



LOAVES & FISHES
MINISTRIES | FREMONT
COUNTY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Client Testimonies



"My life was stable for 43 years. In 2010, my mother passed & I lost my house because I couldn't keep up with the bills on my own. I lived with my sister until she passed in 2016. In November of 2018, I came to Canon City and ended up living in my car. A local police officer approached me in the park. He was very nice, gave me \$20, & told me about Loaves & Fishes. I spent 5 months at the shelter & then moved to New Creations Inn. The staff & structure there helped me get back on my feet. I now live in my own affordable rental house! Circumstances rocked my world, but learning about THE ROCK (the Lord) at New Creations Inn helped me accept the losses of the past & to face the future with hope & certainty." - Patricia Leonhardt



"Restoring Hope changed my life. I was a single mom of 4 who needed support to get on my feet and give my kids a home and a future. I'm now in stable housing, have a good job am in the process of buying my own home. When you're ready for stability, the Restoring Hope team gives you hope and help. I am so, so thankful to the Restoring Hope team."—Rachel Webster



"I was in a bad way after 24 years of active addiction. I knew that I wouldn't make another winter on the street. Connecting with housing at Journey Home and 912 (and counting) days of clean and sober living completely changed my life. My basic needs are met so I've been able to deal with my legal obligations and my personal health concerns. My daughter and granddaughter live with me. Reflecting on my blessings and volunteering keep me on the right road. Hope matters. Never give up hope because sooner than you realize, life will turn around." – Jessiy Bales



"God blessed me by bringing me here when I paroled out of prison. I've found my purpose and know who I was created to be. The WAGEES program offers lots of support for parolees. They help with housing, finding a job, clothes for work, transportation and other resources.

The WAGEES staff really cares. Working with the program, I now see myself successfully completing my parole. When you're ready to change and willing to live up to your end of the deal, then WAGEES is a great support system, especially if you don't have family to help. If you're on parole, believe what you hear about WAGEES and take advantage of the program." – Scott Lobato

2020 Impact Snapshot



338,390 Pounds of Food Distributed
 1,560 Holiday Meals Provided
 42,656 Meals Served in our Emergency



7,887 Nights of Emergency Shelter Provided
 519 Nights of Respite Care Provided



\$80,799 Rental Assistance Provided
 \$53,400 Utility Assistance Provided
 \$11,924 Other Financial Assistance Provided

299 Previously Homeless Individuals Found Housing
 509 Homeless Individuals Identified



Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic



As Coloradans were preparing for the Governor's Executive Order to Stay at Home in March, we were looking for ways to safely support those who did not have a home.

Fortunately we were able to continue most of our services and we were able to keep our doors open. Adjustments were made that allowed our clients to register and receive assistance over the phone instead of having to come into the office.

Unfortunately, we did have to close our clothing warehouse and it remains closed today.

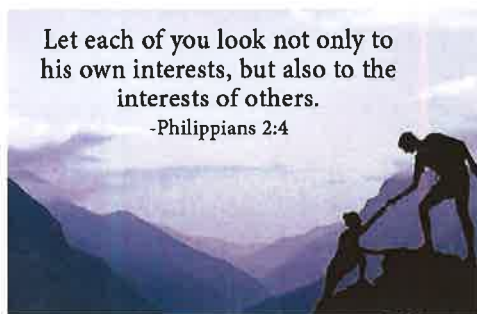
Emergency Shelter:

On March 16, 2020 our emergency shelter started operating around the clock, every day. Our staff pivoted from their normal responsibilities and started filling in at our emergency shelter. The emergency shelter continues to operate around the clock.

Construction will begin in 2021 to expand our current shelter capacity. The expansion will increase our bed capacity from 17 to 40 and will include new men's and women's locker rooms.

Meals and Showers:

Grab and Go meals were immediately made available twice a day to those who were staying outside. As park restrooms and community services offices were closing to the public, adequate hygiene and sanitation issues quickly became a problem. Portable toilets and handwashing stations were made available. In time, we were able to reopen our showers to those who are staying outside.



Clothing Warehouse:

Our clothing warehouse was quickly emptied to provide additional emergency shelter beds and storage space for food. We still are not accepting donations of clothing.

Food Pantry:

Almost immediately, the Care and Share Food Bank began pushing food to our community for distribution. Instead of customers shopping for their food in our pantry, we pre-packed food boxes and loaded them directly into their cars. Saturdays were added as an additional food pick-up day. Also added, was a weekly food give away on Thursdays to anyone in our community.

Homeless Outreach

Even during the pandemic, the dedicated homeless outreach volunteers followed the CDC’s guidelines and continued to provide services to those who were living outside. Over the past year, our outreach efforts have continued to grow due to great community partnerships and the technical assistance received from Community Solutions through the Built for Zero Initiative.



Recently we hired an Outreach Case Manager who will work closely with Law Enforcement, the Park and Recreations Divisions, and the Bureau of Land Management to quickly identify and access individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Isolation and Quarantine Rooms

Establishing isolation and quarantine rooms for those who do not have a home or are unable to isolate in their home quickly became a priority. Partnering with Fremont County, three rooms at New Creations Inn and a camper trailer were identified in the event I/Q rooms were needed.

Financial Assistance

Funding was received from the Colorado COVID Relief Funds and the Community CARES Acts which provided much needed financial assistance to families in our community who were affected by the pandemic.

Let us hold unswerving to the hope we profess,
is faithful.

for He who promised
Hebrews 10:23

More Exciting Things



El Pomar Foundation Nonprofit Award for Excellence

Loaves and Fishes Ministries was honored to receive the 2020 Nonprofit Award for Excellence from the El Pomar Foundation.

The Awards for Excellence program recognizes outstanding Colorado nonprofit organizations by presenting them with grant dollars for their impressive work supporting the people of Colorado.

New Logo and Website

As we move closer to our 37th year, we are delighted to announce our new and improved website and with it, a refreshed logo design. Our services have grown and evolved over the years, and we felt it was time for a change. We have refreshed our logo to reflect who we are today and to symbolize our future.



A huge thank you to Unbridled for their generous financial gift and to the amazingly talented Unbridled Act team for taking our vision and capturing it in our website and logo.



Unexpected Blessings

This year we saw many unexpected blessings. The financial support and encouragement we received from our donors, funders and our community partners helped make long days a little easier.

One unexpected blessing example was receiving a new forklift and electric pallet jack from the Care and Share Food Bank.

Loaves and Fishes Ministries Services

Chayah House Emergency Shelter – On December 31, 2020, at least 245 people were experiencing homelessness in Fremont County. Our shelter offers a safe place for men, women and children and provides hot meals, showers, and laundry. Currently open all day, every day.

Homelessness Prevention Financial Assistance - Rental and utility assistance for low income households.

Food Pantry – No one should go hungry in our community. Our food pantry and mobile food pantry are open to all. Additional food support is also available to low-income senior citizens.

Work and Gain Employment and Education Services (WAGEES) -

For people who have recently been released from prison, knowing how to navigate on the outside can be challenging. WAGEES helps those who are ready to rebuild new and different lives by assisting with housing, employment, education and connecting with community service providers.

Respite at the Inn - Sometimes individuals need a safe place to rest and get relief from difficult situations. Through our partnership with Solvista Health, short-term respite care is provided for adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

New Creations Inn (NCI) Transitional Housing- Offers a fresh start to single adults who are seeking a Christ-centered supportive, structured, sober-living environment.

Restoring Hope Rapid Rehousing - Helps those who are experiencing homelessness transition into permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that includes financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

Journey Home Supportive Housing – Provides housing to those who were previously homeless. Tenants are connected to services needed to stabilize their circumstances while building community through social and service activities that promote healthy living relationships.

Who we are

The vision for Loaves and Fishes Ministries of Fremont County began with our local pastors as they desired a more holistic way to help neighbors in need. Since 1984, we have been serving people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing essential services and life-changing programs.

From the beginning, our foundation has been grounded in the Gospel of Christ. Our goal is not for individuals to become dependent on us or the programs we offer, but instead to find freedom in Christ that will lead to a restoration with God, their families and their communities.

Our Core Values

Holistic approach— We believe in the holistic approach that deals with the spiritual, physical, relational and economic brokenness faced by those we serve. Our hope is to make a lasting difference in Fremont County by affecting change in all of these areas.

Origin in Dignity—We believe that all people have inherited dignity by being created in the image of God and thus have an innate right to be valued, respected and to receive ethical treatment.

Partnerships—We believe that partnerships with other nonprofits, local businesses, government agencies and the faith based communities are essential as we seek solutions for our community. In addition, these relationships extend to those who are touched through this ministry as we strive towards a cooperative attitude through every interaction.

Empowerment—We believe in empowerment instead of handouts, where solutions are lasting and transferable. This method of ministry requires patience and perseverance, but this approach leads to healthier families and ultimately a stronger community.



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Loaves and Fishes Ministries is an eligible project within the Central Colorado Enterprise Zone. This status provides an additional 25% state tax credit for cash contribution of \$250. Please call (719)275-0593 for additional information.