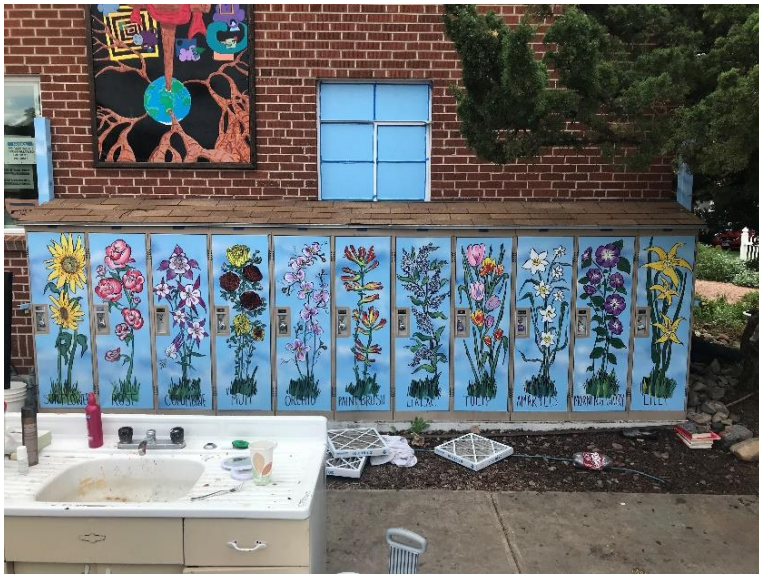


A True Homeless Sanctuary

By Martha Roden, member of Ft. Collins Mennonite Fellowship



Large-size outdoor lockers for the homeless, lovingly painted by a local artist

Imagine never knowing where you were going to sleep at night or where your next meal would come from, and not being able to take a shower and wash your clothes for weeks at a time!

This is a reality for those experiencing homelessness and here at Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship in Fort Collins, CO, we take serving the homeless seriously.

Over 9 years, we have constructed shower and laundry facilities, added free outdoor lockers, provided weekend meals, served as a warming center, and hosted homeless families on a rotating basis. We have a reputation in our community as real advocates for the homeless!

However, when COVID-19 hit, everything changed. We decided to approach some of the most vulnerable homeless individuals we knew and invited them to live in our church. Since

March 2020, we have provided ongoing housing for at-risk persons in our church.

Those living at the church the longest have become caretakers of our building and grounds. They also serve as “homeless outreach angels.” Nearly every day, they open the church doors to other homeless individuals so they can take hot showers, wash their clothes, and grab a snack. Our church also offers free personal hygiene items, warm clothing, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

As our Pastor, Steve Ramer says, “I believe our church building, a place of worship, has finally become a true sanctuary, a place made Holy by those who come in, off the streets, and grace us with their presence.”

But our “Homeless Sanctuary” comes at a cost. With our building open 24/7, our utility bills have skyrocketed, and costs for supplies, clothing, and food, keep increasing. We recently started a GoFundMe campaign to raise the money we need:

www.gofundme.com/f/true-sanctuary-for-the-homeless.



One of our homeless members with Pastor Steve and our beautifully painted outdoor lockers

Please help our Homeless Sanctuary continue by donating and sharing our story with others!