

MARCH 2026

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM

Hope
Reborn

**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**





Dear Friends,

Is there any more poignant picture of service than washing someone else's feet? Each year at our Easter banquet, we offer foot washing. Volunteers come, and, in humility, get on their knees and wash the feet of those we serve.

Prior to His death and resurrection, Jesus did something that boggles my mind: He took a towel and a basin of water, and He got on His knees, and He washed the feet of every disciple. The ones who loved Him and the one who would betray Him. Scripture says, *"The son of man didn't come to be served but to serve."*

Just like the disciples, the feet of the guests we serve are not always clean. But through this small act of service, we get to wash their feet, have them checked by doctors volunteering their time, offer them brand new socks, and I hope and pray we all leave changed.

In the book of 1 John, the author writes:

*"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: **In this world we are like Jesus.**"*

That is why we wash feet.

*... For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: **Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**"*

This is why we do what we do.

We are called to love anyone who comes to us for help, because we love God. I cannot imagine where I would be if not for the good news of redemption and renewal offered through Jesus. God is still in the business of renewal and redemption—like in Justin's story, which you will read in this newsletter.

Thank you for making our work possible. May you know the power of the resurrection and experience the love of God through Jesus in a new way this year. He is risen!

Dennis Van Kampen

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO



Hope Reborn

This Easter, you are opening doors to turn desperation into spiritual transformation. For men like Justin, you showed him that a path out of homelessness and addiction can lead to faith, hope and new life.

Justin even wrote a song about his journey, and some of the lyrics guide this story:

"It's a lonely road; I've been broken."

When Justin lost his mother four years ago, the grief sent him into isolation, addiction and homelessness. "I lost my apartment, got addicted to drugs and ended up on the street," he said.

He had never experienced homelessness before and had to quickly adapt to life on the streets. "It's a very lonely, very cold, dark place."

Then one night, a frightening encounter left him convinced he might not survive. A man was misled to believe that Justin

had wronged him, but the next thing he knew, Justin was being helped by that same man. He can't explain it other than, "God saved me that night."

That night, Justin prayed like he never

had before. "The next thing I knew, I was at the guy's house. He was feeding me, letting me take a shower, sleeping on his couch, and he drove me wherever I wanted to go the next morning."



That experience, Justin said, “scared me enough to ask for help.” And it wasn’t until someone helped him get a ride to Harvest Farm, that everything began to change.

“Now I know I’m strong enough and good enough, and for once, I’m trying hard enough.”

When Justin arrived at the Farm, he remembers waking up to “everything clean and beautiful.” Staff saw something else too: a man still in survival mode. “He had a very distinct street persona,” said Dave Sterner, Chaplain at Harvest Farm. “That has been slowly changing.”

Those changes take time—time to feel safe, time to trust and time with people who will simply listen. “A lot of the guys have not had an opportunity to have someone just listen. And that’s what we do. We listen and we don’t judge,” Dave said.

For Justin, the listening ears came from many directions: staff, other men in the program and church. For someone with strained family relationships, the community he has found has been lifesaving.

“It’s like a whole family,” he said. “If I feel sad, I can go to people that I know here, and they help me get out of the funk. Out there, I didn’t have anybody to turn to.”

Stephen Ronquillo, Community Life Lead, sees that transformation too. “When I first met him, he was still in

that street mentality. It takes time to come out of that realm. But he’s receptive. I’ve seen growth in him.”

Bill Dominguez, Clinical Support Specialist, agrees. “Watching what Jesus did in his heart has been powerful,” he said.

Bill remembers when Justin wasn’t sure about baptism. Instead of telling him what to do, he simply asked, “What is God telling you?” Justin knew instantly.

“I needed to get baptized,” Justin said. “God saved my life. The only way I could profess my gratitude was to leave the old person behind.”

“The hurt runs deep but the love runs deeper.”

Justin was baptized at a local church alongside six others, three of whom were New Life Program participants.

“I felt really warm—like something was taking all the bad stuff out of me,” he recalled. “I woke up the next day and my bones hurt. All the years of doing bad things to my body felt like it was getting fixed.”

At Harvest Farm, spiritual development is a vital part of recovery. “Addiction is a physical and psychological problem,” Chaplain Dave said. “But it’s also a spiritual problem. We’re trying to help so that drugs are displaced by a relationship with God.”

“Now I’m living with a purpose.”

Today, Justin continues to grow in his faith, community and recovery. He attends church weekly, meets regularly with staff and is building healthy relationships—something he didn’t believe he was capable of before. “I choose to stay here because they help me be a better person,” he said.

As we celebrate Easter—a season of resurrection, renewal and new beginnings—Justin’s story is proof that transformation is possible, especially for those who feel lost or alone.



“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” -John 13:14

Each Easter, in addition to a special banquet for our guests, we offer foot washing—a humbling practice modeled after Jesus washing His disciples’ feet.

Help make this Easter a season of new beginnings.

Give today to make an impact that matters at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives



Scan to Give!

THE MISSION in my words




Tim Runtsch

Tim is the lead pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, which has supported the Mission in various ways, including funding for the new homeless resolution center and for the temporary winter overflow shelter at Harvest Farm.

Why is it important to your church to support our work?

Jesus calls us to care for the lost and left out. Matthew 25 says, *“When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat. When I was sick, you took care of me.”* And this just fits in line as a part of who we are. I think also there's a sense of being a part of our community. We want to be the hands and feet of Christ or at least support those who are, here in our community. We want to be great neighbors, love people in the name of Jesus and work through partners rather than going it alone.

Has there been a particularly meaningful moment during your involvement with us?

The love you show through the services that you offer is what I witnessed when we went to Farm to Table and other events. Those were really positive ways for us to feel engaged with your organization and feel good about your approach to loving and serving people in need.

What impact do you hope the new homeless resolution center will have?

We hope it will make a bigger impact, by having day use facilities and the opportunity for people to receive more services, all with the goal of making homelessness not a dead end, but a transition to a different way of living for many of these folks. Our hope is that that's the real benefit, that it's going to lead to people moving on from homelessness.

What does it mean to you to serve those in need, especially around Easter?

The resurrection story is about newness of life today and that we can experience the full joy of Jesus' resurrection, even on this side of eternity. The transformations that come in a person's life by knowing Jesus Christ—being moved from death to life, from despair to hope, from anxiety to peace—all of those are blessings and important byproducts of the resurrection of Christ. In particular, at the Farm event, there were people who told their stories of being transformed and how it gave them a new lease on life and a new opportunity. Those were very moving stories.

Looking for Tax Benefits This Year?

There are additional tax benefits when you gift **stocks, IRA rollovers, Qualified Charitable Distributions, or grants from Donor-Advised Funds** to benefit the work of Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Ways-To-Give

Tax ID#84-6038762

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

RECOVERY

Equipping men through a life-changing program

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability

PREVENTION

Helping stop homelessness before it starts



Volunteer With Us!



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