

# CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION & HARVEST FARM



**FORT  
COLLINS  
RESCUE  
MISSION**

## PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS One Family at a Time



“Who is getting upstream?” That is the question a room full of homeless service providers was asked several years ago by a major community leader. I was working in another city leading another rescue mission. I took that question to heart. What if we could get upstream? What if we could prevent homelessness for families before it starts? What if we could keep children in a stable home instead of a shelter or in the back seat of a car? We know at least 50 percent of the adults experiencing homelessness we serve report their first homeless experience as a child. What if we could break the cycle?

That question led us to develop a Prevention program in partnership with public schools in my former city eight years ago, and now here in Colorado. Why public schools? The schools are great at identifying families in crisis. When a school identifies a family at risk of becoming homeless, they refer them to our caseworkers who have been specially trained in prevention. From there we do all we can to not only make sure the family does not enter homelessness but also does not end up in this situation again. This happens through immediate help and connection to ongoing resources like budgeting classes, more job training, etc.

We launched pilot programs in October 2025 with two school districts, Jeffco and Poudre. **In the first four months we prevented 65 families—130 children—from becoming homeless!** The average, one-time financial help for a family is just over \$2,900. That is far cheaper than working with individuals and families once they become homeless. You will read a powerful story about one of the first families we helped. The vast majority of our help is through one-time rental assistance because the family is going through a temporary crisis that could force them into homelessness.

Our plan is to add two more school districts this year and, within five years, work with at least 50 percent of the schools in Colorado as well as develop a church-based program. If we do this right, years down the road there will be far fewer people experiencing homelessness because we stopped the cycle for children.

Our vision statement is: “Through the power of Christ, work to bring an end to homelessness in Denver Metro and Northern Colorado, one life at a time.” Prevention is one of the many ways we are working toward that vision. With your help we can expand the Prevention program and keep families together and out of homelessness! The answer to the first question is: we are getting upstream through the power of Christ and with your help and support!

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

# PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS One Family at a Time



## What is Prevention?

Stopping homelessness before it starts

### The Problem

Families and individuals from low-income or at-risk households sometimes find themselves forced to decide between paying rent or bills that can put them on the brink of homelessness.

### Our Solution

- Partnership with public schools
- One-time financial support
- Case management support

= Keeping families at home. Where they belong.

## Meet Our First Prevention Family

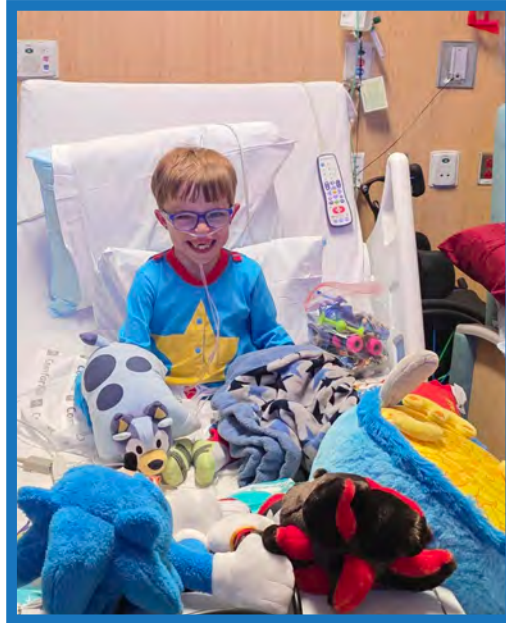
When you meet Maddix—a joyful eight-year-old whose bubbly personality fills any room—you would never guess the battles he has fought.

Born with a heart nearly **three times the size it should be**, Maddix has undergone **more than 80 medical procedures** in his young life. For now, doctors estimate his life expectancy may only reach his late teens.

“You would never know how sick he is by talking to him or looking at him,” said Audrianna, Maddix’s mom.

“He is unstoppable,” added Cole, Maddix’s dad. “No matter the illness, he hasn’t let anything stand in his way.”

Loveland parents Audrianna and Cole are devoted to their family. Along with raising their 12-year-old son Jayden, who is living with autism spectrum disorder, they provide **more than 115 hours of care each week** as Maddix’s full-time caregivers.



## A Program Designed for Moments Like This

When hope felt out of reach, Fort Collins Rescue Mission’s newly-launched Prevention program stepped in. Audrianna and Cole’s family became the **first family served through the pilot program**, which provides financial assistance and case management to help families stay housed and avoid homelessness altogether.

“Once you get evicted, that’s on your record and doesn’t go away,” explained Prevention Case Manager, Nicole Reichelderfer. “And it just spirals from there.”

The Prevention program partners closely with local schools in Northern Colorado, where teachers and staff often notice early warning signs that a family may be struggling.

When Maddix’s school learned about their situation, the Mission stepped in—allowing Audrianna and Cole to focus on being with their son instead of worrying about eviction.

“It saved us,” Audrianna said. “It saved us a lot of headaches, heartaches, struggles, and stress during an already incredibly stressful time.”

## When Everything Changed

In September 2025, the family received devastating news: Maddix needed another high-risk, open-heart surgery, requiring weeks in the hospital.

A hospital stay is emotionally draining, and for Audrianna and Cole, it also threatened their home because **their income stops when he is admitted** to the hospital.

Suddenly, the family faced an impossible situation: **how to keep their home while fighting for their son’s life**. They applied for help from multiple organizations—but repeatedly fell short. Audrianna printed T-shirts featuring Maddix’s favorite character, Baymax from *Big Hero 6*, with a QR code linking to the family’s GoFundMe.

“I don’t care if our phones get shut off or if I go without a meal,” she said. “I just want to make sure we have a home for the boys.”

## Resilience & Hope

Today, Maddix continues to fight with courage and determination. His future remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: his family has **one less burden to carry and one safe place to come home to**.

“The Mission went above and beyond anything that we could have expected,” Cole said.

Audrianna added, “Just the fact that they were willing to listen and help us pay for as much as they possibly could was more than we could have ever asked for.”

Stop homelessness before it starts. Give today at [FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives](https://FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives).



Scan to Give!



# THE MISSION in my words



Nicole Reichelderfer

Nicole is a Prevention Case Manager in Northern Colorado with experience in property management, behavioral health and case management, and is completing a master's in clinical counseling while pursuing Professional Counselor licensure.

### What drew you to the Mission?

I grew up in Northern Colorado in a household that had many triumphs but also was impacted by financial instability. Our family, like many of the Prevention families we help, faced hardship due to unexpected medical expenses. Later in life, I found myself navigating through interpersonal relationship violence, leading to a period of being unhoused for safety. I sought a role that aligned with my own values that every human deserves housing stability, mental health advocacy, respect, and humility.

### What is your primary focus in this role?

This role removes barriers and strengthens support so families can remain safely housed and connected to essential resources, all with the goal of stronger advocacy for families and fewer households reaching crisis.

“Our program serves as the bridge to help families get to the other side of stability.”

### How do you see your work here as an extension of your faith?

Scripture repeatedly emphasizes caring for those who are vulnerable, marginalized and in need. “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2). Supporting these families is, for me, serving not for recognition, but in obedience to the call to care for “the least of these.” (Matthew 25:40).



## Construction is Rising: New Homeless Resolution Center

- ✓ Elevator shaft installed
- ✓ Stairwells in place
- ✓ Framing has begun

Photos taken 3/10/26

Follow our progress



FortCollinsRescueMission.org/  
MoreThan

### OUR CORE STRATEGIES

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

#### RECOVERY

Equipping men through a life-changing program

#### TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Transitioning people into stability

#### PREVENTION

Providing essential needs for daily life



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

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