



DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

# Changing lives

DenverRescueMission.org September 2017

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

I'M GOING  
TO MAKE IT

*Now*



For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)

*In 2015,*  
my sister and I lost  
our townhome. I moved  
four times that year,  
mostly living with family.  
**But it just wasn't working.**





*I'm going  
to make  
it now*

because of Denver  
Rescue Mission.

## I'M GOING TO MAKE IT *Now*

**If you asked her several years ago, Joella would have told you she didn't want to change.** "As a teenager, I hit the streets doing drugs and getting into trouble. The streets of Chicago and I had a love-affair like *Romeo and Juliet*," she says. "I loved the streets, and they loved me, as long as I was doing the wrong things."

But *Romeo and Juliet* doesn't exactly end well. After all, it is a tragedy.

**"My life then was a tragedy," she continues, describing how at just seven years old, her mother and grandmother both passed away within weeks of each other.** "I was looking at them in coffins back to back, and I had a nervous breakdown." She also was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at just 16 years old, and her depression led her down the dark road of drugs, gang involvement, several attempted suicides, and homelessness.

But her story with the Mission doesn't start there. **She did much of the hard work of overcoming addiction, healing and finding stability before she came to Denver.** When she moved here, she lived with one of her sisters in a studio apartment and later in a townhome.

**That's where her trouble began.**

Joella loves her family deeply. Even while she struggled on the streets of Chicago, family was always important to her. So when Joella's sister allowed her adult children to stay in their rented townhome, though it violated the terms of their lease, she was reluctant. **When the landlord found out, they were both evicted.**

Homeless, she ended up at a shelter downtown for one night. That's where she learned about the STAR Transitional Program at Denver Rescue Mission. After applying, Joella had to wait three months for a room to be available at The Crossing. Thankfully, she was able to live with family and friends in the meantime, but sleeping on an air mattress in her niece's living room got old fast.

Exactly three months later, Joella got a call from the Mission that she could come join the program. But she didn't. **Instead, she moved in with another niece who said they needed her help.** Joella says she didn't know how to say no.

For the next year, she was back and forth on the phone with the Mission. "Every time they'd call, I'd decide it wasn't a good time for me to go to the program," she explains. "I loved my family so much. There was nothing I wouldn't do for them. **So instead of looking out for myself, I decided to look out for them and not join the program.**"

But living at her other niece's house wasn't working out either. "I was very overwhelmed," she says. **"There were things I wanted to do for myself, like I wanted to go to school."**

**Finally, she decided to make a change and came to the Mission to join the STAR program.** "I couldn't take care of my family anymore," she says. "I had to learn to take care of me, first. If I'm not taking care of myself, how can I take care of someone else? What love can I give if I don't love myself?"

**After a year and a half of sleeping on an air mattress in someone else's house, she walked into her one-room unit at The Crossing and said "Thank you God!"** She finally had a place to call her own, if only for a couple years in the program.

**The STAR program is enabling Joella to focus on learning important skills like managing her finances, being prepared to rent an apartment when she graduates and building healthy boundaries in her relationships with family and friends.** Her case manager, Donna, says she has come a long way since entering the program, and she looks forward to seeing her continue to grow.

Currently, Joella is a student at the Community College of Aurora taking classes to get her Certificate for Addiction Counseling. **She wants to use her years of experience and her new education to help others who have struggled with addiction like she did.** And she looks forward to giving back someday, helping others who enroll in programs at Denver Rescue Mission.

**Joella's life is completely different now than it was even just a year ago, and it's all thanks to you.** Because of donors like you, we're able to offer these life-changing transitional programs to people who are experiencing homelessness. Thank you for helping Joella and so many more like her find hope and meaning through Denver Rescue Mission. "I just feel free, and I'm so grateful that God opened this door for me," she says excitedly. "I'm going to make it now because of Denver Rescue Mission."



Look for more encouraging stories, news and updates on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/DenverRescue](https://www.facebook.com/DenverRescue).

**Joella says her case manager, Donna (left), was a huge influence in her life. The encouragement and guidance Donna provided was invaluable in helping her get where she is today.**



**Your gifts make a difference!**

Help change lives today.

Go online to [DenverRescueMission.org/Donate](https://www.DenverRescueMission.org/Donate) or use the enclosed envelope to donate now!



## Dear Friends,

Levi Lusko, the author of *Through the Eyes of a Lion*, writes these words: “God is not scared of what you are scared of.” These words are a great encouragement to me. Sometimes when I wake up in the middle of the night, thinking about the challenges we face at the Mission or my own personal challenges, I think of these simple words.

Since I first came to work here, I have said that *God is in control of our work at the Mission*. We are completely reliant on God for his provision, for his hand to be on us, guiding us as we try to share his love with people who come to us for help. We know Denver Rescue Mission would not exist had it not been for Jesus’ act of love for us some 2,000 years ago, and his continued love for us each day.

To the people who come to Denver Rescue Mission for help, these words are an encouragement as well. Stated another way, God assures them that even in the most difficult times of their life—when they are broken, when they do not know where to turn and when they find themselves at the Mission’s door—they can rely on Jesus. They can say, as this month’s *Changing Lives* is titled, “I’m going to make it now!”

We are all about hope, gratitude, and compassion at the Mission. But more than anything, we are about sharing the love of Jesus. He changes lives. He is the one who can help you make it every day!

We cannot do this work without you. You are appreciated, loved and prayed for as supporters of God’s work here. Thank you for partnering with us as we trust God for his guidance.

God Bless,

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO

## • 12TH ANNUAL • *Shopping* EXTRAVAGANZA

### Are you ready to shop 'til you drop for a good cause?

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Shopping Extravaganza is happening Saturday, September 16, from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. at the Outlets at Castle Rock.

Tickets cost \$30 and include special discounts, lunch, a dessert bar, entertainment, and live music! But the best part is, \$20 from every ticket sold will help provide meals and critical services to the homeless in our community through Denver Rescue Mission. Purchase tickets online at [OutletsAtCastleRock.com](http://OutletsAtCastleRock.com).

**Remember to select  
Denver Rescue Mission as your charity!**

## Get Ready for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Farm Fall Festival!

Have you been to the Mission’s Fall Festival at Harvest Farm? If not, you’re missing out on hay wagon rides, a corn maze, a petting zoo, and lots of fun for you and your family! Come enjoy fun activities, tasty food and more.

The Festival is open Friday through Sunday throughout the month of October.

Learn more and buy your tickets online at [HarvestFarm.net/Fall-Festival](http://HarvestFarm.net/Fall-Festival).

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival & corn maze  
SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> TO OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>  
FRIDAYS | SATURDAYS | SUNDAYS

**\$2 OFF**  
ONE ADMISSION  
Must have this coupon at time of purchase.  
Cannot be combined with any other offers.

Harvest Farm

HarvestFarm.net  
970.568.9488 • 4240 East County Road 66, Wellington, CO • Exit 278 from I-25



5TH ANNUAL  
**SPORTING CLAY** Classic

Ready to shoot some clays for a good cause? Then come join other shooting sports enthusiasts at the Mission's 5th Annual Sporting Clay Classic on Friday, October 27, at the Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Bennett, Colorado.

The event includes lunch and a day of fun competition to help our homeless and struggling neighbors.

Contact Rachel for more information at [RDeets@DenRescue.org](mailto:RDeets@DenRescue.org). To register, please visit [DenverRescueMission.org/SportingClayClassic](http://DenverRescueMission.org/SportingClayClassic).

## Volunteer Spotlight



Ash has been volunteering at the Mission for three years. He fixes bikes for the kids whose parents are in the

STAR Transitional Program and helps serve lunch at the Lawrence Street Community Center. "It makes me feel grateful and more appreciative for all the ways I have been blessed. It's a privilege to serve as the arms and legs (and compassion) of Jesus in this tiny way," Ash said. We are so grateful to have Ash on our volunteer team!

Learn more about how you can join people like Ash by volunteering at [DenverRescueMission.org/Volunteer](http://DenverRescueMission.org/Volunteer).

## Statistics

### How You Help

July

YTD (fiscal year)

#### Meals provided

60,028



60,028

#### Nights of shelter provided

28,994



28,994

#### Chapel attendance

2,100



2,100

#### Clothing distributed (lbs.)

19,899



19,899

#### Clinic services provided

379



379

## New Interactive Timeline!

125 years is a long time, and you can see how lives have been changed over the last one and a quarter centuries by visiting our new interactive, digital timeline! Just imagine all the ways you could join the story by volunteering and supporting the Mission today! Simply visit [DenverRescueMission.org/Timeline](http://DenverRescueMission.org/Timeline) to get started.



### Celebrating 125 Years

## Denver Rescue Mission Outreaches

### Lawrence Street Community Center

Meals, restrooms, showers, washing machines and dryers, clean drinking water, and access to Mission staff for encouragement and guidance

### Lawrence Street Shelter

Overnight shelter for men, chapel and health clinic

### Champa House

Residential facility offering long-term help toward self-sufficiency to single mothers with dependent children

### Harvest Farm

Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins

### Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Meals, shelter and transitional programs

### The Crossing

Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men

### Ministry Outreach Center

Central warehouse facility including food, clothing and furniture distribution

### Administration & Education

Entry point for Mission programs and home to the Mission's administrative and development staff

### Family Services

Transitional program, assistance for permanent housing, and mentoring

*Changing Lives* is the monthly news publication of Denver Rescue Mission.

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