

Feed My Sheep Ministry
P.O. Box 1033
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602
December 1, 2017

Most of us are unaware of the challenges of living without a residence, without even so much as a mailing address. When you walk down the streets or in the alleys or if you take a walk in the park you might see someone wrapped in a blanket holding a back pack. You may wonder who this person is, there is a good chance the person has no home. One of the hardest things to witness is a family crawling out of their vehicle stretching their limbs after a sleepless night. What if you were passing by a dumpster and saw someone digging for food because they haven't eaten in days. Or if you saw someone walking around town with no shoes and feet the color of coal. These are the reasons why this organization was formed, to help those in need. Feed My Sheep has been assisting residents of the homeless community since 2002. Meeting the specific needs of each man, woman, and child who walks through our door. Our first priority is to help the homeless or those on the verge of homelessness with basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and medical care. Those that benefit from our programs would be the individuals or families that were assisted into permanent housing, no more cold sleepless nights. Some of the homeless you meet are well educated and many others use to be business owners in the valley. Every person has his or her own story, no matter what brought them to homelessness.

When a guest enters FMS they are greeted with kindness and love. An interview is conducted with each new guest to find out why they are in this situation, if there is any history of illness, family life and to find out about future goals. Case management is available at all times for anyone needing a shoulder to cry on or if they need a listening ear. There are no time limits for any of our guests, as long as they respect our rules and they look for work. If someone is mentally or physically challenged we do not require employment. For those looking for jobs we help with resumes, filling out job applications, employment referrals and, work related clothing.

2016 Stats	November 2017
10,153 individual visits	9,845 individual visits
12,740 nutritious meals	11,120 meals
65 birth certificates & ID's	128 birth certificates & ID's
27 medical, dental and eye screenings	35 medical screenings
12 individuals moved into housing	16 moved into housing
136 nights of shelter	145 nights of shelter
31 workers needed fuel or clothing	40 workers
18 Veterans served	28 veterans served
6 Rehabilitation Program	3 Rehabilitation Programs
121 individuals have an address for mail	188 individuals received mail

A warm comfortable bed is something most of us take for granted, especially when it's snowing and the temperatures are in the single digits. To our local homeless and travelers it is a luxury not easily come by. We provide a short term emergency overnight shelter for men, women and families so they have a warm safe place to sleep during our coldest months of winter. Instead of sleeping in a car, tent, the parks, dumpsters or abandoned sheds our overnight program is available to many. Area hospitals call on us when they are releasing a patient who has no place to go for the night. Police come by at all hours of the night with someone released from jail or when they find someone sleeping in the park. Last season we assisted 28-32 men and women, with housing from November 15 to March 20. A mom, dad, and their thirteen year old son stayed the whole season. Without this program many lives would be at risk. Funds we receive are used to keep all these services available to the less fortunate. For \$7.00 a night you could sponsor a man, woman or child during this program.

Our goal remains the same today as it did in 2002: to provide shelter, food, clothes, and assist homeless individuals and families to become independent again and self-supportive. No one starts life with a goal of becoming homeless. But sometimes, people lose their jobs and then housing. Women run away to the street to escape domestic violence. Many people have experienced significant trauma and simply cannot cope with life. Others struggle with mental illness, depression or post-traumatic stress. Yes, poor choices can contribute to homelessness but outside circumstances strongly influence those choices. Getting a job is a challenge for most people in these days, and incredibly difficult for a homeless person. Most lack clean clothes, showers, transportation, a permanent address and phone numbers. Others have a criminal past, learning disabilities and lack of education that holds them down. Even if they find work, their low income often cannot sustain them. These are issues that we are trying to change. Our work program has been running for four years and residents hire us for multiple tasks. This year we plan on expanding this program to all those that are not mentally or physically challenged so that they have a chance to make a huge change in their lives.

We would like to thank you for believing in our ministry. Funding for Feed My Sheep is from churches, private foundations, businesses, local grants, and individuals. Without those that support this vital ministry we could not continue this service for people who have no place to call home.