

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

WHO WE ARE
Called to be



**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**



Dear Friends,

As I made the journey from Michigan to Colorado, the words from Philippians 4:4-6 filtered through my thoughts: "Rejoice in the Lord always . . . Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Sometimes I struggle with this: Rejoice always? Don't be anxious about anything? There are a lot of things that cause anxiety and don't make me want to rejoice, yet being asked to serve this community and continue the legacy of Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm has given me a reason to rejoice.

Part of that legacy has been to keep Jesus at the center of this ministry. I believe you will find our Christ-Centered Approach, articulated in this month's newsletter, aligns with what the Mission has and will continue to do in service to our community.

At the Mission, we see every single human being as someone made in the image of God. We strive to see our guests as someone God loves and has plans to prosper and not to harm. We do this by trying to have the same attitude of Jesus, who humbled himself, considered others and their needs above His own and became obedient.

Thank you for investing in the work of Fort Collins Rescue Mission! I look forward to meeting many of you as we all work to change lives in the name of Christ for years to come.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

WHO WE ARE Called to be

This Easter, as we reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded of our call to live like Him. At the Mission, Christ has always been at the center of our work, and as we have progressed with our three-year strategic plan, one of our initiatives was to clarify how we have been and will continue to show up in this ministry. We settled on four key points: engage mercifully, work holistically, speak truthfully, and believe in miracles.

Christ-Centered Approach

God's work through me is because of God's work in me



ENGAGE Mercifully

We recognize all humans are made in God's image and strive to live out Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves, without judgment. Every day we practice mercy by:

- Welcoming all, with a low barrier to shelter entry
- Never giving up on people
- Handling difficult moments with patience and remembering the trauma of the people we work with

Loving our neighbor as ourselves, without judgment.

WORK Holistically

We are rooted in the Mission's historic goal of meeting people at their physical and spiritual points of need. As Christ commanded, we love God with our whole self and recognize that we are complex beings who require complex solutions (biological, psychological, social, and spiritual). Every day we provide holistic support by:

- Providing for guests' physical needs through food, shelter and life-changing programs
- Facilitating access to physical and mental health care
- Providing spiritual care and comfort

Recognizing that we are complex beings who require complex solutions.



SPEAK Truthfully

Following Jesus' example, we recognize the ongoing need to speak hard truths: first to ourselves and then into the lives of the people we serve and systems we engage within. Every day we honor truth and speak:

- Responsively instead of reactively
- At the appropriate time
- With honesty, transparency and hope

"Many years ago, I was helping a participant study for the GED, and he shared all the criticisms he had of me, personally and professionally. As I listened, I remember thinking, 'I know his story. He has seen everyone he loved leave him because of his actions, and I bet he's wondering if I'm going to do that too. I wonder what might happen if I just listen, stay connected to him through this and speak honestly to him?' So that's what I did. I said, 'I really want to keep working with you because I think you can accomplish a lot of incredible things during your time here, but I am getting the sense that you are trying to push me away with all these things you are bringing up. I want you to know that I'm committed to hearing as much as you want to share, and it doesn't change my commitment to working with you. Are you willing to continue working with me even with all my faults?' He was speechless. I could tell he heard what I was saying because his whole posture relaxed a little bit. More importantly, he showed up for our next appointment and eventually he received his GED and he graduated."

Speaking hard truths: first to ourselves and then into the lives of the people we serve.



BELIEVE in Miracles

Recognizing God's greatness and our frailty as humans, we believe that all lasting growth and healing depends upon the miraculous work of God. Every day we live out our faith by:

- Instilling hope in what God can do
- Knowing that apart from God we can do nothing
- Believing that as people behold the glory of God, they are being transformed into the same image

Believing that all lasting growth and healing depends upon the miraculous work of God.

"A guest at Fort Collins Rescue Mission told me that he wanted to go back to church. We discussed small ways to meet this goal and to reengage in his faith. The guest started regularly interacting with one of our volunteer chaplains who comes to the Mission weekly, and this led to the guest starting to go back to church regularly. A month later, the guest took the initiative to participate in a weekly discipleship class where he was assigned a mentor, completed assignments, read material, and engaged in his relationship with God even deeper. Recently, this guest told me he and a few other guys from church were going to start their own book study. This seemingly small engagement that this guest had with our volunteer turned into something so big for him, transforming his life and renewing his relationship with God."

Rachel Pinkston, Case Manager
at Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Seth Forwood, Senior Director
of Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Thank you for answering the call to love our neighbors in need. Your generosity's impact can cast an even wider net at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



Meet Our New President/CEO: Dennis Van Kampen



Dennis joins Fort Collins Rescue Mission from Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan, after serving as the VP of Programs and then the President/CEO for 12 years.

What are you most excited to do in Colorado?

Our family loves to get out in nature. We love to hike, camp and go whitewater rafting. So, we are excited for all of it.

What inspired you to join Fort Collins Rescue Mission and serve those experiencing homelessness in Colorado?

When I heard Brad was retiring, God began working on my heart. Over time it became clear that I was being called to join the work God is doing in and through Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

What are some of your favorite hobbies outside of work?

Hiking, reading, traveling, and spending time with my family.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

To keep my priorities straight and in balance. For me that means my relationship with God first, my family second and my ministry work third.

What is one valuable lesson you learned from your previous role that you'll bring into your new role at Fort Collins Rescue Mission?

The most important responsibilities I have are vision and culture. Casting and communicating vision and then caring for and intentionally building a strong and healthy organizational culture.

Watch a video message from Dennis at [Vimeo.com/DenRescueMission>HelloFromDennis](https://www.vimeo.com/DenRescueMission>HelloFromDennis)



THANK YOU Volunteers

OUR CORE STRATEGIES

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

REHABILITATION

Equipping men through a life-changing program

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Providing essential needs for daily life



Volunteer With Us!



LOCATIONS Fort Collins Rescue Mission | Harvest Farm | Denver Rescue Mission

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



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