

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

## Looking Up



**FORT  
COLLINS  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

Dear Friends,

At a young age, two of my grandkids learned a Bible verse from their parents that I love to hear them say, and it will be forever etched in my mind in their voices:

*“For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but power, love and self-control.” - 2 Timothy 1:7*

The peer leaders featured in this month’s newsletter share with our New Life Program participants what the spirit of God has done in their lives, washing away the fear they may have had prior to coming to the Mission.

Being fearful when you come to the New Life Program is not uncommon. Our peer leaders come alongside our participants, sharing their own past fears and stories, letting them know how the love of Christ has changed them and can change others as well, and how a relationship with God helps with self-control so key to those fighting addiction.

Peer leaders let participants know they are here for them. They are servant leaders who have walked through difficulties that our participants are experiencing, and they have made it to the other side. They want to give back. They let these men know that they are not alone in their daily struggles and that there is hope.

Jesus said this same reassuring thing to His disciples (and to all of us as believers) when He said, in Matthew 28:20 “. . . and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

How reassuring that we can walk without fear because of His power, His love and the self-control He has given us. Thank you for making this work possible through your generous donations, prayers and volunteering.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO

# Looking Up

Having someone to look up to like Abel, Rodney and Tommy helps current participants at Harvest Farm feel supported and motivated on the road to recovery. As peer leaders, they are graduates of the New Life Program who are dedicating their time to share their experiences and mentor others in the program.

By listening, sharing their own experiences, facilitating fun activities, and more, peer leaders help promote the transformative power of a healthy community and provide an environment where personal growth and recovery can thrive.

Learn more about the connections built through our Peer Leader Program at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/PeerLeadersEmpowerRecovery](http://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/PeerLeadersEmpowerRecovery)

## MEET OUR PEER LEADERS

Last year, peer leaders spent 998 hours making 3,146 connections with program participants.

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I was defeated by drugs and alcohol. Just spiritually dead. I wanted to end it all. I was asking God, if He existed, to come help me.

When I came here, I came ready to give it all to God. My experience here has been life changing. I think what’s helped me the most is the community. Just seeing others like me who were in the program who are doing good. Just knowing that there is a chance.

I wanted to come to the peer house to be able to share with others what helped me. I encourage them to reach out to staff and to us. I talk to them about how their day is going. I remind them about reading their Bible and to stay focused on the present moment.

My goals now are to continue to have Jesus first, second and third in my life. And then, of course, for me to be okay so that I can also be a good father, be a good friend, be a good role model. I want to someday become a peer coach specialist.





# Tommy

**I** remember getting dropped off with my brother on our grandparents' front porch. Our dad was on drugs on the streets and our mom was struggling at the same time.

Then, at 25 I started my years of barhopping and experimenting with drugs. I was making some poor choices.

*This program is helping me realize where I was falling and has helped me to build better and new habits. We don't have to bring anything but ourselves here. I have grown up, matured and found God.*

I truly believe the peer house has definitely changed my life. Working with these men in certain situations, it's definitely showed me a lot of patience that I didn't know that I had. I'm thankful to our donors and this staff, because I couldn't have done it without y'all.

For more of Tommy's story visit [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/IHaveMyBrotherBack](http://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/IHaveMyBrotherBack)



# Rodney

**F**or my whole life, I had substance abuse issues. The first time I ever tried methamphetamine I was 11 years old. Then it just got stronger and stronger.

I really started going through depression. Once everybody pushed away, I felt alone. That's when I started feeling like I wanted to try something new.

When I came here, I didn't know if I was ready to be done with my substance use. I realized I was done with it forever when I hit about six months in. *I had never felt better, and I was getting so many good things accomplished. Just having the opportunity to be somewhere where I could be clean and sober and around good people who were trying to better their lives helped me in so many different ways.*

I started hanging out with people on the Farm, working, creating my own art group, and going to school for digital cinematography. Now, I'm a peer specialist not only here on the Farm, but through the Murphy Center and Garcia House. Once I got clean and to a place where I was able to explore those options, it made life feel like it's fulfilled.



# Abel

"I did get to give one of the donors a hug and shake his hand in church. Just that connection, I just started bawling. That was beautiful." -Tommy

You have made a huge impact on Abel, Rodney and Tommy, and your generosity can make a difference for so many others at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](http://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).

Scan to Give!



# THE MISSION in my words




## Mary Vivo

Mary is our new director of philanthropy at Fort Collins Rescue Mission/Harvest Farm. With 20 years of experience working for nonprofits, she joins us with a passion to serve the physical, mental and spiritual needs of our community.

### What inspired you to work at the Mission and serve those experiencing homelessness?

I have managed a variety of nonprofits in Northern Colorado and felt led to return to an organization that provides shelter, recovery and self-sufficiency. It brings me to tears when looking in the eyes of someone who has given up on hope, and I believe as a society we need to catch people before they fall into despair. I feel a responsibility to offer education on what homelessness is and the variety of ways people find themselves in that situation, and to share how our community can participate in changing someone's life. Whether through volunteering or funding, I would like to invite people into partnership so they can see their compassion take action. It's more than just writing a check; it's seeing the intention and action behind their philanthropic contribution and labors of love.

### What are you excited about or hoping to accomplish in your new role?

I'm thrilled to be able to step in and carry on what Susan Stewart has created here in Northern Colorado. She made deep connections with donors, and you can tell she made a difference in their lives. I want to carry that forward, reflect the face of Christ and help people in need. I see my role as more of the connector. We're building partnerships and getting to know the donors and what their passions are. Everybody has a story. Some people have more colorful pasts than others, but usually as you get to know people, you realize it could have been you. It could have been a family member or a coworker or a neighbor. I feel that my role is to draw that out, take donors along for the journey and make connections so that they see what difference they're making.

### What would you say to encourage someone to get involved with the Mission?

There's nothing like helping someone in need, whether that's helping serve a meal or spending five minutes with somebody. With a kind word or a smile, you never know how you're going to touch somebody's life.



Rodney was a mentor to Tommy before Tommy also became a peer leader. "Rodney really inspired me because he spent time with me. I really looked up to him. I connect with him like a brother. I love you bro, you changed my life."

## 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



## Volunteer With Us!



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