

OCTOBER 2024

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



UNLOCKING STABILITY

FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION



Dear Friends,

In Matthew 25, the King replies, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* At Fort Collins Rescue Mission our staff loves Jesus and the men who walk through our doors. We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping those who are:

Hungry—and give them food to eat

Thirsty—and give them something to drink

Lonely—and give them hope

Needing clothes—and give them clothing

Sick or stuck in a cycle—and provide care and resources to help them

We welcome men into the shelter, some who just want a hot meal and a safe place to rest their head for the night, and others, like Josh who you'll meet in this newsletter, who want to get out of homelessness but don't know how. By applying for a reserved 24/7 bed, Josh and many others can get the rest they need and have a safe place to keep their belongings while meeting with a case manager.

We change lives through the power of Christ, by bringing an end to homelessness one life at a time. Thank you for investing in this work—we can't do it without your support and prayers!

May mercy, peace and love, fill your day

Paula Ordaz

Paula Ordaz | Director of Fort Collins Rescue Mission



UNLOCKING STABILITY

JOSH CAME TO THE MISSION
NEEDING STABILITY TO TURN
HIS LIFE AROUND. WITH A KEY
IN HIS HAND, HE NOW HAS A
PLACE TO CALL HOME.

*Congratulations Paula for being one of 33 leaders selected to take part in the Leadership Fort Collins program through the Chamber of Commerce!



Consistency of Reserved Bed



Warm Meals



Caring Staff



Enough Stability to Take the Next Step Out of Homelessness

"It's a lifesaver. I don't think I would be in my own place without the Mission, and without the reserved bed."

Once you've gotten into a reserved bed . . . you get to this point of, 'Oh, now I can start thinking about tomorrow or next week.' And that is what is so wonderful about this place."

- Josh

Having stability within the instability of homelessness was a game changer for Josh. When he found his way to Fort Collins Rescue Mission, he had already spent years on the streets struggling with drug addiction and six months in a rehabilitation program to get sober.

Yet, Josh still needed a place, and more importantly, *people* to guide him towards self-sufficiency.

"I can remember walking here, meeting two very good souls," he said. "I was like, 'Okay, these guys are gonna help me.'"

That was the moment Josh knew he was in the right place.

He was working full-time, and having a place to come back to each night helped him keep his job



as well as work towards his next steps. He got connected to a case manager who walked alongside him as he paid off his debt, started saving money, got food stamps, secured necessary documents, and ultimately, moved into housing.

"This place giving me the stability was a massive weight off my shoulders, allowing me to not only get comfortable with a job, but to know that I got a place I can come back to," he shared. "That's what makes this place amazing."

Just a consistent meal was a change for Josh. Spending years on the streets, he did what he could to survive.

"I have eaten out of garbage cans," he remembered. "When you're hungry . . . you do stuff that to this day I'm not proud of and I never will be proud of, to get something in your belly."

Before he got to the Mission, he couldn't fathom receiving a hot, delicious meal for free. "I couldn't wrap my head around a place doing that. It was a weight off in the sense that I didn't have to go buy my own and it felt good to have people make food for me. It was like, there are people who care."

Josh felt at home at the Mission, not only because he had a roof over his

Josh's Goals

- Never experience homelessness again
- Move into an apartment or studio
- Give back to the Mission

"That's the end game, is to make sure this place knows that I'm grateful for what it is, and that I can give back to everything they've given for me."

- Josh

head, but because he felt cared for by the staff.

"From the get-go, [my case manager and I] were applying to places. And most of them, for a while, didn't work out. That gets disheartening, but she was always upbeat saying, 'We're just gonna keep on trying, Josh. You're gonna be saving more money. You'll be ready for a better place when it shows up.' It was that level of optimism that really helped me."

And she was right. Josh moved into a communal living place where he has been for the past seven months. When he turned the key to walk into his own room, he felt relieved to have his own space.

"My favorite part of the whole place for the longest time was the fact I could deadbolt my door and have privacy," he said.

Now Josh continues to work a job he loves and is looking towards other hopes and goals for his future.

128 men obtained employment last year

"If you're willing to go the long miles and put in the effort to get better, they're willing to work right alongside you," he said. "The staff here will open every door they can for you, but you have to be willing to walk those steps."

Scan to Give!



160 men from the Mission and Harvest Farm moved into more stable housing last year. Help people like Josh find a place to call home at

FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

THE MISSION in my words



Dan & Arlene Ballard

Arlene has been involved with Denver Rescue Mission since 1993 and Fort Collins Rescue Mission since 2012 as a donor, volunteer and Goodheart Society member.

What inspired you to get involved with the Mission?

When Jesus saved me, He laid the homeless on my heart. Through bonding with select Mission staff who worked with donors, I gained a deeper understanding of the work being done at the Mission, as well as Harvest Farm.

How has your involvement expanded your perspective on homelessness and the impact of the Mission?

I've experienced Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm from two unique perspectives: as a donor and through the Goodheart Society, along with my husband, Dan, and as a volunteer, being a part of the impact Fort Collins Rescue Mission makes. It's incredible how much work is done in such a small building. The first time Dan and I visited the Farm, it was magical. We engaged with the men, heard their stories

and witnessed how they were navigating the difficult place they found themselves in. They were being fed, not just physically with food, but spiritually and emotionally as well. God was helping them overcome their addictions, giving them a purpose and reuniting families. It was a real eye-opener.

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

I would encourage them to pray and ask God, "Where do you want me to serve You?" By God's grace, He placed the desire in my heart to want to serve Him by serving others at the Mission. After praying about it, if the Mission is the place where you feel called to serve, then volunteer.

Who Wouldn't Want to Double Their Donation?

"My husband and I started thinking, 'How can we continue to support and help outside of what we already do?' We took advantage of the **COMPANY MATCH** that my husband has available to him, so more money is used to help the Mission."

-Arlene

FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Workplace-Giving

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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