ROP
Restoration Outreach Programs

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December 2, 2019

Dear Friend of ROP,

Gratitude for the "Old" and the "New"

As we approach the end of another ministry year, it seems like a good time to take a moment to reflect on and be thankful for all that God has been doing in and through ROP's ministry during 2019, both the "old" and the "new". By the "old", I mean ROP's well established programs that have been serving our community for most if not all of ROP's 12 years of ministry. In that regard, for the first 10 months of the year, we have seen the following:

- More than 67,000 pounds of food provided to 2,935 households,
- 72 students improving their English,
- 58 people participating in our Work Readiness program,
- 2,480 Chick-fil-A lunches served to those experiencing homelessness in our community,
- 7 students completing 3 modules of Seminary-level Bible training (TUMI program),
- 34 refugees mentored and discipled,
- 51 children participating in our Spark program, and
- 24 Crawford Elementary students mentored in reading.

There are also several "new" things to celebrate and be thankful for:

- ROP's new Children's Ministries Director, Ashley Leopold hit the ground running in September and has helped the Spark program expand to almost 30 kids in her first two months.
- We are partnering with Christ Vision Ministries International (CVMI - our new neighbor across the street) in this year's Thanksgiving Dinner Outreach and CVMI has also agreed to make their gymnasium available to us for Youth Ministries' schoolyear and Summer programming.
- Even "newer"- ROP will be starting a cold weather shelter program for 25-30 of our homeless neighbors on Friday nights beginning in late January or February.
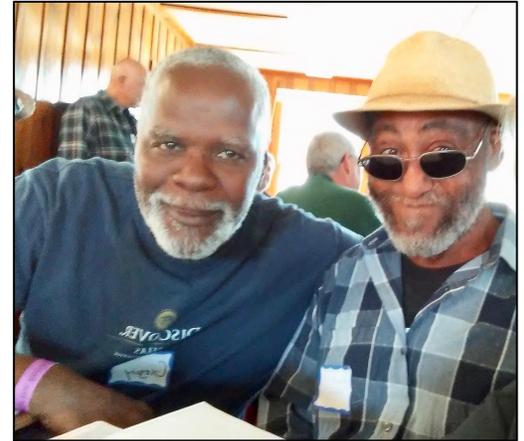
A Story of New Life

Truly, there is much to be thankful for and excited about in terms of what God has done, is doing and will do going forward, but **the "new" that excites us most is the new life He brings to those who receive Jesus as Lord and seek to live lives that please Him**. As encouraging as the numbers above may be, the reason ROP exists is to see lives transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Life transformation is a little harder to measure, but the following is a story of ROP's mission at work.

Greg has been a participant in ROP's Wednesday Lunch Outreach (WLO) since it started a little over two years ago. It was apparent that Greg knew the Bible, but he was far from Jesus and struggling with alcohol addiction. This is no longer the case. As Greg's relationship with the WLO team grew stronger, he chose to start participating in a discipleship group led by WLO volunteer, Wayne McGinnis. A few months later, Greg started going to church with Wayne and began reducing his use of alcohol. Shortly thereafter, Greg got a job at the convention center and with

stable employment, Greg now has an apartment. Even better, Greg has started his own outreach to men and women in the same place he was at a couple years ago, and he has helped several of them get jobs at the convention center. And it all started with some conversation and prayer over a Chick-fil-A sandwich.

I love Greg's story because it is a perfect example of ROP's mission worked out in the flesh. ROP's mission statement is ***Meeting Needs, Building Relationships and Restoring Lives through Christ within the East Colfax Community***. Greg came to the Wednesday Lunch Outreach because he wanted a Chick-fil-A lunch. Over time relationships were built with Wayne, program leader Tom Adams, and others. Eventually, the care and prayer Greg received led him to join Wayne's discipleship group where he renewed his commitment to pursue a life pleasing to God and to serve Him by serving others. How awesome is that!

Greg & Roosevelt

Year-end Appeal for Your Support

Greg's story is <u>why</u> ROP exists. We yearn to see lives transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit. People like you, who choose to support ROP in prayer and with your finances, are <u>how</u> ROP exists. ROP's monthly budget is just over $30k per month. About 1/3 of that monthly requirement is provided by supporters who donate monthly. We thank God for these folks and pray for more, but in the meantime, we depend on several fundraising events/campaigns to support ROP's operating budget. Like many other nonprofits, ROP's year-end fundraising campaign is our most important, and **Colorado Gives Day** (CGD) has become the most important part of our year-end fundraising efforts. We are praying that this year's **Colorado Gives Day** (Tuesday, December 10th) is our best ever, as we need a strong finish to end the year financially in the black and to prepare for the additional financial burdens of the Cold Weather Shelter program and renting the gymnasium in CVMI's church across the street for youth activities (>$1,000 per month).

If you feel led to make a year-end gift on or before Colorado Gives Day (Tuesday, 12/10), and on-line giving works for you, just follow these steps: go to the Colorado Gives Day website – www.coloradogives.org - search for Restoration Outreach Programs under "Find a Nonprofit" – click on the ROP logo – click on the "donate" button – enter the amount you wish to donate – AND, <u>if it is before Tuesday, December 10th, be sure to check the CO Gives Day button</u>, so that your donation is scheduled for Colorado Gives Day (12/10). If the whole CGD thing does not work for you or you are donating after December 10th, no problem, we are still very happy to receive checks payable to ROP and mailed to PO Box 632, Aurora, CO 80040 ☺.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, filled with gratitude for all of God's "old" (aka past) blessings and a wonderful Christmas filled with the hope and joy of the "new" life we have through Jesus Christ.

In His Love,

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