

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

Growing Trust

FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION





Dear Friends,

As you read this, I am closing in on six months with Fort Collins Rescue Mission. It has been a blessing! I have been asked a lot what has impressed me the most—my answer is seeing how God is working in and through this ministry.

God is working in and through you, our donors, our prayer warriors, our volunteers, and our staff to do great things in the lives of the people we serve. Praise God for the Mission.

Throughout my career working in this space I **have often wondered, 'What if we were not here?'** That is not to say that we are the only ministry or organization doing great work—there are so many others! But what is it about the Mission?

Last year we helped over 150 individuals obtain housing and are on track to help even more this year! Countless people voluntarily found faith or grew in their faith. Dozens graduated from our rehabilitation program, clean and sober. We offered more than 60,000 nights of shelter and served over 107,000 meals.

Simply put, the work of this ministry could not be done without you, your prayers and your financial support. I am grateful that the Mission is here, and that God has called us to carry out this work together to make a difference one life at a time!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO



Growing Trust

In the New Life Program at Harvest Farm, men often find healing through caring for animals. It was through a special bond with a calf named Bolt that Ron learned to trust again, set and achieve goals and find purpose in helping others.

“I feel like the animals are the ones that saved my life.” -Ron

There’s a special bond that takes place between humans and animals, not only in movies, but at our very own Harvest Farm. For New Life Program participant, Ron, the Farm is where his relationship with Bolt, a young calf, began.

After coming down with pneumonia, Bolt was given a five percent chance of survival. “He couldn’t walk, or even stand up by himself,” Darrol Telck, livestock coordinator, explained. “Ron stepped up big time and fed Bolt five times a day with milk replacement and electrolytes and stayed in the barn with him every second he could.”

Within a few weeks, Bolt was getting better. Ron found a sense of purpose in taking care of Bolt, but when another cold snap hit the area, Bolt sadly passed away. Although difficult to process, Ron is grateful for the bond he built with Bolt and credits him for restoring his trust in people.

“When I took care of Bolt when he was sick, all he needed was somebody to love him, give him attention and talk to him,” Ron said. **“It taught me how to let people in, to love people again and give people chances.”**

Cows, goats, pigs, chickens, donkeys, and more—the staff at Harvest Farm know how beneficial animals can be to recovery. Counselor Christopher Kaplan explained, “There’s an endless



Bids For Connection

Requests to connect, whether in the form of verbal expression or physical outreach.

“When animals are answering those bids for connection constantly, through petting and things like that, you feel liked and seen by that animal and the animal rewards that behavior with a desire for more attention. It's something that pulls you out of yourself—**you're taking care of that animal and at the same time, you're taking care of yourself.**”

- Christopher Kaplan, Harvest Farm Counselor

amount of things that you could derive from developing a relationship with an animal. Now we don't want it to end there. It needs to be a stepping stone back into healthy relationships with other people. But it certainly is a profoundly useful, therapeutic tool that helps reengage with human beings, grow and trust again and learn how to set boundaries.”

Darrol added, “The animals play the most pivotal part in their healing—allowing them to be themselves and not be judged for anything in the past.”

For Ron, losing five of his best friends in high school set him on a spiral with alcohol abuse and losing the trust of those he loved. “My family and friends, I've lost everybody's trust,” he said. “But gaining the trust of the animals has helped me a lot. I just needed something to trust me to help push me forward.”

Not only has Ron gained the animals' trust, but he has learned to trust the staff at the Farm, and even encourages newer participants to

open up and connect with staff and others in the program.

“I'm surrounded by a lot of good people who have faith in me and who I can come and talk to,” he shared. “When I'm not thinking straight, or if I need advice on something, I go to them.”

While in the program, Ron got his driver's license, passed a food management license test and completed his GED. Now his goals include repairing his credit as well as helping others.

“That's what I try to tell these guys here, to set a few achievable goals and work for it. Even if it's the slightest goal, it gives you strength and courage to make another one,” Ron said. “I think that's my calling, to help others. That's when I'm happiest.”

Ron graduated from the program in April and looks

back on his time at the Farm, his time with Bolt, as a time of transformation.

He credits the New Life Program with helping him feel calmer and less angry. “I just feel more at peace with myself. It brings pride to know that I've made it this far,” he shared. “I know I can connect with people because I was homeless for five years and I know the struggles they go through. If they see me doing the right thing and doing good, I'm hoping I can touch them to do better.”

YOUR GENEROSITY
can help us nurture growth,
healing and renewal for
people like Ron on their
journey to recovery.

Join us by giving at
DenverRescueMission.org/ChangingLives.

Scan to Give!



THE MISSION in my words



Bekah Hawthorne

Bekah is the Missions and Outreach Director for Mill City Church, which provides monthly support for Fort Collins Rescue Mission through our Pathways of Hope program.

What initially inspired Mill City Church to get involved with the Mission?

Mill City Church has been partnering with the Mission through donations and volunteering since the beginning of 2022. I stepped into my role in 2023 and have since learned about the immense impact the Mission has in our city. It is a gift to not have to meet the needs of our community alone, but to partner with an organization that is already doing such an excellent job. We continue to partner because of the vision of hope that the Mission has, and the tangible need they meet in our community through the love of Christ.

Do you have a favorite memory from your involvement with the Mission?

My favorite memory with the Mission was the 2023 Christmas banquet. A group from our church helped to plate a full and delicious

meal for the men of our community, and it was special to see them gather around a table for a holiday dinner. While I scooped many ladles of hollandaise, I got to enjoy the fun of serving and witness the men impacted by a meal!

In what ways has supporting the Mission personally impacted your life?

Supporting the Mission has impacted my life through increasing my empathy and eyes to see the need for dignity and compassion in Northern Colorado. The work of the Mission is to meet men where they are with the love of Christ, and serving and partnering with them forms that same mission in me. Whether in the walls of the shelter or beyond, I feel compelled to see people as Jesus does and extend kindness and dignity. It is so worth it to visit, to volunteer and to begin building relationships.



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- Offer Sustainable Solutions
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FortCollinsRescueMission.org/PathwaysOfHope

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

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