The mission of St. Francis Center is to reveal God’s love for humanity by providing a safe place for people who are homeless in Metro Denver to meet their basic needs for day-to-day survival while offering them assistance to transition out of homelessness.
St. Francis Center provides valuable services that fill a niche in the homeless continuum of care. While there are overnight bed shelters and places that provide meals to people who are homeless, St. Francis Center has daytime hours when resources are most available for those seeking opportunities for self-sufficiency. Our four core programs: Employment Services, Day Center Services, the Housing Program and Outreach Services are found below:

**Employment Services**

Employment Services at St. Francis Center are designed to end the cycle of poverty and promote economic self-sufficiency by helping participants develop skills, gain work experience, and connect with full-time employment.

Participants in the Employment Services program come from St. Francis Center’s day center program, drug and alcohol programs, parole and corrections transition services, and other community organizations.

The St. Francis Center Employment Services Team served 818 different job seekers, providing training, support, clothing, and transportation, and helped 499 people obtain full-time employment.

**Outreach Services**

St. Francis Center’s Outreach Program serves people who are experiencing homelessness and congregating in visible areas in Downtown Denver, such as on the 16th Street Mall, surrounding parks, and hidden campsites not intended for human habitation.

The St. Francis Center Outreach Team had 12,488 encounters with individuals who were homeless and on the streets of Denver. They referred 1,324 individuals to shelter, and helped 83 people obtain housing.

The primary focus for the Outreach Team is to build relationships with those living on the streets, with the goals of:

- Honoring one’s humanity;
- Increasing one’s resiliency and capacity to value and believe in oneself;
- Stabilizing medical, mental health, and living situations;
- Establishing opportunities for substance treatment and employment.
In 2016, total daily visits by guests to St. Francis Center were 273,335 with a daily average of 753 different individuals, even though there were as many as 935 visitors on our busiest day. In total, 10,103 different guests were welcomed by the Day Center Team over the course of the year.

Day Center Services at St. Francis Center offer individuals a compassionate, judgment-free environment to help address immediate needs, such as access to telephones, a mailing address, storage facilities, clothing, showers, and bathroom facilities. These services are often the first step toward connecting individuals with other resources that are available on-site and off-site, including physical and mental health services, housing referrals, job readiness and placement, veteran’s services and more.

Social Services Team provided guests with 2,841 services, including help with birth certificates, bus tickets, long distance phone calls, local transportation, payee services, and information/referrals.

The Wellness Team had 2,648 encounters with 674 different guests, offering coordinated behavioral healthcare options. The health clinic served 601 guest patients who made 1,343 different visits.

St. Francis Center’s Housing Program operates Cornerstone, a 50 unit permanent supportive housing facility for men and women transitioning out of homelessness and poverty, and a seniors permanent supportive housing program for 20 individuals 55 years of age or older who have a disabling condition. Beyond helping people physically move into housing, the Housing Program Team provides case management and support to ensure that residents will be successful by connecting them with resources such as healthcare, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.

In June 2016, we broke ground on Saint Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square, our second 50-unit permanent supportive housing facility. Saint Francis Apartments will provide permanent supportive services necessary to overcome chronic homelessness. The project is set for completion in 2017.

St. Francis Center directly provided access (through Housing, Employment, Outreach & Social Services) to 335 units of housing in 2016 and provided ancillary access to 412 units through Social Services.
Dear Friends of St. Francis Center,

One of my favorite parts of the work I do is seeing first-hand the impact St. Francis Center has on the lives of those we serve. Whether I’m walking through the Day Center, observing the transformative power of safety and community, or watching participants in our Employment Services program realize their value from being offered a second chance and earning a new job, day in and day out, I get to witness lives changing.

When I begin to feel the weight of the task before us – supporting people in the distressing and dangerous situation of homelessness – I think back to what a resident at the Cornerstone Residences at St. Francis Center shared with me: “I love where I live! I know my neighbors and I help them and they help me.” What a simple, yet resounding sentiment on the true meaning of community. Or I remember a conversation with an outreach worker: “We just got 20 people in hotels for the next 4 days during the severe cold. One of the women was pregnant.” I shudder to imagine what would have happened to those individuals had the Outreach Team not been there to help.

St. Francis Center is responding to the cries of our brothers and sisters who are in desperate need. As the statistics in this annual update convey, while we are facing an uphill battle in terms of the sheer number of people we serve, we are able to tailor our programming to respond to the needs of those who rely on us.

St. Francis Center plays a crucial role in guiding people as they find their way out of homelessness. We know that of the more than 10,000 different individuals we serve at the Day Center each year, more than 80% need our services for less than 34 days. And for those who need a bit more time, we will continue to provide services with dignity and respect. We also know that employment and housing is the way out of homelessness, and I could not be more proud that in 2016, we helped find jobs for 499 people, and helped another 335 find and maintain housing.

The necessity of the services St. Francis Center offers has never been so clear, nor has the impact of our services. With your support, we can continue helping people put their lives back together.

Tom Luehrs
Executive Director