their photo and read about their struggle, this month's newsletter made me think about my own brother and sisters who I appreciate and love. If you feel the way that I do, maybe you might want to pick up the phone, or send a note or email to your family telling them you appreciate them. Like Tommy and Jay, everyone could use a little affirmation.

Thank you for helping us to restore relationships! Your financial gifts, prayers and gifts of time by volunteering, continue to be a blessing to all of us at Fort Collins Rescue Mission. Thank you!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli
President/CEO



I HAVE MY BROTHER BACK

A Relationship Restored

LIKE MANY SIBLINGS, TOMMY AND JAY HAVE EXPERIENCED SEVERAL OF LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS SIDE-BY-SIDE. WHEN ADDICTION PUT A STRAIN ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP, THEY DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY'D EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. BUT GOD REUNITED THE BROTHERS THROUGH THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM AT HARVEST FARM AND TRANSFORMED THEIR LIVES FOR GOOD.



"IT STARTED OFF REALLY DARK, REALLY CONFUSING . . ."

For Tommy and Jay's childhood, they lived with parents who struggled with addiction, didn't go to school and moved between different houses, cars and even sheds. Unlike most kids their age, days were spent sitting in the back of the car while their parents did drugs in the front.

Eventually, a couple close to the family adopted the brothers, and things started to get brighter—from sharing their first real Christmas with their adoptive parents, legally changing their last name, and so much more.

"It was what we needed," Tommy said. "Coming from such a dark childhood, I am thankful we had parents."

"I WAS MAKING SOME POOR CHOICES, BAD DECISIONS AND WASN'T GROWING UP . . ."

When it came time to go to college, Tommy and Jay were each caught up in the cycle of addiction. They grew apart from each other, from their family and from God.

"There was hope that you want to be better than you are," Jay said. "You want what other

"You just want to know who gave so you can shake their hand, give them a hug and tell them how great this experience was. Because it's not about the money—we can't wait to live life after this." —Tommy & Jay

FOR BOTH, THE FINAL STRAW CAME WITHIN MONTHS OF EACH OTHER,
AT A MOMENT OF IMMENSE VULNERABILITY AND DESPERATION:

TOMMY

"It was the last time I put a needle in my arm. My whole left side went numb, and I prayed: *Just keep me going God. Keep me breathing please. Please keep my eyes open so I can see Jay and give him a hug.* I didn't know how my heart kept thumping but now I know it was God. I came to the Murphy Center, just like my brother. I knew from day one I could not get high or drunk anymore."



JAY

"I was struggling with dope and staying in a hotel. I met this guy who was like, 'Man you need to go to Fort Collins, they got resources there.' I broke down. I was sitting there, bawling on an adrenaline rush of, *what am I supposed to do with my life?* So that next morning he dropped me off at the Murphy Center. And ever since I touched Fort Collins, I didn't touch any other drugs that I used to just crave."

people have—family, nice things, success—but you can't get there; you're just spinning your wheels."

"GOD PUT MY BROTHER BACK IN MY LIFE . . ."

Shortly after getting to the Murphy Center, a center for homelessness community resources run by Homeward Alliance, Jay signed up for the Mission's New Life Program at Harvest Farm. "I started to feel love for once in my life," Jay said. "I have a sponsor and we've done studies together. My mentor David has helped me through the spiritual view of things. But it all comes with coming here, slowing down, surrendering to God, and saying I cannot handle it anymore, and then He goes to work."

As for Tommy, he got connected with Fort Collins Rescue Mission. One Sunday, he joined some of the other guests and volunteers

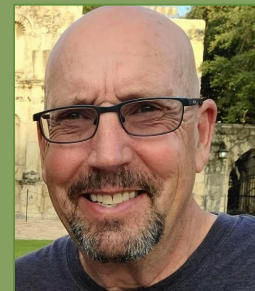
at the Mission for a church service. "It's truly amazing because God put my brother back in my life in church," Tommy said. "I turned around and he's standing right there, just glowing. I'm like, 'Give me a hug.'"

It was through joining the New Life Program that Jay and Tommy were able to restore their relationship, build a community and strengthen their faith. Jay graduated in February 2022 and hopes to go into prison ministry. Tommy is still in the program where he continues to build good habits, establish healthy relationships and create goals for his future.

"It took stripping everything I had away—relationships, family, friends, and loved ones," Tommy said. "So one of my top goals is to have relationships and friendships that I can truly value and trust."

They can now look toward the future with hope in their hearts, knowing that whatever God has

in store for them, He will lead them down the path the way they started—together. ■



"Jay missed his brother Tommy and often wondered where he was and how he was doing. We prayed together

for them to be reunited and for the Lord to work in his older brother's life. The brothers were then reunited at worship service one Sunday. Not long after, Tommy began the New Life Program. The Lord has reunited these brothers and will use their lives for His glory."

- David, Jay's Mentor

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Harvest Farm
Mentor Matches
in FY22

GIVE TODAY TO HELP RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS LIKE TOMMY AND JAY'S AT
FORTCOLLINSRESCUEMISSION.ORG/CHANGINGLIVES.

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THE MISSION in my words




Matt Morgenstern

Matt joined the New Life Program at Harvest Farm in search of freedom from his addiction. He graduated the program in March 2019, and three years later, he stays connected to the Farm through his work and his continual journey of recovery.

What was life like before joining the New Life Program at Harvest Farm?

Life was tough. I really had no control over my drinking and drug use. I was very isolated. It felt like I was in a jail in my mind, whether I was on the streets or actually in jail. When I got to Harvest Farm, I showed up spiritually broken. The Farm changed my life. My life had gotten so bad, but I met a lot of really good people up there who gave me some really good guidance.

What have you been doing since graduating the program?

I built a successful business, my own paint company, MGM Color Solutions. I also work for Pure Energy as an independent contractor. Pure Energy replaced light fixtures at Fort Collins Rescue Mission through a grant. I've been staying connected, which is something that's really kept me clean and sober. I go to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the Farm, and I have for three years since I left. There is a run club, which absolutely changed my life and I go to it to this day. I run with the guys who are like me, who could barely run when they got there, and I donate all my old shoes to those who are willing to try running. I have really built a community through those things.

What does it mean to you to stay connected in these ways?

It means everything to me. I just hope that when I when I go there, I plant seeds with some of the guys and carry a message of hope and recovery. I hope that I can help one person find some of the spiritual and mental freedom that I found from the Farm. It fills up my cup and that's what keeps me going back, helps me stay in recovery and keeps me moving in the direction that I am. The Farm healed a relationship with my sons, gave me a marriage and gave me my family back, and I just hope that some of the guys up there have the same experience I had.

OUR CORE STRATEGIES



EMERGENCY SERVICES



REHABILITATION



TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LOCATIONS

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COLLINS
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Meals, shelter and access to resources and services



Harvest Farm

Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins



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



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