

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



## *The Path to Stability*

↑ After facing the harsh realities of life on the streets, DeWayne came to Fort Collins Rescue Mission. Here, he found not just a bed and meals, but a path toward stability and transformation for his future.



**FORT  
COLLINS  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

Dear Friends,

If you are like me, the hope that I feel at Christmas time when I am reminded of the birth of Jesus, is so incredible. For me, it is life changing. I know that the “reason for the season” can get pretty watered down with materialism and the craziness of the holidays, but I always try and remember the hope that our Savior brought the day of His birth.

Luke 2:10-11 says: *“The angel said to them (the shepherds), ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’* And then a multitude of angels appeared around the shepherds praising God and declaring peace on earth. I am sure seeing all that was life changing for those shepherds!

When people walk through our door, even though they may have just come for a meal or a place to stay, their lives are often changed forever. This Christmas season we are grateful to have yet another opportunity to reach people who may not have celebrated any holiday for a long time but still feel that ache for family, for love, for the holiday they may have had many years ago but still remember. We are glad to be their family not only at Christmas, but every day of the year, offering the hope of Christ and the opportunity for a changed life. You make this possible with your generous gifts. Thank you. May your Christmas be filled with Christ’s love, and may you be comforted to know that you have helped others as they search for hope.

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



# The Path to Stability



## *Wandering Lost*

Imagine being without a home, a family, money, and direction for your future. You have to sleep on the streets with scarcely any food or water. The food you do find, you get from dumpsters.

No human should have to live that way, and yet for DeWayne, this was his reality.

“I ate that way for two years in Pueblo,” he said. “There are also no showers in Pueblo for the homeless. They got one bathroom and it’s not open at night. I went about a year without a shower.”

When DeWayne left Pueblo, he didn’t know where he was going and walked for what seemed like weeks. He was wandering a rocky road, until his path became clear and led him to Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

## On the Right Path

DeWayne has a permanent bed at the Mission, which gives him the needed stability to take care of his legal and mental health obligations, as well as focus on his next steps into housing.

"This place gets me off the streets; it's open year-round and they have permanent bed options for people who have a goal to better themselves," he said. "It is nice not to take my food out of a dumpster. They give me the stability to try to get things accomplished to get out of this situation."

At the Mission, a bed means so much more than just a place of rest; it ensures that our guests have a secure place to reset and reevaluate their next steps alongside people who care. In the same way, a hot meal does so much more than satisfy hunger; it gives hope to those who have so often been hopeless.

The Mission is also a place that offers resources that can be taken for granted, like electricity. For our neighbors experiencing homelessness, electricity is a rarity, making it difficult to accomplish things that require the use of a phone or computer.

"If I wasn't here, I'd just be roaming and roaming and roaming, probably not getting my obligations done or it would be really hard to get them done," DeWayne explained. "You have to have electricity for your phone. I have to conserve the battery to call into my probation every day. This place gives me a bed, I can keep my phone charged and the staff is really great."

## Moving Forward

With support from the staff, DeWayne is now on the Section 8 housing voucher list and looking forward to getting into a place of his own. He has also found a lot of support in the understanding and respect the staff has shown him, especially from those who have been in similar situations to him.

"They've all got pasts too and they show you how the past can be turned around to something positive," he said. "For example, one staff member has been to prison, and he turned his life over to God and quit doing all that kind of stuff. He started volunteering and turned his life around to help other people."

Seeing how others have transformed their lives gives DeWayne hope that he can do the same. The pathway out of homelessness is one that no one should have to venture alone, and for DeWayne, the Mission coming alongside him on that journey has meant so much.

"The staff have genuine hearts," he said. "A lot of them understand the situation you're in because they've been there. This place is just really helpful to me."



## SHARING Christmas Dinner

"A special meal that someone puts care and skill into can bring light to dark places, especially around the holidays. People deserve the dignity of a celebratory meal on special occasions no matter what their circumstance at the time. It's about hope! I am in recovery as well, so it means the world to me to support someone's efforts to get clean and get right with God."

LEE RANKIN, NORTHERN COLORADO FOOD SERVICES MANAGER



Our Northern Colorado chefs



"I don't have a family, so I don't celebrate holidays. But this place will go out of their way to do a holiday meal, so that's nice."

DEWAYNE

This Christmas, DeWayne is grateful for the stability and hope he found at the Mission. You can extend that hope to countless others at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).

Scan to Give!



# THE MISSION in my words



## Lisa Carlson

Lisa is a retired nurse and supports Fort Collins Rescue Mission by donating and volunteering weekly in the office. She also bakes cakes to celebrate each graduate from the New Life Program at Harvest Farm.

### What inspired you to get involved with the Mission and the Farm?

When I first retired and decided I wanted to spend some of my time somewhere helping people, I thought I'd try a few different places, and just the people at the Mission are really wonderful. As I kept meeting people, I thought, "I'm just amazed at how genuine everyone is." Then when I heard about Harvest Farm and the graduates, I just thought, "Wow, they've had all these obstacles and pasts that I can't even imagine. I wish there was something I could do to acknowledge their accomplishment." Ever since I was a kid, I was into baking, so that was when I thought, "Well, you could bake them a cake."

### What do you hope a homemade cake means to the graduates at the Farm?

I put their name on it because I think it's always special to see your name. What gave me the idea for that is my sister's husband who was a firefighter and he used to bring cakes in for guys. He made a guy a birthday cake, and later on, that guy told my sister, "No one had ever done that for me before." Growing up my mother made whatever cake I wanted every birthday, so it's just astounding how different people's lives have been.

### Why do you think supporting our neighbors experiencing homelessness is especially important during the holidays?

So much of the giving that goes on at Christmas is for people who don't need anything. When you're racking your brain of what to get so and so, they probably don't need anything. So, what a perfect time to focus on people who need so much instead of spending money on people who don't need anything. Maybe that person would even appreciate a donation being made in their name.

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WARM A HEART**

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EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

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For more details go to  
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Meals, shelter and access  
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**Harvest Farm**

Rural rehabilitation  
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