

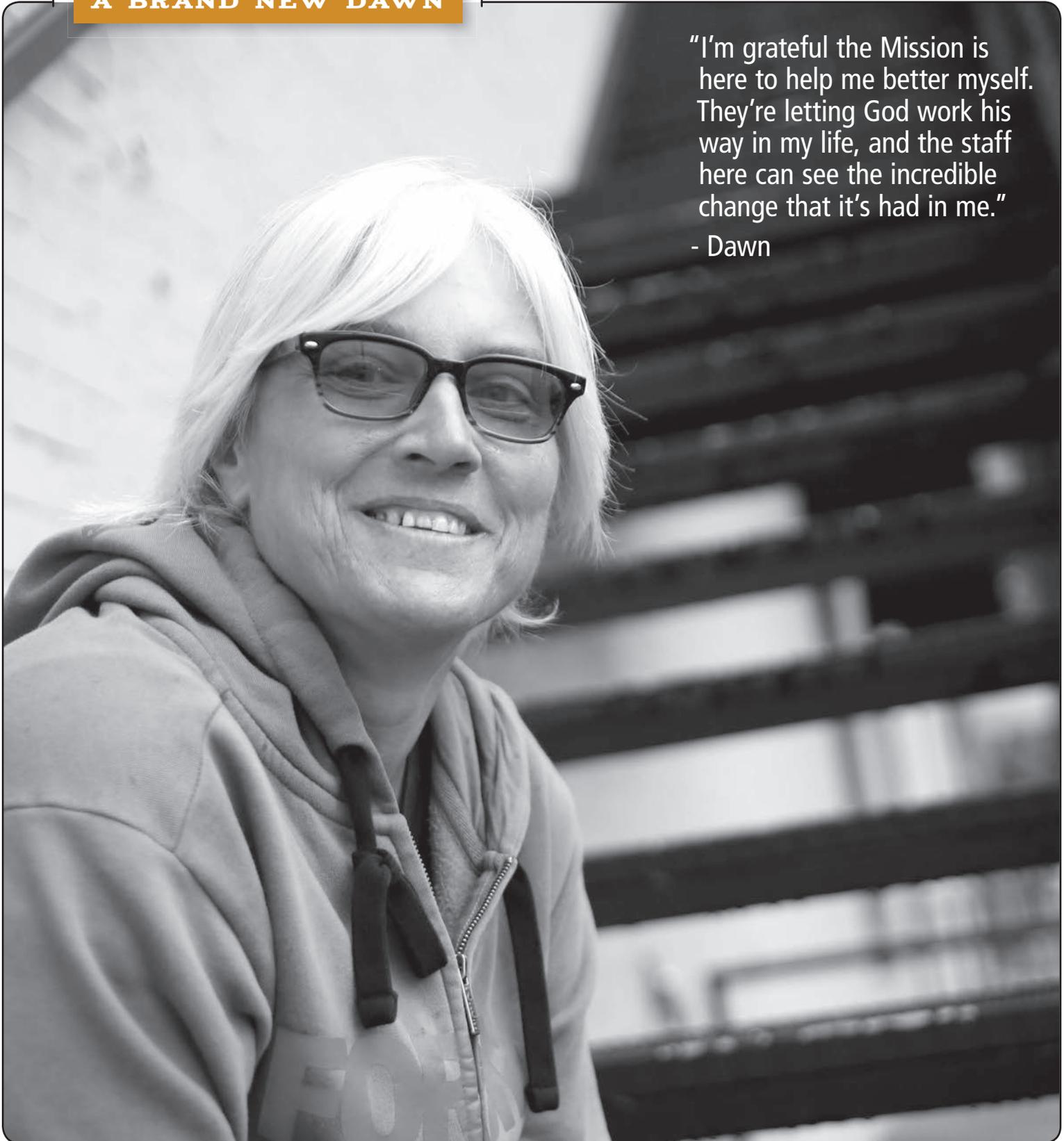
Changing lives

FortCollinsRescueMission.org October 2016

A BRAND NEW DAWN

"I'm grateful the Mission is here to help me better myself. They're letting God work his way in my life, and the staff here can see the incredible change that it's had in me."

- Dawn





Dawn remembers sitting inside the bus station in Denver. It was well past midnight, and she had already been there for nearly 24 hours, with only about five hours of sleep.

Exhausted and hungry, Dawn clung to a white trash bag hastily stuffed with all her belongings—a few letters from her son, a set of clothes and a jacket.

That was all she had left after spending the last 10 years in prison.

A recent article in *Christianity Today* about the role of the church in prison ministry and post-incarceration life made the point that “One of the hardest days of incarceration may be the day it ends.”* After so much time in prison, many former inmates begin their freedom at a bus station with no money, no friends, no family, and no clear path to recovery.

For Dawn, hope seemed to linger in the promise of a homeless services center in Fort Collins, so when her bus finally arrived that morning, she climbed on board, eager for a fresh start. But when she arrived at 4:30 in the morning, she was told the center couldn’t help her because of her felony. Instead, they pointed her to Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

“When I got to the Mission, they said, ‘Come on in! Have something to eat,’” she says with a big smile. “I was so hungry. Then they said they had a bed for me, and I was shocked.”

The Re-Entry Program at Fort Collins Rescue Mission is designed to help people just like Dawn.

At the Mission, men and women recently released from prison can find a safe place to sleep, warm meals and a transitional program designed to help them rebuild a life after so many years behind bars.

For Dawn, the Mission provides more than just a roof over her head at night and a warm meal. It provides an encouraging community and the resources she needs to move forward, including an opportunity to earn her GED, connections with job placement services and spiritual guidance through Bible studies and mentoring. “I’m grateful the Mission is here to help me better myself,” she says. “They’re letting God work his way in my life, and the staff here can see the incredible change that it’s had in me. I’m so thankful for this opportunity.”

Together with supporters like you, we provide a road map to recovery through our emergency services and transitional programs. Thank you for helping people like Dawn by supporting the important work of Fort Collins Rescue Mission. Your continued support is what makes these services possible for people in need in our community.



Look for Dawn’s story on the Mission’s Facebook page: [Facebook.com/FortCollinsRescue](https://www.facebook.com/FortCollinsRescue). Share her inspirational story!

FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends,

People experiencing homelessness are often stereotyped in a very negative light. At times, some have said to me that they believe people who are homeless are lazy, are alcoholics, or are vagrants who do not want to work or help themselves. That somehow, because they are experiencing

homelessness, they are less important than the rest of us. We know there are many reasons that people become homeless. But whatever the reason, at Fort Collins Rescue Mission we believe that all people matter—to God, to our staff and volunteers, and to our donors. We believe that God not only loves everyone, but has a purpose for each of us. When I hear someone like Dawn, who is in our Re-Entry Program, say she is *grateful* for the mission, it is inspiring and touches me deeply.

I think you should know that the people we serve and that you help us reach are deeply grateful for our services—for a meal, for a bed, for our staff, for a place that says, “Come on in.” And though they may never get to meet you personally, they are also genuinely grateful for you, our donors. Grateful—it is a word that means so much!

God bless,

Brad Meuli, President/CEO

Denver Rescue Mission/Fort Collins Rescue Mission



NEW!

The Mission's First Fort Collins Turkey Drive

This year, we're holding our first ever Fort Collins Rescue Mission turkey drive! Help us collect 100 frozen turkeys for our Thanksgiving Banquet and for distribution to people in need through Mom's Closet, a community outreach at Harvest Farm.

Visit FortCollinsRescueMission.org/Turkey to learn more.

Thanksgiving Is Coming Soon!

The holidays can be a difficult time for our homeless neighbors. Many of them have no friends or family to join for a festive meal, and as the weather gets colder, what should be a joyful time of giving thanks can become a sad reminder of how hopeless they feel.

That's why we provide a special Thanksgiving celebration each year for our neighbors in need.



Encouraging Word

Before the banquet, guests are invited to attend a short gospel-centered chapel service led by volunteers from a local church.



A Holiday Feast

A Thanksgiving meal is a big part of celebrating the holiday for most people, so with the help of volunteers, we welcome people in need to sit at our table for a special banquet.



A Special Gift

As a thank you to all guests for spending the holiday with us, we'll give each of them a small, practical gift like the gloves and hats we distributed last year.

Help offer a new life to our homeless neighbors this Thanksgiving!

Give online at FortCollinsRescueMission.org or use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift today.

MISSION EVENT

Harvest Farm Fall Festival & Corn Maze

When: Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in October

You're invited to the 14th Annual Fall Festival at the Mission's farm in Wellington, Colorado—just ten miles north of Fort Collins. The family-friendly atmosphere is a great place to enjoy a fall day. Attractions include a 10-acre corn maze, a petting zoo, pig races, corn cannons, hay rides and more!

Learn more at HarvestFarm.net, and don't forget to bring your coupon from this newsletter for \$2 off admission!

PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR

\$2 OFF

ONE ADMISSION

Must have this coupon at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Not valid for online ticket purchases.

14th Annual Fall Festival & corn maze

Harvest Farm

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

Statistics

How You Help

August

YTD (fiscal year)

Meals Provided

8,804



17,562

Nights of Shelter

4,443



8,664

Chapel Attendance

918



1,885

Churches Involved

13



13

Mission Kitchen Receives an Excellent Rating!

On July 1, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment performed an unannounced inspection of the Fort Collins Rescue Mission kitchen. A complete inspection was conducted and, thanks to the Mission's commitment to food safety and sanitation, an "excellent" rating was achieved!

Outreaches

Fort Collins Rescue Mission

Meals, overnight shelter and transitional programs for men and women.

Harvest Farm

Long-term New Life rehabilitation program for men, farming and ranching operation, food and clothing distribution, and Fall Festival.

Denver Rescue Mission

(Multiple locations in Denver) meals, overnight shelter, health clinic, rehabilitation programs, family services, transitional programs, assistance for permanent housing, clothing and furniture distribution.

**DENVER
RESCUE
MISSION**

**FORT
COLLINS
RESCUE
MISSION**

Changing Lives is the monthly news publication of Fort Collins Rescue Mission.

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