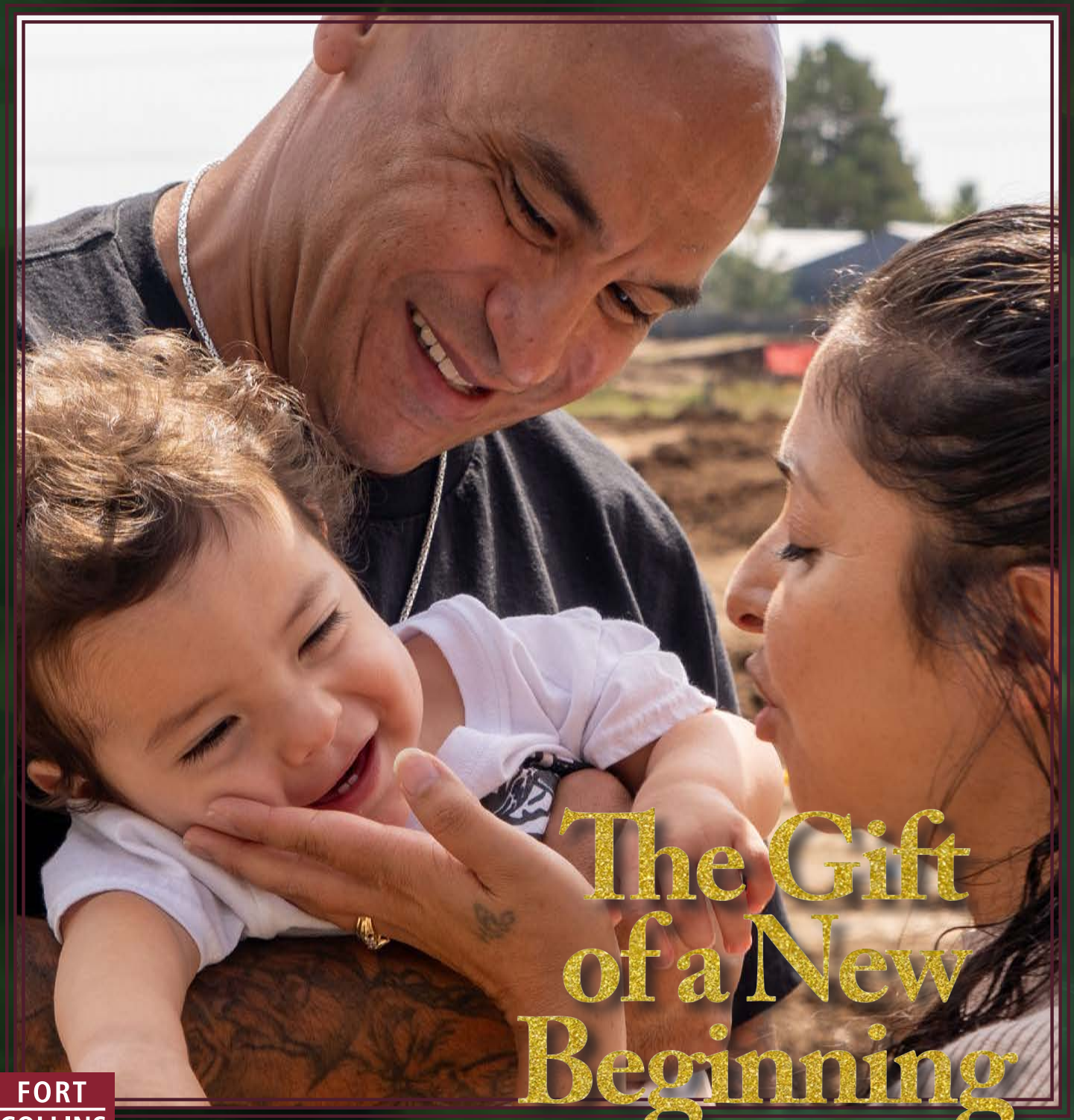
DECEMBERR 2026

CHANGING LIVES

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION



The Gift of a New Beginning

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." - James 1:2-3

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION



Dear Friends,

The second line of the Christmas carol "Away in Manger" says, “No crib for a bed.” This stops me in my tracks every year. The King of the Universe chose to come to earth as a baby. But not a baby born to a wealthy mother and father or royalty living in a palace. No, the Savior of the world did not have a crib. We know Mary and Joseph soon fled to a foreign country as refugees. In His adult life Jesus said that He did not even have a place to lie down.

This makes me think about many of the lives that have changed at the Mission, like Stephen's, who you will read about in this edition. Because of you, Stephen found recovery and a place to call home, has stable employment at FCRM and has a wife and son, a family.

It also makes me grateful that we get to serve families in a new way with our Prevention program in partnership with Poudre School District. Unfortunately, we know what it looks like when a child has no bed or place to live. We know what it looks like when a mother and father have to make agonizing decisions to try and provide for their children.

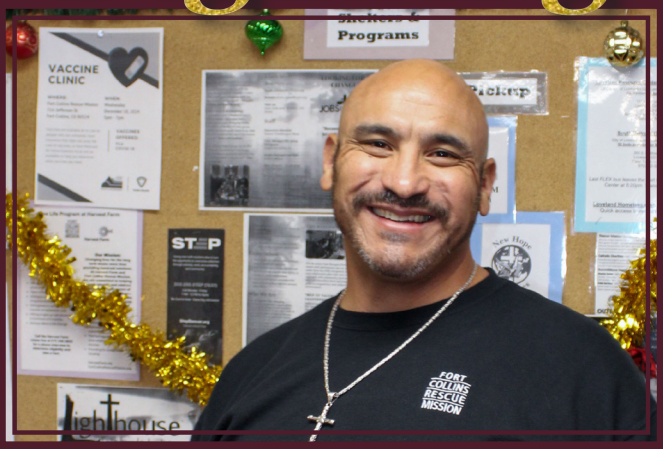
This is where you come in. Because of you, in just the first 10 months of the program, more than 100 families have not had to face homelessness. Meaning, children are still in their homes and in their school and moms and dads no longer bear the shame and guilt of losing their home and not being able to provide for their children. None of this is possible without you.

Jesus came as a baby. He grew up in poverty. He knows what these families are going through. Throughout His ministry He calls on us to be His hands and feet. To feed the hungry, welcome in the stranger and, I believe, to make sure that every child has a crib. Thank you for your partnership in this life transforming ministry. Your prayers and financial support have never been needed more than they are today.

Grace and peace,

Dennis Van Kampen | President/CEO

The Gift of a New Beginning



This Christmas, Stephen’s story reminds us that even after seasons of hardship, a new beginning is possible. And because of you, more neighbors will soon have a place to find a fresh start at our new Homeless Resolution Center.

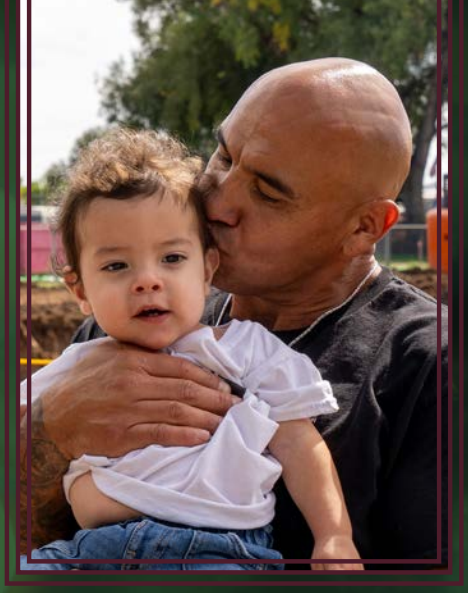
When Stephen came out of prison, he had very little to his name: five pairs of socks, five pairs of boxers and five T-shirts. After decades of struggling with addiction and years in and out of prison, he was ready for a new beginning.

"The Bible says, 'Count it all joy when you're going through various trials and tribulations.' I look back at all the years of prison that I did—it was to prep me for the call that God had upon my life," Stephen said. **"Being in prison was not my arrest, it was my rescue."**

That's when he found Fort Collins Rescue Mission (FCRM) and the New Life Program.

“My brother-in-law took me there, and I told him, ‘Maybe one of these days I'll be working for this place.’ Never believing in my wildest dreams it would come true," he remembered. "When God opens doors, no man can close them."

Stephen graduated from the New Life Program and that dream became a reality. Today, Stephen is married, has a son named Samson and serves as a Community Life Lead at FCRM, where he has worked for the past eight years. He credits God with transforming his life and giving him the opportunity to support people facing some of the same challenges he once experienced.



"I like to encourage people—if Jesus can forgive me, He can forgive you," he said.

Stephen calls the Mission his "Holy Ghost Bootcamp," where he continues to grow in his faith and learn from the people he serves. **"I've served thousands of guests since I've been here, and each and every one has had an impact on my life,"** he shared.

His own experiences have taught him to look beyond people's circumstances and meet them with compassion. He wants every guest to know they are seen, heard and safe.

That commitment was especially important after a fire damaged FCRM's Jefferson Street building last year. Stephen was there the night the fire broke out, giving this life-saving work a whole new meaning.

"We stayed super calm. All the training we have done just kicked into action," he remembered. "By the grace of God, nobody was hurt. We got everybody out of there."

Afterward, as staff navigated the changing shelter arrangements, they rallied together to keep serving guests.

"All glory goes to Jesus Christ because it's nothing that we could do on our own strength," Stephen said.

Now, Stephen is looking forward to the opening of the new NoCo Homeless Resolution Center in early 2027, designed with trauma-informed care in mind to better support guests.

"It's exciting," he shared. "People will have a place to stay without being turned away."

As we celebrate Christmas, Stephen's story reminds us that even after seasons of hardship, new beginnings are possible. Through the Mission, he found a place to rebuild his life—and now, he helps others take their own steps toward hope.

"I'm just an ordinary person, hungry to be used for extraordinary things," Stephen said. "This is where it all started, and God gave me an opportunity to be here to learn about myself and to watch the growth in some of the guests' lives as well."

The Greatest Christmas Gift

NoCo Homeless Resolution Center opening early 2027



Services to End Homelessness Under One Roof | Day Center for Men & Women | 24/7 Dorm Neighborhoods

Join us for an open house on Saturday, January 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.!

"If it wasn't for your generosity, I don't know where I'd be today." - Stephen

This Christmas, help keep the Mission's life-changing work going as we welcome guests to the new Homeless Resolution Center.
Give at FortCollinsRescueMission.org/ChangingLives

FORT COLLINS RESCUE MISSION

Scan to Give!

THE MISSION in my words



Russ Spicer

Russ is the Youth Sports Coordinator at Johnstown SCHEELS, which supports FCRM through volunteering and donations, including for the NoCo Homeless Resolution Center.

Pictured: Russ (second from the left) with his wife and another couple volunteering to do foot washing at the 2025 Easter banquet.

Why was SCHEELS inspired to get involved with the Mission?

The Johnstown SCHEELS team is deeply grateful to be part of Northern Colorado. We are honored to do our part by volunteering and partnering with dedicated local nonprofits like FCRM. Working alongside you makes our entire community stronger. SCHEELS recognizes the profound impact the Mission has across Fort Collins and beyond. We deeply appreciate your unwavering commitment to helping others and admire your dedication to fulfilling your core purpose: “changing lives in the name of Christ.”

Why is giving back to the community important to you?

We believe it is our responsibility to support Northern Colorado with our time, talent and resources to help build a stronger future. We hope to inspire other organizations to join in strengthening the places we call home. A primary reason we are in business is to leave a positive mark on our region—when SCHEELS succeeds, our community thrives.

What has it meant to you to serve alongside the Mission?

Our associates have been privileged to serve alongside your team—whether serving meals or participating in the foot-washing ministry. Through these experiences, we have witnessed firsthand the life-changing impact you have on the men you serve. We look forward to seeing the impact the new NoCo Homeless Resolution Center will have when it is completed and opened. Thank you for the incredible difference you make every single day. Together, we are doing good for our community.



> "Together, we are doing good for our community."

Support Our Holiday Needs



OUR CORE STRATEGIES

PREVENTION
Helping stop homelessness before it starts

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

RECOVERY
Equipping men through a life-changing program

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS
Transitioning people into stability

LOCATIONS Fort Collins Rescue Mission | Denver Rescue Mission

DENVER RESCUE MISSION IS A PROUD MEMBER OF: CITYGATE NETWORK | MISSION MEMBER CERTIFIED EXCELLENT — Help and hope found here; Charity Navigator Four Star Charity; CHC; ECFA Accredited; BBB Accredited Charity

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