

# CHANGING LIVES

127 YEARS OF SERVICE

## PATHWAYS OFF THE STREET

MISSION STAFF HELPS TO FIND MISSING GIRL

WHAT IS NEXT STEP?

DENVER  
RESCUE  
MISSION

Dear Friends,

This powerful quote from author and speaker Beth Moore really hits home with me. She says, "Jesus is compassionate but, thank God, He is not codependent. He doesn't camp with us in our defeated estate and say, 'No wonder you're here. Who could blame you? How 'bout I grab you a pillow to go with that mat and make it comfier?' He says, 'Arise, take up your mat and walk.'"

To be clear, at Denver Rescue Mission, we are not Jesus. We cannot heal anyone, but we can come alongside of the people we serve and encourage them with Christ-like love. Our mission is to help people become productive, self-sufficient citizens. We want to see their lives changed in the name of Christ.

No one should be homeless. This is why I am so excited about the progress we have made with Next Step. We are asking people what they need to move out of the shelter system and then developing individualized plans for every Next Step member. Does it work? Last year, we had 598 men in Next Step and 273 of them moved out of the shelter system. *Wowzer* is a word I often use to describe how God is working at the Mission! *Awesome* might fit here too!

Arise, take up your mat and walk!

Your financial gifts, time spent volunteering and prayers are making a difference. Let's stay after this! We want to see more people arise!

God Bless,



Brad Meuli  
President/CEO



# GREATEST NEEDS LIST

This time of year, our donations begin to drop, but the need remains ever-present. Here's a list of items we need the most to help our homeless and struggling neighbors.

Bring them by our Ministry Outreach Center today!

Hygiene:	Food:
• Diapers (larger sizes)	• Corn Starch
• Baby Wipes	• Flour
• Deodorant	• Pancake Mix
• Razors	• Syrup
• Toothpaste	• Cooking Oil
• Toothbrushes	

Visit [DenverRescueMission.org/DonateItems](https://DenverRescueMission.org/DonateItems) for more info.



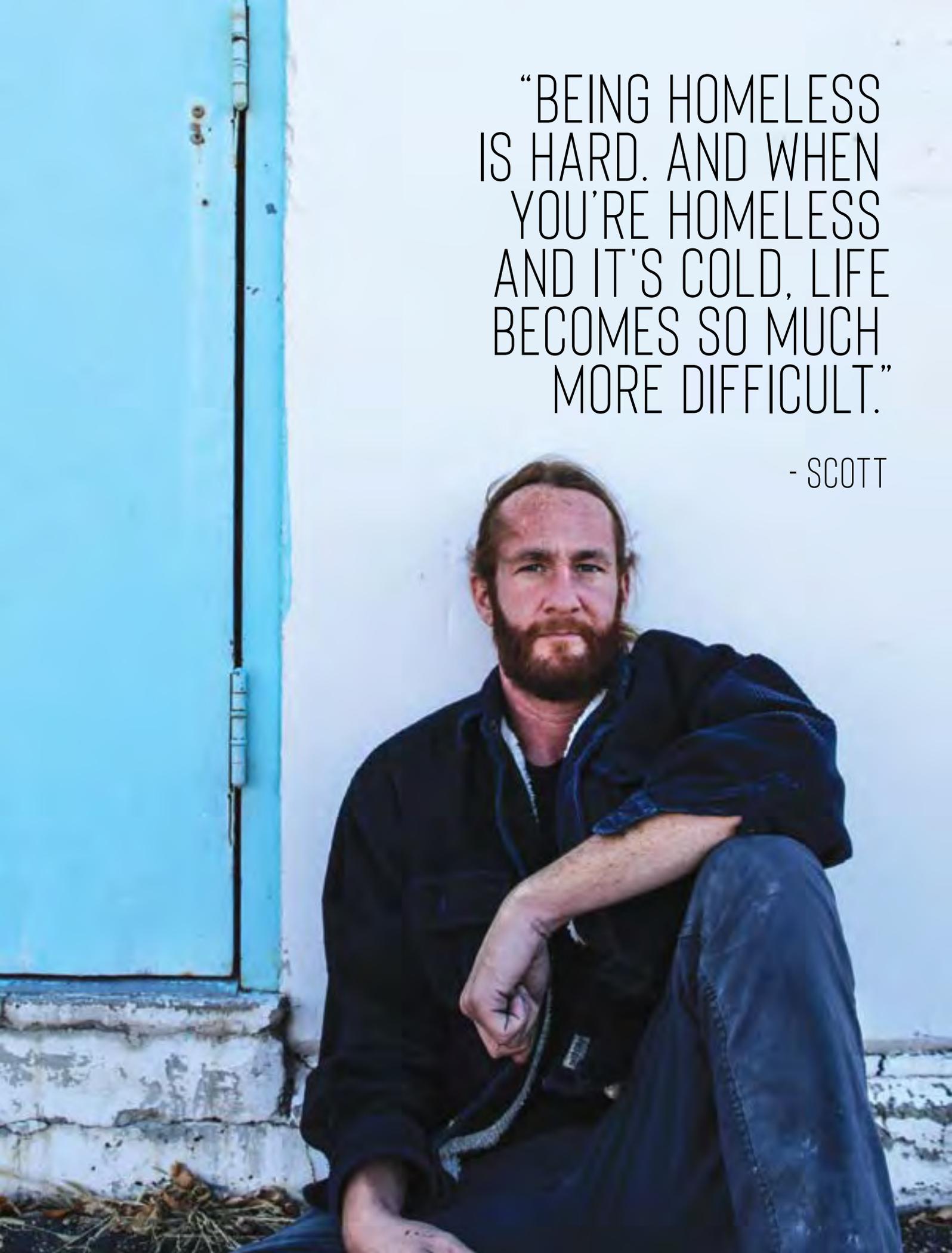
## MISSION STAFF HELPS TO FIND MISSING GIRL

**"It takes a village to make a difference,"** says Tracy Brooks, senior director of emergency services at Denver Rescue Mission. Tracy received a phone call in early December from a detective informing her that a vulnerable young woman was missing. "We get these type of calls a lot, and sometimes it's hard because not all of them are happy endings." But this one was.

Tracy and her team were initially unable to locate the woman, so Tracy forwarded the information on to Chris Conner, director of Denver's Road Home, who then passed the information on to more than 200 providers throughout the metro area. One week after we received that phone call, the woman was found and is safely on her way back home to her family. "It's a reminder that each piece of our work is important," says Tracy. "I often think of 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV). It says, 'As for you brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.'"

“BEING HOMELESS  
IS HARD. AND WHEN  
YOU’RE HOMELESS  
AND IT’S COLD, LIFE  
BECOMES SO MUCH  
MORE DIFFICULT.”

- SCOTT



# How *Next Step* Works



## IT STARTS AT THE DOOR

We serve nearly 1,000 people in need every day at our Lawrence Street Shelter and community center, and every employee is equipped to inform guests about our Next Step community and our other various programs. Appointments are made for one-on-one intake sessions.



## THE INTAKE

Next Step has two intake coordinators. Each coordinator spends 30 minutes with interested guests, getting to know them and evaluating how we can best meet their needs.



## MOVE-IN DAY

On move-in day, Next Step community members are assigned a permanent bed and a storage locker. And they meet their case worker for the first time.



## MEETINGS WITH CASE WORKERS

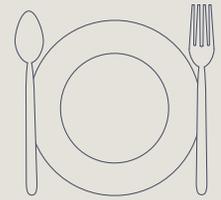
At the Lawrence Street Shelter, we have three case workers, each with a specific area of focus—assisted living, social security and employment. Case workers develop individualized and unique plans for every next step member.



## *the exit plan*

Next Step is not the last step of the journey; it's just the beginning. It takes a village to help people move from the street into housing. Next Step is the entryway into that village. We are connecting people with programs and services throughout the metro region, like our very own New Life Program, Salvation Army's Harbor Light Recovery Program, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Stout Street Health Center, Veteran Affairs, and many more.

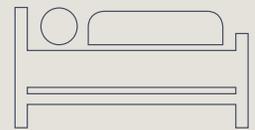
## YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION:



10,596

Individuals were given vital services at the Lawrence Street Community Center in 2018

.....



22,653

Nights of shelter were provided to men experiencing homelessness last February

.....



273

People in Next Step transitioned off the street last year



## A PATHWAY OFF THE STREET STARTS WITH YOU.

GIVE TODAY AT  
[DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE!](http://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE!)



# PATHWAYS OFF THE STREET

“I’d never been homeless before. I didn’t know where to go; I didn’t know what to do. I just walked around and waited for something to happen.” Scott didn’t grow up experiencing poverty. He lived what many people would call a “normal” life. He had a place to call home. A job. A family. Bills. Responsibilities. It’s understandable then, that when Scott became homeless, he had no idea of how to navigate his situation.

“Being homeless is hard,” says Scott. “And when you’re homeless and it’s cold, life becomes so much more difficult. I didn’t know what to do to stay warm, so I would spend my days riding the 16th Street Mall bus because it was free and it was warm.”

With the addition of our Lawrence Street Community Center just over three years ago, we are able to welcome more people off of the street than ever before. And between our three Denver shelters, we can provide up to 1,000 people with a safe, warm place to sleep every night.

“Once I found out about the Mission, if the temperature was going to drop below freezing,” says Scott, “then I always slept at the shelter.” And as he grew more familiar with our staff and services, Scott started getting more involved.

“Eventually, I joined Next Step, and from there, I moved to the New Life Program at The Crossing.”

Scott isn’t alone. Over the last two years, 1,116 people have enrolled in Next Step. We talked to Debra Butte, director of intake and diversion, about why so many people are enrolling. “Every one of our staff members are equipped to encourage and inform our guests about Next Step,” she said. “Our goal is to be a service where the masses can come for help.”

**“NEXT STEP IS REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE,” SAYS DEBRA. “IT’S A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEY ARE WITHOUT OPTIONS, WHO ARE UNSURE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR SITUATION, CAN FIND A PATH OUT OF HOMELESSNESS.”**

Next Step offers men staying in our shelter system—which includes our Lawrence Street Shelter, the 48th Street Center and our newest edition, the Holly Center—with the opportunity to create a tailored path toward a permanent and sustainable living situation. Each Next Step community member is paired with a case worker, assigned a permanent bed and given a storage locker. Members work closely with their case workers to prepare an individualized plan suitable to their specific needs.

At our Lawrence Street Shelter and community center, we offer help outside of Next Step—meals, shelter (for men), laundry, restrooms, clinic services, and showers. But the goal is not for people to live in shelters. Instead, we want to encourage people to begin creating goals that put them on a path toward permanent living situations.

Sometimes, that path begins with small steps, like getting a Colorado I.D. or enrolling in Medicaid/Medicare. For others, their path begins by learning how to write a resume or maintain a job—showing up on time and dressing appropriately. For our aging or disabled members, their path starts by filling out mounds of paperwork required to obtain Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income.

Next Step is a vital service during the cold winter months. More people come through our doors this time of year than any other season. And when people show up seeking warmth, we want to be able to provide them with more than a blanket, a hot meal and place out of the cold. Of course, we want to do that, and your donations help us. But your gifts are also empowering us to do more; we’re training case workers to have conversations with people experiencing homelessness to help them find a path home.

**Q: What makes the work Denver Rescue Mission does important to you?**

A: I grew up in Colorado; this is the place I call home. I've lived here for decades, and the Mission has been a constant throughout that time—they help people who have hit hard times. And that's important, not just to me, but for our community.



**Q: You're a busy woman, but you still make time to give back in so many ways. What's your motivation for making time to volunteer?**

A: Our community is a really giving, caring community and I'm really proud of that. I think so many people talk about how they love Colorado, how they love Denver—the mountains, the hikes, the night life. But I also think it's about the people. The people who come to the Mission are a part of our city, our community. And I think, as a community, we should jump at the chance to help when we can and realize that we're all in this together.

**Q: This past Christmas, you and your son came and served a meal at our annual Christmas Banquet. Talk about the impact serving a meal to people experiencing homelessness has on you and your son.**

A: Well, of course, it always leaves me feeling better. When you leave, you're filled up with this sense of goodness. But, during the holiday season ... when life seems so busy, there are to-do lists everywhere, you get caught up in the gifting and giving. But what's more important is being present. And that means for everyone, that means for your friends and your family and strangers and anyone who comes across your path that day. When we serve at the Mission, the people who come across our path happen to be people experiencing homelessness. It's just the idea of being present and taking time to share experiences with others, whether it be something as simple as a smile or saying to my son 'hey, I love you' or saying to a stranger 'hey, I may not know you, but I hope you have a great day.'

**Q: Why does the Mission matter to you?**

A: I think a lot of us drive by people on a street corner and we make assumptions about the choices they made to get to that street corner. But the Mission doesn't do that, the Mission doesn't approach people with judgement. And I think that is so important. My family and I, we're people of faith, and when I look at the life of Jesus, He didn't ask people 'How did you get this way?' before He made a decision to help them—He connected with people and He offered them grace and mercy and love. And I think the Mission takes that approach, too.

*Bio: Kim Christiansen is an Anchor at 9NEWS in Denver, Colorado. In addition to being active in volunteering at Denver Rescue Mission, Kim also serves as spokesperson for the Buddy Check9 program to raise awareness about the importance of early detection for breast cancer. She's very close to her family and considers her sister, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, to be her best friend.*



**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

People are invited inside, off the street where their immediate needs are met and critical relationships are built with Mission staff.



**REHABILITATION**

Men living with an addiction are equipped with work readiness skills, receive help to overcome destructive habits, find permanent housing, and begin a new life.



**TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS**

Families and individuals in need receive case management, develop life skills and save for permanent housing.



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

People struggling in our community receive assistance with food, clothing, furniture, household items and holiday meals.

**LOCATIONS**

<b>Lawrence Street Community Center:</b> Meals, restrooms, showers, washing machines and dryers, clean drinking water, and access to Mission staff for encouragement and guidance	
<b>Lawrence Street Shelter:</b> Overnight shelter for men, chapel and health clinic	
<b>Holly Center:</b> Overnight shelter for men assigned weekly and lockers for storage	
<b>The Crossing:</b> Transitional program for families and rehabilitation program for men	
<b>Harvest Farm:</b> Rural rehabilitation program near Fort Collins	
<b>Fort Collins Rescue Mission:</b> Meals, shelter and transitional programs	
<b>Ministry Outreach Center:</b> Central warehouse facility including food, clothing and furniture distribution	
<b>Administration &amp; Education:</b> Entry point for Mission transitional programs and home to the Mission's administrative and development staff	
<b>48th Street Center:</b> Overnight shelter for men, operated in partnership with the City of Denver	