#### INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

# Crossroads

A PLACE OF GROWTH. A PLACE OF SAFETY.

Summer 2022

## "High on Life"

How your support helped transform Cole, mentally and spiritually

or Cole, the choice was a no-brainer. He could go back to jail and lose his job. Or he could go to Crossroads Mission Avenue and keep working.

He didn't have to think about it: Crossroads, of course.

Cole was fortunate to even be given a choice. He'd been in trouble with the law before, and spent two years in jail on multiple charges.

When he was released in April 2020, he was on probation and warned to stay out of trouble. But a few months later, he was busted for driving while intoxicated. That's when his probation officer gave him the choice.

On being given a second chance, Cole says, "I was really thankful."

Crossroads is all about second chances. We're a place of grace.

"They're not judgmental," says Cole, 27. "They don't look down on you."

Cole, a longtime alcoholic, hasn't had a drink since that DUI. He credits Crossroads, and God, with his transformation.

"I'm a completely different person," he says. "I love being sober, and I have no desire to use again. I don't need alcohol or drugs to set off good feelings in my brain. I'm really high on life right now."



Cole, who is Native American, adhered to his culture's spiritual beliefs for most of his life. But at Crossroads, he discovered Christianity, and has fully embraced it.

"I've had a spiritual awakening," he says. "Now I believe in the Holy Trinity — God, Son and Holy Spirit."

He's motivated to stay sober. He has a good job in the manufacturing business, and he's looking forward to getting his own place again.

"I'm just going to keep working hard," he says. "Thanks to Crossroads, I've got a new view of life."

Thank you for giving men like Cole the opportunity to turn their lives around.





From the Executive Director

In 2021, we served almost 1,000 guests at our three locations combined.

That's a big number, but think of it this way: Those guests came through our doors one soul at a time ... seeking help, safety, solace, grace and second chances.

As always, most were men. One in five were women. There were 50 children and 24 families. Read the numbers below, but again, those are just statistics. Think of each stat as a soul, each in need of some kind of healing.

We fed them -127,845 meals, in fact — but not just physically. We fed them emotionally and spiritually too. All our programs and efforts are anchored in the love of Jesus.

None of this is possible without the compassion of a community that cares ... starting with you. Thank you so much for your support! It really matters.

2021 by the Numbers

**688** men

**207** women **50** children

24 families

total guests served

Sincerely,

Daniel Buller **Executive Director** 

### "They're Wonderful!"

Sering found the help she needed at Crossroads

Serina couldn't keep a job to save her life. She would lose control at work — an outburst, a scream or physically lashing out — and get fired.

She'd find another job, and the same thing would happen again. And again.

"I was let go a lot," she says.



Your kindness helped rescue Serina from the streets.

She ended up homeless, wandering the streets. Her erratic behavior continued; she couldn't keep it under control.

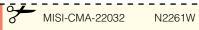
She asked for help at Crossroads, where they took her to a doctor. And at 41 years old, Serina finally got an answer. She had Tourette syndrome.

"I didn't know I had it," she says.

Crossroads worked with doctors to get Serina on the medication that would keep her condition under control, enabling her to live a more "normal" life.

"If it weren't for Crossroads, I'd still be out on the street," she says "Those people are wonderful!"

Thank you for getting Serina the help she needed.



#### I Want to Transform Lives

**YES,** I want to help people in South Central Nebraska who are experiencing homelessness and hunger this Easter. Here's my gift of:

□ \$25 □ \$50 **□** \$100

 $\square$  \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible.

 $\square$  I'd like to give monthly.

My first gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ I'd like to learn more about planned giving.

Please make your check payable to Crossroads Mission Avenue. Thank you!

To give online, visit crossroadsmission.com



702 W. 14th Street Hastings, NE 68901



42,615 nights of stay

127,845

