

DECEMBER 2025

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

COLOR in the DARKNESS

FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION





Dear Friends,

I love Christmas; I always have. The joy, the snow, family coming together, presents, Christmas carols, great food—I love it all! Most importantly, I love the reason for the season—celebrating the birth of the Savior of the world! Christmas is a time where hope seems real and possible again.

What breaks my heart is knowing that so many people and families do not experience these things. They are living in extreme poverty, unhoused, living in shelters or the back seats of cars, wondering how this happened and how to get out.

Jesus knew about these feelings. He was born in a barn because there was no room for him and his family in any homes. His family had to flee their home country for their safety and go to a foreign land. Jesus knows how we feel and how those experiencing homelessness feel.

I am honored to be a part of a ministry that serves these individuals. Because of your support, men are finding joy again and reuniting with their families. Because of you, they will have presents, great food, carols, and laughter this Christmas.

While we are still working through the challenges of the kitchen fire we had in our building back in August and how much to invest in that while working on our new homeless resolution center, many of our guests still have a place that is clean to lie down at night. But our capacity is limited while we still navigate the solutions for the winter months. And yet, we are hopeful!

Life change happens every single day in and through FCRM. Because of you, men who seemingly have so little will celebrate Christmas with the hope that next year they truly will be home, their own home, for Christmas!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO



COLOR ^{in the} DARKNESS

When Eddie lost his leg, he thought he'd lost everything—until Fort Collins Rescue Mission helped him find stability and a new beginning.

We all have 24 hours in a day, and it only takes one moment to change everything. For Eddie, it was a matter of 24 hours where he went from navigating life with two legs to one.

"It's difficult enough being homeless; we sleep where we think is best, and at that time I slept in a drain. It was dry, but it was dirty, so, I caught a bacteria from a little scratch," he recalled. "It was less than 24 hours that they amputated my big toe and then they said, 'We have to amputate your leg, otherwise, you're going to lose your life.'"

At an already challenging moment in his life, things got a whole lot harder, a whole lot quicker. And yet, anytime someone asks Eddie about the story of how he lost his leg, he shares it with a smile on his face.

"There has to be a reason that I'm still here. So, I don't take things too seriously. You only have one life, and so make the best of it," he explained. "I'm just grateful for all the people who have been on my path since then. **Now more than ever, I appreciate life more.**"

Prior to losing his leg, Eddie had been experiencing homelessness for over a year. He struggled to find a job, spent many cold nights on the streets and struggled to find adequate food.

"I saw people get their toes amputated because of the weather. And not because they **told** me, but because I **saw** it, which is a big difference," he said. "But this place is a blessing, because they treat people really good, and I'm grateful I have a bed, clean sheets, blankets, and clothes."

Now

Eddie is learning to navigate life with one leg—including how to make it to all his doctor's appointments, what his income options are and is even getting fitted for a prosthetic leg to help his mobility. Through the overwhelm of it all, he is grateful that the Mission is there to support him.

"Now I can go to my appointments and that's huge. **They have helped me to see things from a different perspective and to know that I'm not alone,**" he said. "Being by myself on the street was hard not having anyone to share my struggles with, so therefore I'm very grateful."

Eddie's positivity and gratitude for life are infectious. One outlet Eddie has always enjoyed is art, and Jessica, who leads weekly art nights as a volunteer, has helped him reconnect with that hobby.

"I used to be an artist, and I still consider myself one. I prefer oil paint, but I can do acrylic, watercolors, pastels, charcoal, pencils, and airbrush," he shared. "I like to take art classes with Jessica because I'm learning and she's a really talented teacher."

Jessica shared, "It's amazing to see the difference it makes in their lives, just by showing up every week and giving them a creative outlet."

As Eddie looks back on the tough times he has experienced, he is still grateful because that all led him to the Mission—the place where he learned that there is still hope for him to create a brighter future for himself, one with color and opportunities.



"I want to say thank you to all the donors, because even though they do not know who we are, they know that we are human beings." -Eddie

This Christmas, give the gift of a changed life by donating at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

THE MISSION in my words



Kevin is the President and CEO of UCHHealth's Northern Region, which recently awarded a community grant to support Fort Collins Rescue Mission and Harvest Farm.

Kevin Unger

How do UCHHealth's values align with the Mission's values?

At UCHHealth, we're committed to improving the lives and the health of the communities we serve. UCHHealth and Fort Collins Rescue Mission may serve in different ways, but our values are so closely aligned that we often find ourselves picking up where the other leaves off. This is a partnership built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to lifting up those who need it most.

What inspired UCHHealth to award the Mission a grant?

UCHHealth and the Mission share a deeply rooted vision for what it means to care for people. Health isn't just about medical care; it's about meeting basic needs like housing and food. When someone is experiencing homelessness, food insecurity or addiction, it's incredibly difficult to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Mission works tirelessly to meet foundational needs to help people move toward a happier, healthier life.

In what ways do you believe the UCHHealth community grant will benefit the Mission?

The Mission already accomplishes so much with limited resources. I know this grant will have a powerful impact. It will specifically support the unique programming and the men served at Harvest Farm, a place where healing, growth and transformation happen every day. Harvest Farm offers a pathway to stability, hope and health. We're honored to contribute to these life-changing efforts.

How would you encourage others to give back or get involved with the Mission?

Whether it's time, resources or simply spreading the word, every bit helps. The Mission stretches every dollar and every volunteer hour to make a real impact. The dedicated staff and volunteers are truly unsung heroes, doing incredible work without seeking recognition. If you are looking for a way to make a difference in northern Colorado, supporting the Mission is a powerful place to start.



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Homeless Resolution Center Construction Updates



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

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