



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Loaves and Fishes Ministries

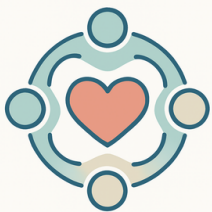
The success of the past year is a testament to the compassion and commitment of our community—our staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. Celebrating over forty years of ministry, Loaves and Fishes Ministries continues to provide essential support for low-income families, offering tangible aid alongside the promise of a brighter future. Our dedication is to lasting change, achieved through a holistic framework that addresses urgent needs while laying the groundwork for long-term independence.

This year, our commitment to these three pillars—Restoration, Relationships, and Resiliency—yielded significant growth and tangible results throughout the community. We are excited to share how your support allowed us to expand our direct service capabilities, deepen our collaborative efforts, and introduce crucial new initiatives. The following pages detail the milestones achieved, demonstrating the measurable impact of this vital ministry and the renewed hope we witnessed in the lives of the neighbors we serve.



Restoration

Offering a loving and holistic crisis response that provides not just safe shelter and immediate resources, but a sanctuary for families and individuals navigating homelessness and the devastating effects of poverty and complex spiritual and mental wounds. This foundational work is where we begin to restore the spirit, reclaim dignity, and ensure every life can start anew with hope.



Relationships

Cultivating genuine, supportive, and God-honoring connections—from staff and volunteers to peer groups—to ensure no one walks their journey alone. We believe that love being lived out in our community is the strength that moves participants from isolation to belonging, fostering the stable network essential for true healing and progress.



Resiliency

Equipping individuals with the practical tools and spiritual armor necessary to stand firm against future storms. We foster inner confidence and wisdom, promoting reliance on faith so participants are empowered to navigate life's challenges with courage and break cycles of despair, realizing God's abundant plan for their lives.

Our Programs

Food Assistance

Grounded in the conviction that no neighbor should face hunger, our food assistance ministry provides vital nourishment with compassion. Our programs are strategically designed to reach all segments of our community:

- **Client Choice Pantry:** A dignified space where families select the food that best meets their needs.
- **Mobile Pantry:** Here for any neighbor who needs a little extra help putting food on the table.
- **Backpack Program:** Offering discrete weekend food assistance for students within the Cañon City School District.
- **Special Food Boxes:** Supplying nutritious, customized boxes to support our low-income senior citizens.

Financial Assistance

To help families through unexpected financial hardship, we offer targeted, one-time assistance for crucial needs. Our support includes direct payment assistance for utility bills and rent, helping to secure housing and prevent homelessness during times of crisis.

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry (CE) is our community's pledge to ensure that no one experiencing homelessness is ever forgotten or left behind. Our dedicated Community Partners act as the essential frontline, identifying neighbors in need and using a single, fair process to capture their situation. This unified system allows us to objectively assess vulnerability and prioritize our limited resources, ensuring the most vulnerable people receive housing support first. Ultimately, CE translates our collective compassion into an efficient, equitable pathway out of homelessness.

Street Outreach

Grounded in the conviction that every individual matters, including those who lack stable housing, our Street Outreach program focuses on building genuine relationships. Our dedicated team consistently provides life-giving supplies and connects our neighbors directly to essential community services and resources.

Emergency Shelter

Our 38-bed emergency shelter is more than just a roof; it's the first step toward stability for families and individuals facing a crisis. Here, residents find immediate safety, warm meals, and the simple dignity of laundry and showers. Crucially, they receive dedicated case management support, guiding them with compassion and determination toward their goal: securing safe, sustainable housing.

Navigation Center

Launched in May 2025, our Navigation Center serves as a vital bridge to stability. By offering essential hygiene services—including showers and laundry—alongside computer access and case management, we provide the holistic support necessary for individuals to transition out of homelessness.

Work and Gain Employment and Education Services (WAGEES)

Recognizing that many men and women are released from prison without a supportive network, the WAGEES program offers a vital bridge to a new life. We are committed to providing nonjudgmental support and resources for employment and education, helping returning citizens overcome barriers and reclaim their dignity as they successfully integrate and thrive in the community.

New Creations Inn Transitional Housing

This program offers more than just shelter; it is temporary housing for single adults committed to rebuilding their lives and securing permanent housing. The New Creations Inn provides a supportive, safe, and sober environment where residents can focus on their healing, strengthen their financial history, and renew their hope for a stable future.

Restoring Hope Supportive Housing

Transitioning from homelessness into permanent housing requires more than just keys; it involves gaining new responsibilities and adjusting to a new lifestyle. Our Restoring Hope program provides the critical difference through ongoing case management and wrap-around support services, ensuring families and individuals successfully navigate this transition and achieve long-term stability.

Journey Home Supportive Housing

We recognize that long-term homelessness creates deep barriers to stability. Journey Home is our commitment to breaking those cycles, offering 30 apartment units that provide not just housing, but a true fresh start. Each resident receives intensive case management and dedicated wrap-around supports, ensuring they have the strength and guidance to make a successful, sustainable transition into their new life.

Highlights of 2025

A year defined by expansion and deeper community reach.

Bringing hope to the streets: Our new outreach program

Five days a week, our Street Outreach team walks in faith, building genuine relationships and linking our neighbors in need to life-changing services and resources. This commitment extends to the community: we were blessed to see our homeless neighbors partner with the Parks and Recreation District to clean up three abandoned campsites, restoring beauty and dignity to public spaces. Outreach Director Tim McFarland leads this effort through diligent collaboration with the BLM Park Ranger, FCSO, CCPD, local businesses, and the Parks and Recreation District, ensuring every individual on the streets is quickly identified and offered a loving connection to help.



Welcoming All: The Grand Opening of Our New Navigation Center

This past May, we celebrated the opening of our Navigation Center, establishing a new place of refuge and hope for our homeless neighbors. This vital center offers the comfort of a daytime space away from the streets. Here, individuals can access refreshing showers and laundry facilities, restoring basic dignity and hygiene. The Navigation Center also provides access to computers, enabling neighbors to connect with crucial resources and services. Most importantly, guests receive compassionate case management support to guide them toward stability. The Navigation Center is a foundational step in our commitment to fostering lasting change and securing housing for those in need.

Reaching Rural Veterans: Bridging the Resource Gap

Our commitment to those who have served was powerfully demonstrated through our partnership with the Reaching Rural Veterans initiative, a vital outreach program developed by the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University. This effort ensures our rural veteran neighbors receive the specialized support and resources they need to heal and thrive, overcoming isolation.

Loaves and Fishes Ministries proudly hosted seven resource fairs, which allowed over 60 Veterans and community service providers to successfully connect with and assist more than 100 Veterans throughout the year.

Harvesting Hope: The Continued Expansion of Our Community Garden

Year two was marked by tangible improvements and dedicated service in our garden ministry. We successfully doubled our planting area and upgraded the space with a new fence and essential waterline infrastructure. The garden truly belongs to the community, with our shelter residents doing the hands-on care, led faithfully by Earl, who ensured every crop was nurtured. This commitment ensured that 100% of the harvest went back to our mission, providing fresh produce for shelter meals and supplies for our food pantry guests.



Uniting to Solve Homelessness: 78% Reduction Achieved

Over the last five years, we have witnessed a profound evolution in how our community addresses homelessness. We have moved away from fragmented, siloed efforts toward a unified 'one team' approach that centers on the individual. By integrating proven, evidence-based strategies—such as proactive Street Outreach, the Housing First model, and a streamlined Coordinated Entry system—we have effectively removed the barriers that once stood in the way of stability. Today, we aren't just managing homelessness; we are clearing a direct, dignified path from the streets to a front door.

Big Wins & Real Progress

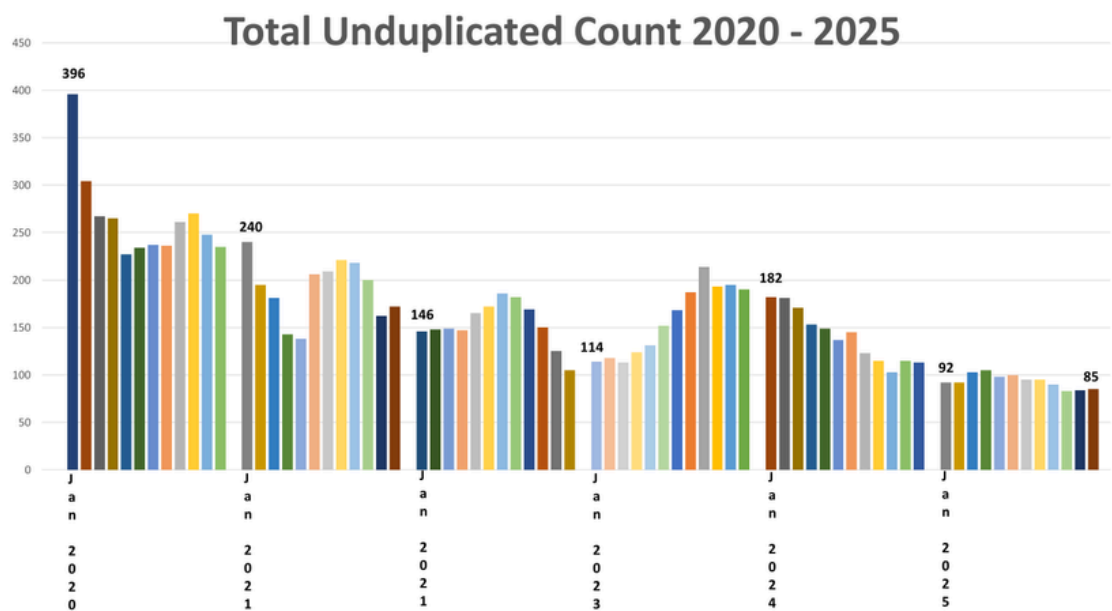
- **78% Reduction:** We’ve gone from a peak of 396 neighbors experiencing homeless in 2020 to just 86 as of December 31, 2025.
- **Veteran Success:** In March 2023, we reached "Functional Zero" for Veterans—a standard we continue to maintain.
- **The Path Forward:** We are now applying these same successful tactics to support our families, youth and single adults who experiencing homelessness.
- **Proven Impact:** While 85 remain, our system has successfully guided 1,389 individuals through homelessness toward stability since 2020.
- **Dignity Through Hygiene:** The Navigation Center offers on-site showers and laundry facilities to ensure guests have access to the essential personal care required for health and well-being.

Join the Movement

Our goal is to make homelessness rare and brief, but we need your help to get there.

- Homeless Coalition (Virtual): 3rd Thursday monthly.
- Join the Street Outreach Team
- Volunteer in the Navigation Center or Emergency Shelter

Give us a call at 719-275-0593 to get the details. Let’s finish this work together!





\$665,980

in food donations received



\$259,207

in rental and utilities financial
support



5,741

individuals received services

Food Assistance



13,928

Meals served in our emergency shelter

115

Students enrolled
weekly backpack
program

5,371

Food boxes
distributed

Emergency Shelter

201

Adults stayed in our shelter

7

Children stayed in our shelter

Housing

27

Individuals stayed in
transitional housing

95

Individuals stayed in
permanent
supportive housing

79%

Households
maintained or
increased their
income this year

Community Support

5,396

Hours volunteers
contributed

9

Abandoned Camp
Cleanups

1,618

Showers and laundry cycles
completed at the
Navigation Center since
opening in May 2025,



Impact Story 2025

Anthony's Story: A New Beginning Through WAGEES

Born in Cañon City, Anthony's life took a sharp turn toward crime at the age of eight after being introduced to drugs and alcohol. Enticed by the allure of the street life, he began committing crimes as a juvenile, eventually dedicating his entire identity to that destructive path. Now 58, Anthony reflects on a life tragically consumed by the prison system, where he has only spent a total of 6.5 years outside of incarceration across two juvenile and five adult sentences.

"You dedicate yourself to that life, that cause, and believe in it," Anthony says. "But what they don't tell you is one day you realize you've wasted your life."

Anthony was introduced to the WAGEES (Work and Gain Employment and Education Services) program the day he was released from prison. WAGEES staff met him at the parole office, offering nonjudgmental support.

The program has been a "game changer," supporting him through everything from securing a bike when he lived remotely to helping him navigate critical paperwork and obtaining his driver's license. The support proved essential when Anthony relapsed and suffered a severe accident, requiring months of hospitalization and physical rehabilitation. While others faded away, WAGEES remained his steadfast source of support, a dedication Anthony deeply appreciates.

Anthony acknowledges the challenges of re-entry—learning to temper his aggression, coping with crowds, and resisting the urge to isolate. However, with the consistent support of WAGEES, he has experienced dramatic changes. "The time and effort and investments you guys have made for me makes me feel like I can't let you down," he explains. He has embraced volunteering at Loaves and Fishes and with other organizations—things he never imagined doing. Anthony remains focused on his recovery, building a savings account, and sustaining his independence. His message is clear: "I truly, truly believe without this program I would have failed a long time ago, there is no doubt in my mind... You guys are really invested in this program, and this isn't just a paycheck to you. You really care."

Sabrina's Story: From Darkness to Dignity

For years, Sabrina lived carrying wounds from a childhood shaped by trauma, believing healing was impossible. Her lowest point came when she found herself homeless, sleeping on concrete, invisible and terrified.

"When you're homeless, you feel invisible and exposed at the same time," she recalls.

Exhausted and out of options, she finally walked through the doors of Loaves and Fishes Ministries after hearing about the resource. She expected judgment, but instead found warmth and compassion.

"That night, they gave me a bed. A real bed. With sheets. And a pillow. And no fear attached to it... I started to cry. Not from sadness. From the overwhelming shock of feeling human again."

The staff at the shelter saw her potential and guided her to New Creations Inn, a supportive, sober-living home. A key meant more than just access; it represented trust and belonging. At New Creations, Sabrina made a commitment to rebuilding her life. She found purpose in helping with yard work and cleaning, and began to feel alive again.

The program's daily devotions, which she initially resisted, became her unexpected turning point. Through them, Sabrina began to trust that God was with her even in the darkest places.

Today, Sabrina is still healing and growing, but she is no longer the girl who thought her story was over. She lives a life rooted in faith and community.

"Healing is not just possible—it's real," Sabrina states. "God meets us in the places we think are too dark for light. He whispers: 'You will heal.'"

She is now Sabrina, a survivor, and believes God is writing the rest of her story, one beautiful step at a time.

Rebecca's Journey: From Receiving to Reaching Out

Rebecca and her husband's journey with Loaves and Fishes Ministries began in 2017 not as clients, but as donors, opting to sacrifice their own holiday meal to donate five turkeys for the annual distribution. Soon after, life took a difficult turn when Rebecca's husband suffered a debilitating back injury at work, followed by Rebecca's own diagnosis with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overcoming her pride, Rebecca sought help from the Ministry and quickly found dignity and respect, rather than judgment. Loaves and Fishes provided assistance and connected them with external resources to navigate their growing crisis.

The turning point came when an elderly neighbor in Cotopaxi approached Rebecca for food. Realizing the deep need in her rural area, particularly among elderly women and veterans, Rebecca and her sister, Sue, began sharing their own food allotments.

This small act blossomed into a powerful outreach effort: Rebecca and Sue now collect food, handle proxies, and even cook and deliver meals for as many as 27 families in the remote Cotopaxi region who are unable to prepare food themselves.

Their goal is clear: to ensure their elderly and veteran neighbors are fed and eventually help those neighbors connect directly with the full range of resources offered by Loaves and Fishes Ministries. Rebecca and Sue want people to know there is a supportive community ready to welcome them and provide for their basic needs in time of trouble.

Finding Purpose: A Team Member's Journey

"Loaves and Fishes has been a place of healing and learning for me," shares a staff member. Having spent much of her childhood running or living in tents, she learned early lessons in perseverance and appreciating the small things. Although she didn't grow up knowing Jesus, the Lord consistently placed "beautiful women" in her path who prayed for her and showed her God's unconditional love.

Six years ago, after hitting rock bottom, she cried out to Jesus, asking Him to reveal Himself. The moment she did, her guilt and shame vanished, replaced by peace and love. Her healing began, but after 25 years in accounting, she felt a persistent void, praying for God to reveal her true purpose.

When her accounting job was outsourced, she recognized it as an answered prayer and applied to Loaves and Fishes. Though initially scared—having only experienced homelessness personally, not professionally—she trusted God would open the door.

Today, she sees her work as fulfilling her calling: "I have grown and learned so much about God's love for us. How we can serve His purpose well, love unconditionally like Jesus does, and share His love with others."

"Loaves and Fishes is home, it's family, it's second chances, and it's a place where you can come right where you are and feel His love. There's no judgement, and if you fall, we are there to pick you back up."



Beyond the Cycle: Chris's Path to Healing

Chris Riddle's life was one of drugs, prison and homelessness. While trying to get custody of his son, he needed a place to stay that was close to the courthouse. He was welcomed into Loaves and Fishes with open arms, as was his son once the judge ruled in his favor.

The Restoring Hope Program helped him and his family obtain housing in Coal Creek, but after a series of unfortunate events, Chris lost his children and his housing. His marriage fell apart and he, once again, ended up on the streets.

The Restoring Hope program once again helped Chris get into an apartment, but after breaking some rules within the first three months, he was evicted. Chris went to live on the streets again, but this time he started to use fentanyl.

In summer 2025, the Loaves & Fishes Outreach team regularly checked in on Chris when they saw him hanging out at Walmart. After much convincing, the team eventually convinced him to go to Loaves & Fishes. At that point, his feet were severely swollen and were blistering.

He returned to the shelter and was welcomed without judgement. Chris has had lots of ups and downs, but he's dealing with the difficult days with a clear mind and through fresh eyes. The Loaves and Fishes staff continues to stand by Chris as he navigates some medical issues and works toward his ultimate goal: living in his own home independently, and without the use of a wheelchair.



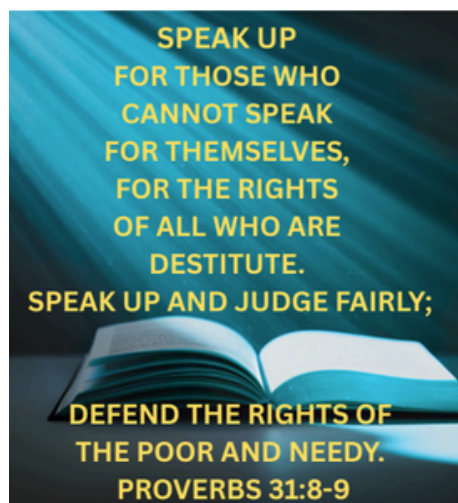
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Thank You

The stories of change we celebrated this year began with you. We are profoundly thankful for your commitment to Loaves and Fishes Ministries. Your support ensures that our mission remains a lifeline for the most vulnerable in our community.

719-275-0593

www.lfministries.org

lfministries@lfministries.org

The Homeless Contribution Tax Credit (HCTC) Support our mission and save on your taxes. Colorado taxpayers who donate \$250 or more to Loaves and Fishes are eligible for a 30% state income tax credit.

It's a powerful way to make your generosity go further for our neighbors in need.

Please contact us for details.