

JULY 2025

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

## The Coin Flip

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MISSION





*Dear Friends,*

In perhaps His most famous sermon—the Sermon on the Mount—Jesus shares the best possible way to live: *“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”* Give to the one who asks and do not turn away.

It is easier to give to someone who asks who we know or believe is worthy. Yet, this is not what Jesus commands. Jesus does not qualify by saying, “Give to only those you know or those who appear worthy.” He calls us to give, period. In the same way, Jesus commands us not to turn away. It is so easy to turn away. It seems as if there is need everywhere.

In this newsletter you will read about Dan. He bravely shares his story of hardship and challenge. Dan came to Harvest Farm and asked for help. I am so grateful that the staff welcomed Dan in, they gave to him, they did not turn away. In doing so, Dan’s life was changed. In part because the staff decided to follow the words of Jesus.

This is who Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm are. Jesus is why we do what we do. We are working to change the world, one life at a time, through the power of Christ. Yet, we could not do this work without you.

I am amazed at how God works all things together for good. Not everyone can work for FCRM or the Farm and work closely with guests like Dan. But everyone can follow Jesus and play a role in this work. We could not do this without you and your prayers and financial support. Every time we ask, you respond and do not turn away, and that allows us to give to guests like Dan and not turn away. This is the beauty of God’s Kingdom.

On behalf of the staff and guests of FCRM and the Farm, thank you for your unwavering support. Know that we will be good stewards of all we are given as we help those who come to us.

Grace and peace,

*Dennis Van Kampen*

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO



## The Coin Flip

**A single coin flip brought Dan to Harvest Farm, where he found faith, community and a life worth living.**

**Heads I go to a hospital, tails I end my life.**

Dan was at his lowest point—living in his car, driving across the country trying to run away from his depression, anxiety and PTSD. But that’s the thing about running away from yourself—no matter where you go, there you are.

He was struggling with addiction, had isolated himself from his family and had already unsuccessfully attempted to end his life two times before. He had traveled his whole journey across the country with a half dollar coin in his pocket, and as he pulled it out to flip for the decision to alter the course of his life, **it landed on heads.**

“It’s like God was acting through a coin that day,” Dan said. “I still have that coin. I wear it as a necklace now, and it has my birth year on it.”

That moment led Dan to seek help for himself for the first time, a journey that led him straight to Harvest Farm. “This Farm is blessed ground, and because of that, there’s a peace here. I actually feel comfortable being here, and I started feeling comfortable just being myself here,” he said.

Dan’s work readiness portion of the program was with the agriculture team, tending to the greenhouse and plants around the Farm. Right away his supervisor and Farm Operations Specialist, Darrol Telck, noticed a unique work ethic and drive in Dan.

“Dan came in very shy and not knowing how to act in a setting like this, but very grateful to be doing something to better his life. He was very active in helping get the greenhouse back up and running and along the way found himself looking into pursuing a future in becoming an electrician,” Darrol said. “From not knowing where he fits in, to attempting suicide and overcoming that, the Farm has opened up excitement for the future for Dan.”



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**- Dan**

Now, as Dan looks at the greenhouse—all the things he helped cultivate and build—he feels proud of himself and grateful to Darrol for helping him along the way. "I couldn't have done it without him. As we were working on the greenhouse, I was going to therapy. Everything I've done is one small thing at a time, and now we have this amazing thing in front of us," he shared. "I definitely feel proud of how far I've come, and the work I've done to get to where I am."

The personal growth Dan experienced working in agriculture coupled with the spiritual growth he experienced working with his chaplain completely changed his life. **"I started to talk with Chaplain Dave about my beliefs and the idea of, I could have been dead from a coin flip, but it came up heads. Either that's a coincidence, or that's someone leading me on my path."**

After isolating himself for so long from people, he learned the power and importance of community. "That's something I didn't realize I needed—having support, not just here on the Farm, but outside the Farm. The first time I ever hugged a stranger in my life was my first time going to Faith Church here," he said. "And I was very lucky with the dorm I was in, there were four of us and we made each other laugh and had some deeper conversations. Community was definitely a thing I developed here."

Now Dan looks forward to getting back into the workforce, giving back to others at the Farm and implementing the tools and skills he has learned in real life scenarios.

"Here on the Farm, I'm in a bubble, but once I'm out there working, no one is around to watch what I do," he said. "It's going to be exciting to be able to put all those tools and everything I've learned into practice and to continue to stay sober. It's like an excitement to say no."

Dan's life could have been drastically different had that coin landed on tails that day. And yet, God had a plan and a purpose for his life beyond anything he could have ever imagined.

"When guys ask me how I am doing, I always tell them, 'Living the dream,' because it can be a whole lot worse than this," he said. "Something I learned is that there's going to be so much that's out of your control, that at a certain point you have got to stop controlling it and just live. It's not always going to be great, but if you keep pushing forwards, keep living your life, that's all that matters."



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[FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives)

# THE MISSION in my words



**Kendra Apodaca  
& Leanna Jones**

Kendra and Leanna are the owners of The Looking Glasses, an eyeglass business that has a "Pay it Forward" program to give free glasses to men at Harvest Farm and others in need in the community.

## How do your business' values align with the Farm's values?

**Kendra:** Our core values are Christ-centered connection and Christ-centered service. We're really trying to bring in Kingdom culture to everything we do, and I think you guys are really trying to do that when you're helping guys get free from addictions.

**Leanna:** We're trying to leave something that could potentially have lasting value. We really believe that how you are physically seeing could have a deep impact on your mentality, which can impact how you live your life. So, if you're literally seeing in a fog, it's going to start affecting your emotions. By helping to clear up their vision, we can try to take away even a small bit of hindrance.

## Do you have any favorite memories from your experience with the Farm?

**Kendra:** Tommy, we got the most heartfelt message from him. He had a huge change at the Farm, and getting his glasses coincided

with that. It was something really beautiful to witness, because he had a whole heart change. He hadn't had glasses in years, and so his vision completely changed as well. That meant so much to us to know that we had a small part to play in his bigger journey.

## What would you say to encourage someone else to get involved?

**Kendra:** If just one person at the Farm could feel heard or seen in a certain way, it can have such a greater impact than you could ever imagine. There's a quote that goes, "Do what you can with what you have and the time you have and the place you are." I think often we forget that the small things are the bigger stuff.

**Leanna:** I always have it in the back of my head, if we can get one person to change how they view themselves with the Lord, and then that affects their family, and then they change their generations—the impact of that could be endless. You can literally use anything to share the Gospel and to impact in a way that's going to last.



## Leave Your Mark with a Brick of Hope

We have raised \$25.4 million\* of our \$27 million goal—help us cross the finish line!  
Your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

[FortCollinsRescueMission.org/BrickofHope](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/BrickofHope)

*\*Gifts/pledges received through June 1, 2025*



### 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!



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