

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING HONEST

DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT  
YOURSELF TO GOD AS ONE  
APPROVED, A WORKER  
WHO DOES NOT NEED TO  
BE ASHAMED AND WHO  
CORRECTLY HANDLES THE  
WORD OF TRUTH.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (NIV)

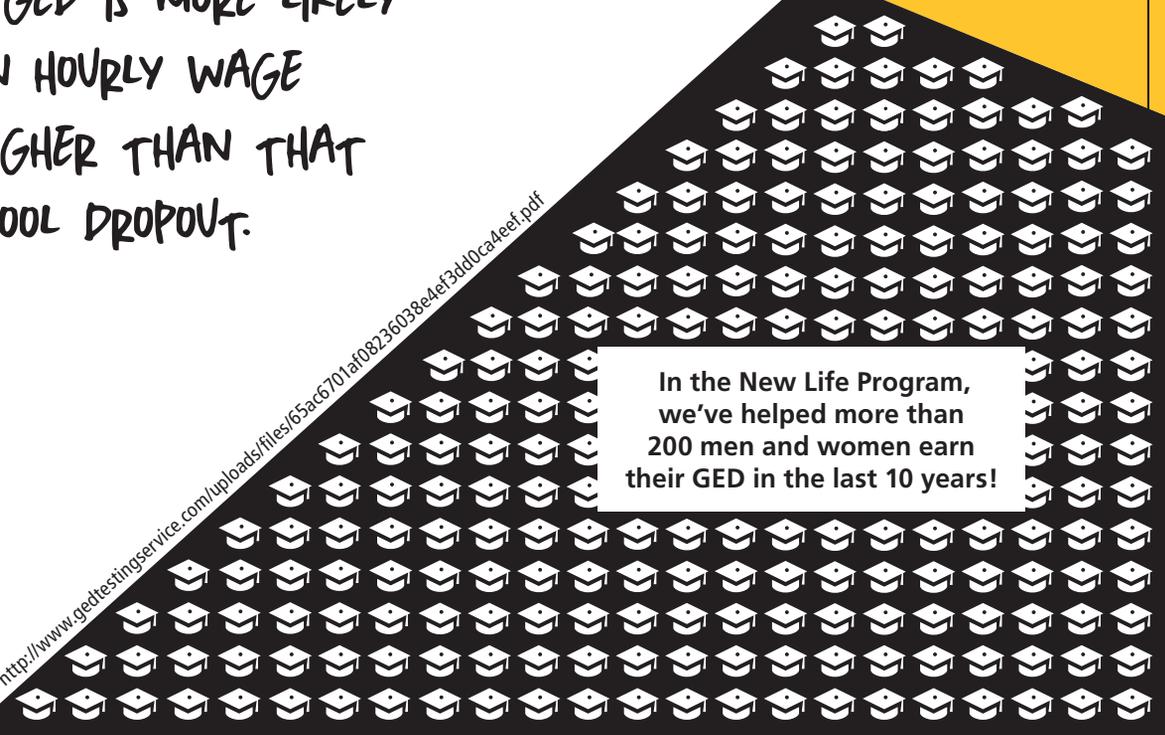




ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION\*, SOMEONE WHO EARNS A GED IS MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE AN HOURLY WAGE NEARLY 10% HIGHER THAN THAT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT.

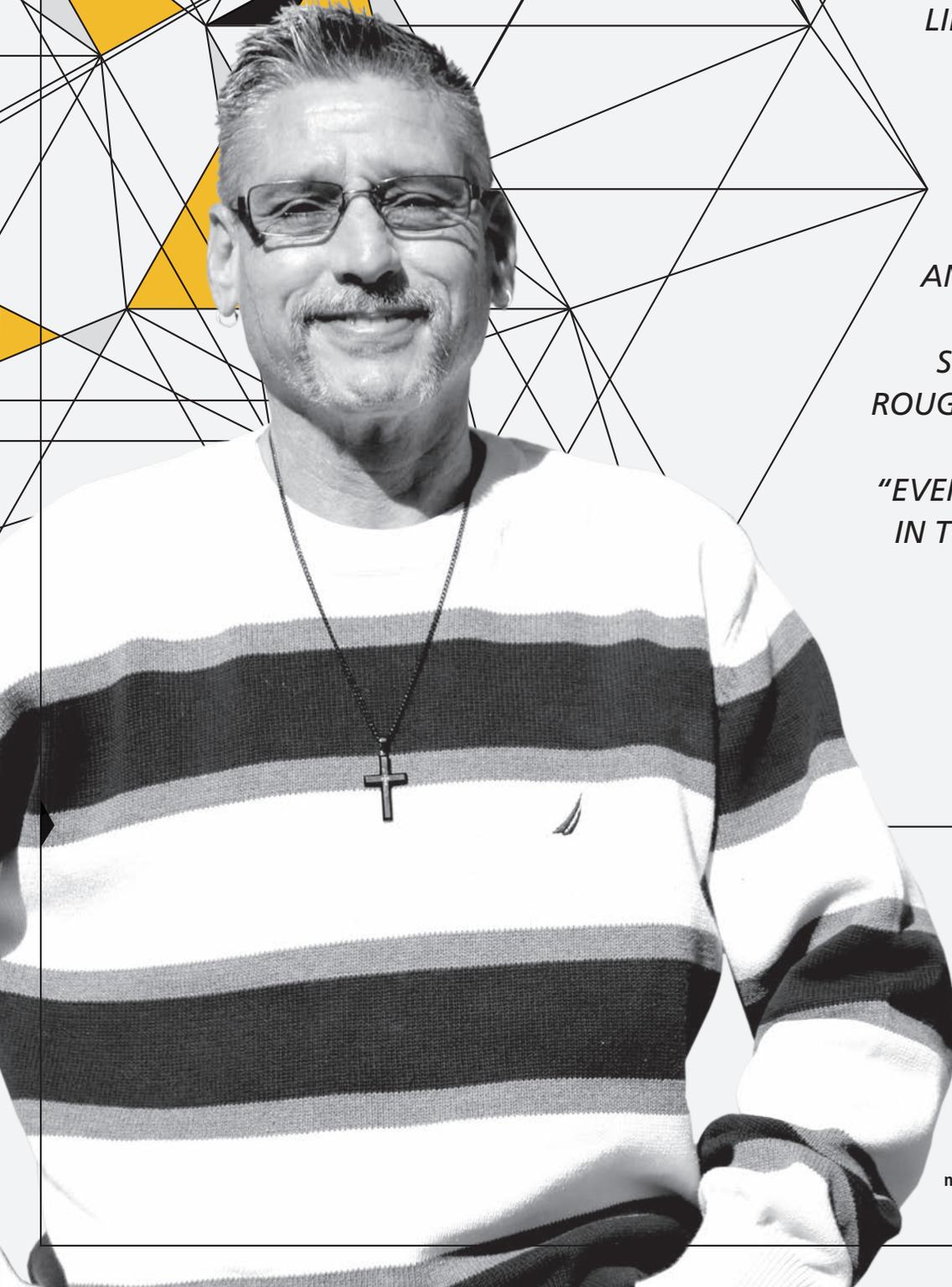
\* <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/uploads/files/655ac6701af08236058e4ef3dd0ca4ee1.pdf>

In the New Life Program, we've helped more than 200 men and women earn their GED in the last 10 years!



# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING HONEST

*LINNEY SMILED BROADLY AS HE DESCRIBED THE MOMENT HE LEARNED HE HAD PASSED HIS GED TEST. "I WAS IN THE COMPUTER LAB, AND I THREW MY HANDS UP IN THE AIR AND SHOUTED," HE SAYS, HIS ROUGH VOICE HIDING LITTLE OF HIS EXCITEMENT. "EVERYONE CAME RUNNING IN TO CONGRATULATE ME."*



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

Like most GED recipients, Linney was proud of his accomplishment, and the satisfaction of being honest with himself and his employers was a long time coming. After all, he finally earned his GED at 51 years old.

"I left school when I was in 10th grade," he continues. "My mom was working two jobs and my brother and I were on our own. Both of us quit school." His brother later earned his GED and got married, but Linney wanted to live his life by his own rules.

For the next 25 years, he spent his time drinking, smoking marijuana and working at various fast-food restaurants, lying about his education in order to get hired. In 2002, he got a job working on the maintenance and grounds crew for a small apartment in Fort Worth, Texas, and he kept that job for nearly 10 years.

When his father passed away in 2011, he gained a small inheritance and spent it partying and doing drugs in 2012. In the following weeks, he hurt his foot at work, and could not pass a drug test for the injury report, so he decided to quit. "Soon it was a year later," he says, "and I had not found a steady job. I went through my entire savings .... Next thing I knew, I was losing my place to live."

He tried staying with friends, before ending up at a homeless shelter in Dallas.

"A friend of mine found me on Facebook," he says, explaining how he moved to Denver and stayed with his friend's mother, hoping to find a job and a place to live. But all his plans came crashing down when he decided to go out drinking one night and he was asked to leave. Homeless again, he moved to Colorado Springs for a few weeks to look for work, but instead, he found others who encouraged his drug habits.

Eventually, his friend in Denver contacted him again, pleading with him to find help. Linney agreed, and asked them to drop him off at a homeless center in Denver. A day later, he was walking down the street and saw the "Jesus Saves" sign on the corner of the Mission's Lawrence Street Shelter. "I stayed there for a few nights before I decided to join the New Life Program," he says.

In the New Life Program, he found the encouragement, counseling and accountability he needed to move beyond his drug and alcohol habits. And he built meaningful community relationships at Bloom Church in Denver, where he still attends on Sundays.

Linney gained two important things in the New Life Program. First, he built vital relationships with people like his chaplain, Matt, and the Mission's Education Coordinator, Jason. Matt helped him understand how to apply God's Word to situations in his life and invited him on camping and hiking trips with other guys in the program, helping them slow down and experience a little of God's presence in nature. Jason, on his part, helped encourage him to work hard to earn his GED, often staying late after work to help him study.

The second and most important thing he gained from the program was the confidence that comes from being honest with himself and others. In his 51 years, Linney worked at more than a few jobs, and after he earned his GED, he was finally honest on a job application for the first time in his entire life. "If it weren't for people like Matt and Jason at the Mission helping me stay focused, I'd probably still be lying on my applications," he says.

Today, he works at Quest Diagnostics as a courier, transporting medical supplies and samples, and even his interest in driving as a career came from his experience at the Mission. "I wanted to be a driver because I drove for the Mission," he explains. "I helped pick up donations and took other guys to church and things. I like driving, and it gives me a way to get to know Denver." And as an added bonus, he says the job makes him feel like he's taking after his parents who both had careers related to healthcare.

For men and women like Linney, earning a GED is just the first step on the long road to recovery, discovering what it means to provide for their own needs and their families. Each New Life Program graduate is one more person working hard to be self-sufficient and confidently contributing to society instead of hopelessly camping out on a sidewalk, unsure what to do next.

But none of these life-changing opportunities are possible without the partnership of supporters like you. We rely on your faithful gifts to provide emergency services like meals and shelter, rehabilitation through the New Life Program, transitional programs for those experiencing homelessness despite having a job, and community outreach for people experiencing poverty in our city.

Thank you for partnering with us to make these positive, life-changing opportunities a reality for the people who come to us for help.

**YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE LIKE LINNEY IN THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM TODAY!**

USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO MAIL YOUR DONATION OR GIVE ONLINE AT [DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE](http://DENVERRESCUEMISSION.ORG/DONATE).



Dear Friends,

Denver Rescue Mission has been very committed to education over the years, mainly because we believe one of the keys to getting out of poverty is education.

One of my favorite memories of all time is seeing a middle-age man in our New Life Program stand up and read his Bible out loud in front of staff and other program participants. Why was this significant? Because when he entered the program just 90 days before, he could not read at all. It was a powerful moment, and I am not sure there was a dry eye in the place.

I don't know about you, but I cannot imagine going through life without being able to read. In our hi-tech, twenty-first century, computer world, not being able to read would not only be embarrassing but horribly restrictive. Just functioning daily would be a struggle, let alone obtaining a good job. And trying to raise yourself out of poverty and homelessness would seem insurmountable.

Sadly, the number of people in our society who find themselves not able to read or who read at less than a high school level is shocking. This is why every participant in our New Life Program goes through our Lifeskills Education and Career (LEC) classes. In order to help people reach life goals, we start by assessing where they are academically before helping them prepare educationally to succeed (earning their GED's, improving math and reading skills, computer training, etc.). This process is essential to obtain life goals that will allow them to be productive, self-sufficient citizens.

Linney's story, featured in this month's newsletter, is an encouraging story of success. Thank you for partnering with us to help all of the Linneys at Denver Rescue Mission who come to us for help! You are making a difference!

God Bless,

Brad Meuli  
President/CEO

SUMMER OF  
**HOPE**

**If there's one thing Colorado knows how to do, it's enjoy the summer. Hiking, swimming, fishing, camping, and more fill up our days and nights with fun and adventure.**

But the summer also brings oppressive heat and the danger of dehydration to those experiencing homelessness in our city. And with all the activities keeping people busy during these warmer months, donations to the Mission often decrease, leaving our expenses frequently exceeding our income for these critical months of the year.

This summer, remember our homeless neighbors and join us to make this a Summer of Hope for someone in need!

Donate today at [DenverRescueMission.org/SummerOfHope](https://DenverRescueMission.org/SummerOfHope).

## Thank You for 125 years!

On March 10, the Mission's staff and interns came together at our annual All Staff meeting to share time in worship, fellowship and learning about updates from Mission leaders. We also took a special moment to celebrate our 125th anniversary as a ministry, and it's all thanks to supporters like you. Thank you for your prayers, support and partnership as we continue this great legacy of changing lives in the name of Christ.



## Graduation

As schools across the country prepare for this year's graduating students, we're celebrating our own graduates of the New Life Program and STAR Transitional Program. Join us in celebrating their great accomplishments!

### When:

Friday, June 16  
9:00 to 10:30 A.M.

### Where:

The Crossing Amphitheatre  
6090 Smith Road  
Denver CO 80216

Please RSVP by June 12, to Josh at [JlittleJohn@DenRescue.org](mailto:JlittleJohn@DenRescue.org).

## Rockies Cleanup



On April 7, the Colorado Rockies had their first home game of the season against the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the next day, Mission staff, program participants and volunteers from the Rockies spent a day cleaning up the streets in the Ballpark Neighborhood around our Lawrence Street Shelter and Community Center.

We want to extend a special thank you to the Colorado Rockies and our great community for supporting our work to change lives every day.

## Statistics

### How You Help

March

YTD (fiscal year)

#### Meals provided

65,805



615,687

#### Nights of shelter provided

31,129



260,262

#### Chapel attendance

3,303



26,466

#### Clothing distributed (lbs.)

38,137



298,996

#### Clinic services provided

473



3,601

## See the Latest from the Mission on Our Blog!

Stories, updates, news, and shared firsthand experiences is what you'll find on the Mission's blog. It's all geared toward helping share the story of people who are impacted daily by the work you make possible.

Check out the Mission's blog to see more: [DenverRescueMission.org/Blog](http://DenverRescueMission.org/Blog). And follow us on social media to receive these and other updates every day!



## 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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CARING CONNECTION

