



LOAVES & FISHES
MINISTRIES | FREMONT
COUNTY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Client Testimonies



"This is my forever home! In August of 2017, my ex-husband kicked me out of the house we were sharing. I stayed at the Chayah House Shelter for 10 and one-half months. I jumped at the chance to move into Journey Home when it opened in June of 2018. At Journey Home, I have a new extended family, a better life and a stable relationship with a special someone. The

relationships I have with my kids and grandkids have improved. My health issues have been addressed, I enjoy financial stability and I have the opportunity to connect with any other services I need. I feel very blessed to live at Journey Home." – Nancy Reeder



"Three plus years ago I was in a very dark place, my kids got taken from me, and I was at the lowest point in my life. Loaves and Fishes gave me a place to stay and a chance to get my life back together. I now have been clean and sober three years as of Dec. 1st, 2021. I have my kids back and for the first time in their lives they respect me and I can finally be a parent. I became back-up staff for the emergency shelter in June of 2019 and full time in

August 2021. I owe my life to Loaves and Fishes, for giving me a chance and believing in me."—Sean Pettit



"The Work and Gain Employment and Education Services (WAGEES) changed my life, and helped pave the road to a new future. As a single father of two children, they were able to help me with a reliable home in a quality school zone. Get me the tools needed to maintain quality employment as well as proper transportation for my family.

Thank you Loaves & Fishes Ministries for all the support, God bless all the staff." – Oliver Sky Wiegand

2021 Impact Snapshot



\$613,731 Food received through donations
815 Holiday meals provided
34,119 Meals served in our emergency shelter

4,456 Nights of Emergency Shelter Provided
347 Nights of Respite Care Provided



\$64,384 Rental Assistance Provided
\$76,503 Utility Assistance Provided
\$3,820.36 Other Financial Assistance Provided

Journey Home provided housing to 32 families
Restoring Hope provided housing to 18 families
New Creations Inn provided housing to 36 families
Greenwood Crossing provided housing to 17 families
Totaling 126 Adults and 60 Children



43 Individuals continued their education
50 Individuals found employment
43 Individuals maintained employment 90 days or longer

370 Individuals identified as homeless in 2021
252 Previously homeless Individuals found housing

As of December 31, 2021, 145 adults and 27 children were experiencing homelessness in Fremont County.



Fremont County Ends Veteran Homelessness



Fremont County joined an elite group of 12 communities in the country that have reached functional zero of veteran homelessness, a milestone that indicates fewer veterans experience homelessness than can be routinely housed in a month.

This certification comes from Built for Zero, a national initiative of more than 80 cities across the country working to measurably end homelessness, led by the nonprofit Community Solutions.

This is the achievement of a community-wide effort, indicating that the community has created a data-driven system that can keep homelessness rare and brief when it occurs. A team of various partners worked together to achieve this milestone, including Solvista Health, Fremont County Department of Human Services, Starpoint, Upper Arkansas Area Council of Government, Fremont County Veteran Service Officer, Rocky Mountain Behavioral Health, VA Medical Center, and Loaves and Fishes Ministries.

“Creating a Built for Zero Team in Fremont County has been a complete game changer in effectively addressing what has been a growing local homeless population,” said Ashley Smith, Canon City Mayor. “One of the major shifts was realizing there wasn’t a one-size-fits-all solution, but by creating a by-name list, the Built for Zero team could tailor a solution for each homeless person and household.

With steadfast commitment our local Built for Zero team has worked wonders in giving a hand up for our homeless to reconnect to family, start choosing better life choices, and re-enter society with housing,

stability and work. There is still a lot of work to do, but with community support and the continued dedication of a well-tailored team, we will continue to see homelessness in Fremont County decrease.”

Reaching functional zero for ending veteran homelessness does not mean that the region’s veterans are no longer facing challenges that may cause them to become homeless. Rather, it means that a coordinated system of care has been established that connects homeless veterans to housing and services, effectively ending their homeless status soon after they’ve been identified. The system of care has to be maintained and

continually fine-tuned to remain effective.



“We are proud to announce that the Fremont Colorado community has joined the vanguard of communities to reach functional zero for veteran homelessness,” said Habiba Rotter,

Improvement Advisor at

Built for Zero. “This incredible team has demonstrated that half the work of ending homelessness is believing that it is possible. The other half is committing to focusing on the opportunities for each and every client, rather than focusing on barriers. With persistence and dedication, they have shown all of us what can and must be done.”

Ending homelessness did not end with our Veterans. Fremont County is working hard to end Chronic Homelessness for single adults by July 2022.

Journey Home Resident Council Receives a Grant

Resident leadership is a valued aspect of community living. A \$5,000 community grant from The Colorado Trust Rural Philanthropy Days gave JH’s Resident Council the opportunity to meet regularly, develop relationships with local service providers, survey tenant interests, and explore potential activities for all tenants to encourage community engagement. Future plans include visits to other permanent supportive housing projects seeking to establish Resident Councils of their own.

Planned Expansion Projects

Emergency Shelter Renovation - Phase 1

Our shelter renovations started with a cement breaking ceremony on September 16, 2021. Using our existing warehouse space, the expansion will increase our bed capacity to 38 beds; 20 male beds, 10 female beds, and 2 family dorms. The expansion also includes men and women locker rooms with multiple showers, toilets and ADA bathrooms. Renovations are expected to be completed in February 2022.

New Warehouse – Phase 2

Using the land behind our main office on Justice Center Road, Phase 2 involves building a 5,000 sq. ft. warehouse that will become our new food pantry, food storage, and clothing warehouse. This new warehouse will be 1.5 times larger than our current warehouse. This new building will give us the ability to increase our storage capacity and provide a larger area for our client-select grocery store and shopping area. Projected ground breaking for the warehouse is in 2022.

Resource Navigation Center – Phase 3

The resource navigation center will offer basic needs services including showers, laundry services, nutritious meals, temporary secured storage, as well as intensive services such as physical and mental health evaluations and care management services. Through collaborative partnership, the navigation center will create a one-stop-shop experience to help individuals transition from homelessness to housing stability.

Services Provided

Chayah House Emergency Shelter – *Our shelter offers a safe place for men, women and children to sleep. Hot meals, showers, and laundry are provided. Open every day from 4pm – 8am.*

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

Street Outreach – Builds relationships with people experiencing homelessness who may be disconnected and alienated not only from mainstream services and supports, but from the services targeting homeless persons.

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. In 2021, 3.5 tons of food was distributed monthly.

Work and Gain Employment and Education Services (WAGEES) - Strives for a nonjudgmental holistic approach to individuals recently released from prison. Assisting participants in obtaining legal ID's, purchasing tools for work and advocating for their health. Our WAGEES program is not just about getting a job to survive, it's about building confidence and skills to thrive.

New Creations Inn Respite - 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. NCI is for individuals who are struggling in their current lifestyle who are ready to make changes to improve their quality of life.

Restoring Hope Rapid Rehousing - Assists families and individuals experiencing homelessness transition into permanent housing and reach self-sufficiency through a tailored package of assistance that includes financial assistance and targeted supportive services including case management.

Journey Home Supportive Housing – Permanent housing option for previously homeless individuals and families. Residents actively help plan social and recreational opportunities to create and maintain a thriving community. Local community partners provide direct services to address tenant health and wellness needs. A Tenant Support Services grant from the State of Colorado Division of Housing Department of Local Affairs provides funding for this program.

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.