



SERVING AMONG UNHOUSED YOUTH SINCE 2001
WWW.DRYBONESDENVER.ORG

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25

**IMPACT
REPORT**

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WHY WE EXIST

Dry Bones is a long-standing community of support among Denver's unhoused teens and young adults. We have the simple but radical belief that companionship itself can be profoundly transformative. So alongside helping to meet emotional, spiritual, and physical needs, our true work is practicing the way of Jesus through building ongoing relationships that remind the invisible among us of their immeasurable worth.

the heart of **DRY BONES**

Dry Bones Denver is a trusted presence in the lives of unhoused and street-connected teens and young adults. We believe that true transformation happens through companionship—not through quick fixes or programs alone. By building authentic relationships, offering practical support, and providing soul-centered mentorship, we help young people move from isolation to belonging, and from merely surviving to a life filled with hope, agency, and healing.

We offer:

- **Safe Haven Experiences:** Weekly gatherings with meals, showers, celebration, and belonging—a consistent place of rest, dignity, and joy.
- **Street Outreach:** Trust-building and critical resources shared on sidewalks, under bridges, and wherever youth are surviving.
- **Life & Job Readiness:** Individualized coaching, skill-building, and long-term visioning through a flexible, holistic program.
- **Spiritual Companionship:** A contemplative approach to healing and meaning-making through ritual, reflection, and relational support.
- **Vision Trips & Community Partnership:** Transformative journeys for visitors and volunteers—like youth groups, college students, and community leaders—who return home with new eyes and a deeper commitment to justice, presence, and relationship.
- **A Grounded Community of Belonging:** For youth who have been pushed to the margins, Dry Bones becomes a home base—sometimes for a season, often for life.

We've companioned thousands of young people since 2001—through grief and healing, homelessness and homecoming, trauma and transformation.

Because love, offered consistently and without condition, can change everything.

*The valley was scattered with bones—dry, lifeless,
sun-bleached bones stretching across the land.
God asked me, "Can these bones come back to life?"
I responded, "You alone know."*

...
*Then the Creator spoke to the bones:
"Listen closely—I'm about to breathe life into you.
You're going to live again."*

Ezekiel 37



a message FROM OUR BOARD

Dear Community of Support,

At the 24th Annual Emmys, Fred Rogers—known to millions as Mr. Rogers—accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award with a quiet, powerful gesture. He invited the audience to pause for 10 seconds and remember the people who had helped them become who they are—those who had cared, hoped, and believed in them. The room fell silent, and tears welled in the eyes of some of the most celebrated names in television, each one moved by the memory of being loved into their current moment.

It is a simple yet radical thing to be loved by someone - to have someone who hopes for our best, who champions us in the face of some of life's greatest challenges. Love makes us brave, offers us hope, and spurs us on during difficult times. Love gives us meaning, and reminds us that we matter and are worthy of belonging. It is something we all need, but it is something perhaps most sorely missed among young people who have lost a sense of home. The beauty of love stepping into this space is what caused many of us to fall in love with Dry Bones.

What is so compelling about Dry Bones (in our humble opinion) is its commitment to building enduring relationships. Dry Bones is not a defined, step-by-step program, nor is it a place where conditions must first be met for friends to be accepted. It is a place that acknowledges the uniqueness of everyone it encounters - the fingerprints of a divine designer left on all of us - and welcomes friends into a place of belonging. This type of steadfast love is life-changing. At the same time, creating time and space to give our friends the full attention they deserve requires an enduring commitment from the community of individuals and organizations whose donations of time and resources help breathe life into Dry Bones' work.

“
It is a simple yet radical thing to be loved by someone - to have someone who hopes for our best, who champions us in the face of some of life's greatest challenges.
”



Our team is preparing to reach even more young people in the years ahead—and we truly need your partnership. Since the beginning, Dry Bones has been grounded in authenticity, transparency, and deep relational trust. In the pages that follow, you'll find community highlights, see how your support makes a tangible difference, and get a high-level view of our 2025 budget and priorities. As our outreach across Denver expands and our life-and-job-readiness program enters an exciting new chapter (see page 10), we'd be honored for you to consider joining us as in partnership.

While the kind of love Dry Bones offers—a steady, relational love that sees and stays—doesn't originate with us, the chance to create space for it to arise again and again depends on the support of those who believe in this work. It echoes the quiet champions Mr. Rogers invited us to remember. Our ability to walk alongside young people, to help them discover a new story of their true worth and belonging, is made possible by your care and generosity.

As we look to the future, we warmly invite you to be part of this unfolding story—to join us in the work of love, healing, and hope. Over the course of the next year, we aim to raise an additional \$250,000 annually to expand our service offerings. Grants and donations, whether \$5,000 or \$50,000 are vital to our work and are deeply appreciated. We hope you will consider being a part of the Dry Bones work of 2025 and beyond.

Our Gratitude,
The Dry Bones Board of Directors

Katie Coldwell (President)
Charlie Kerr (Vice President)
Nikki Wallace (Secretary)
Mark Solomon (Treasurer)

Hannah Boundy
Tonya Landry
Angela McLaughlin
Julie Pike

Jeff Robinson
Tim Schweikward

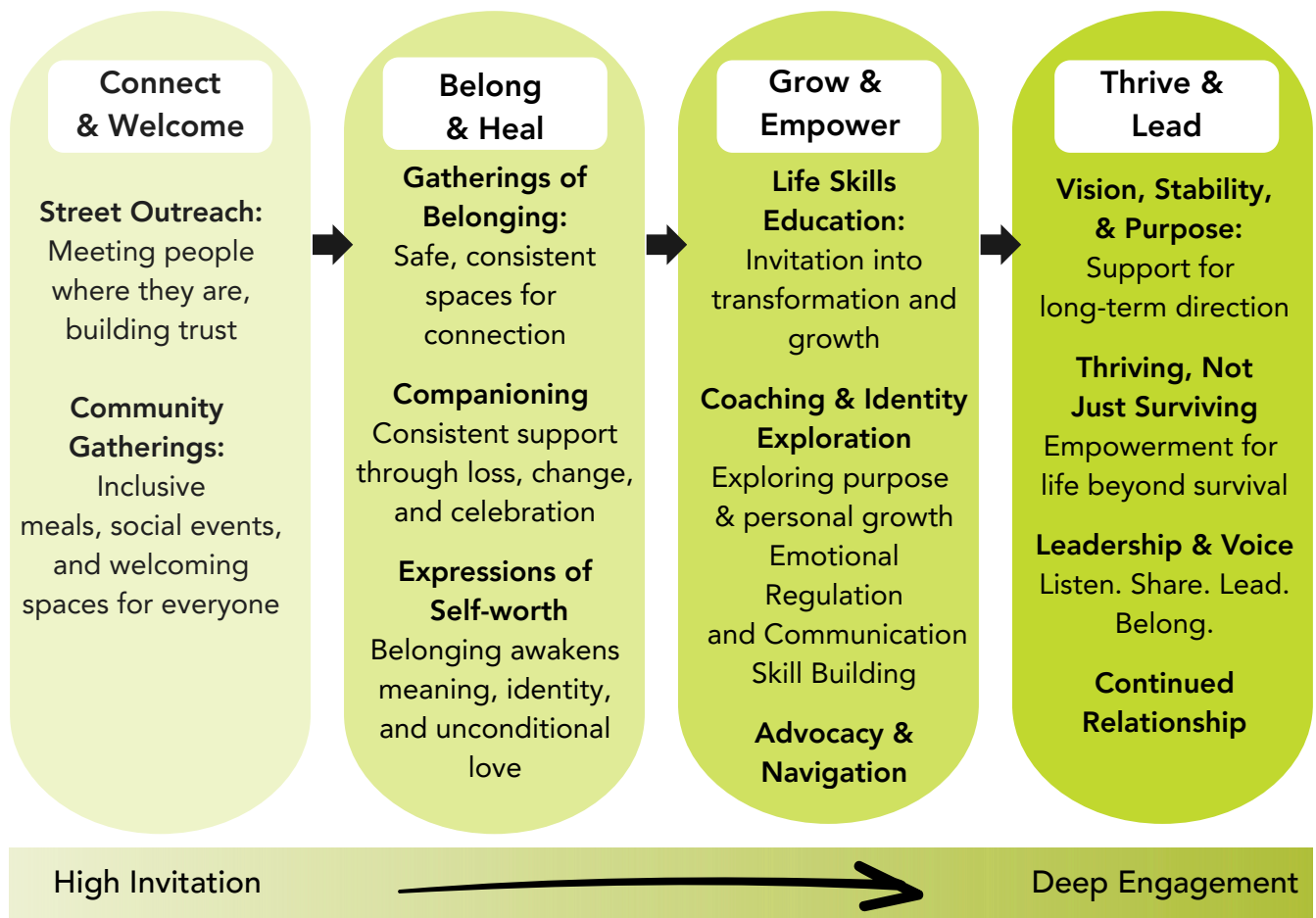
together ON THE JOURNEY

At Dry Bones, we come alongside young people as they move toward lives marked by healing, purpose, and possibility. This journey is not linear—and it’s never walked alone.

Rooted in deep relationships, our model invites young people into a space of belonging, where safety, self-worth, and trust can grow. From there, we offer meaningful opportunities for personal growth, skill-building, and emotional resilience.

With each step, we walk together—celebrating progress, holding space through setbacks, and supporting every young person as they move toward a future where they don’t just survive, but truly thrive.

PATHWAY OF CARE AT DRY BONES



OUR IMPACT

- **Relationships:** Deep, consistent companionship as the foundation.
- **Transformation:** Guiding youth from vulnerability to stability and purpose.
- **Community:** Creating a supportive family for lasting change.

a year AT A GLANCE

- Approximately 3,700 people fed across 122 home cooked meals
- 260 community celebrations and milestone moments that include new jobs, birthdays, graduations, baby showers, weddings, memorial services, new housing, and Life Readiness Program graduations
- 4,400 visits from Dry Bones friends hosted in the Dry Bones HQ - for meals, showers, counseling sessions, support groups, and more
- Among the thousands of items donated this year, we received 125 first aid kits, 120 sleeping bags, 225 coats, and 1 antique phone booth!
- 1,000s of survival items shared - shoes, socks, tents, underwear, coats, hygiene items, sleeping bags, blankets, hand warmers, etc.
- 255 Elevations and Vision Trip participants
- 43 medical visits (doctor, ER, optometrist, and dentist)
- 425 coaching, counseling, or pastoral sessions
- 20 summer picnics in the park filling 1200 plates
- 23 group bowling outings
- 125 rides given to various appointments
- 9 Purple Door program participants
- 9 staff members
- 4 interns
- 125 volunteers

The unhoused among us are often either invisible or - if seen at all - seen as projects or problems to be fixed-up or 'solved.' We work to see all people 'soul to soul.' Which is a simple idea with radical consequences.







"They offered more than resources. They offered hope."

*"When I first came to Dry Bones,
I didn't think anyone could
actually care this much. I didn't even
care this much about myself."*

COMPANIONING IS OUR VITAL WORK

*"I finally started to believe
I was worth something."*

*"Dry Bones is invested in my future. And they're
not afraid to say that word ['future']."*

"Dry Bones showed up like we were people, not problems."

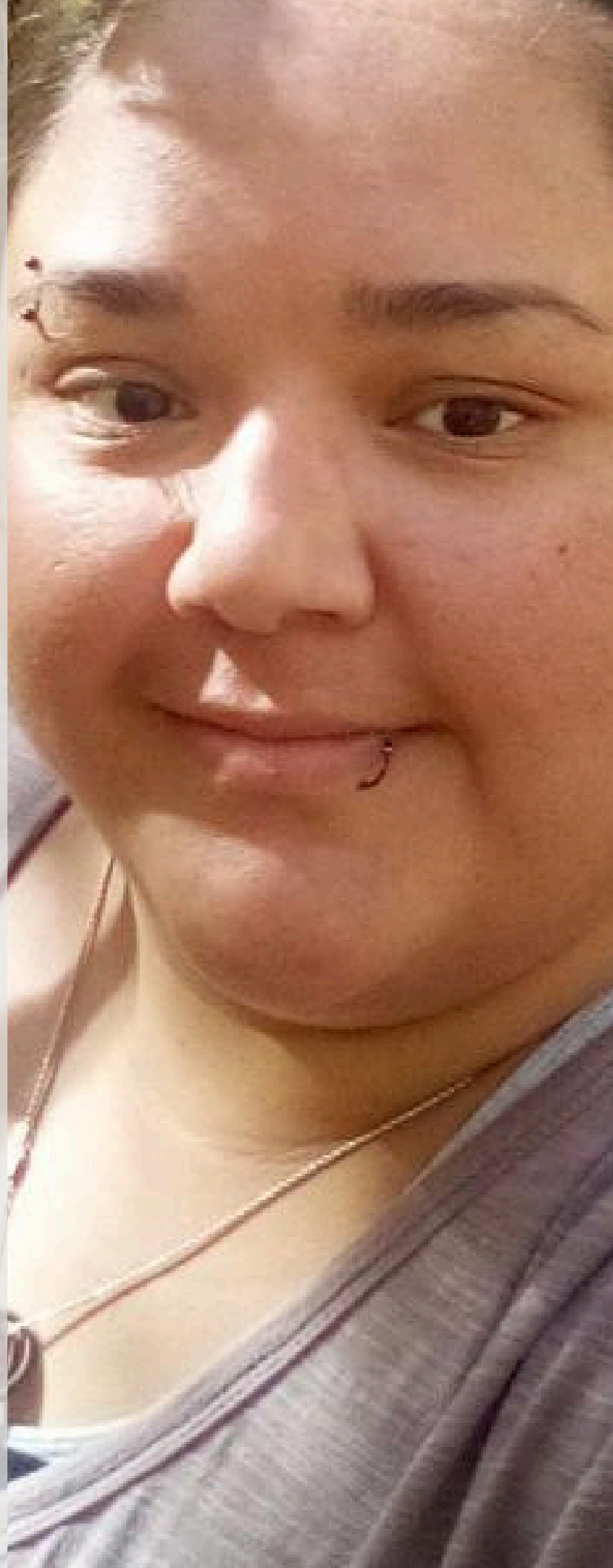
sunshine's STORY

Sunshine's journey is one of resilience and transformation. Once navigating the instability of street life, she found belonging through Dry Bones.

Through the practice of companioning—walking alongside without judgment or agenda—she experienced the steady presence of a community that saw her worth. With the support of Bridges of Belonging and job-readiness training at Dry Bones, she gained confidence, mentorship, and a path forward. More than just work experience, she found a family that believed in her even on her hardest days.

Now, as a Mentor Teaching Assistant on the Dry Bones staff, Sunshine walks alongside others facing similar struggles, offering the same patience and encouragement she once received. Her story reflects the heart of Dry Bones—creating lasting change not through quick fixes, but through deep, enduring relationships.

Scan the QR code to hear Sunshine share her story in her own words.



refining THE MISSION

A Refreshed, Deeper Investment in Young People

For over a decade, Purple Door Coffee offered a space for young adults exiting homelessness to gain work experience and job readiness through a social enterprise coffee business (roastery and cafes). While its name and aroma became beloved parts of our community, the real work always happened in the relationships, mentorship, and moments of growth doing “the work of you.”

In early 2025, we made the thoughtful decision to close the Purple Door Coffee business and pour that energy more fully into what matters most: walking with young people through the long, complex journey of building a meaningful life.

We’ve refined—not abandoned—our commitment to job and life readiness. Today, we offer a new soul-centered, relationship-first program that’s even more responsive to the real challenges and dreams of the youth we serve. With individualized coaching, deeper mentorship, and flexible growth paths, we’re now better equipped to support young adults navigating trauma recovery, neurodivergence, housing instability, and healing.

The program, called the **Dry Bones Living Academy**, is now located in the Mountain View Nonprofit Tower in a newly leased space below the main Dry Bones’ headquarters.

Learn more and see photos: drybonesdenver.org/dbla

“
*It’s not a hustle,
it’s an investment!*
Andre, Program Graduate



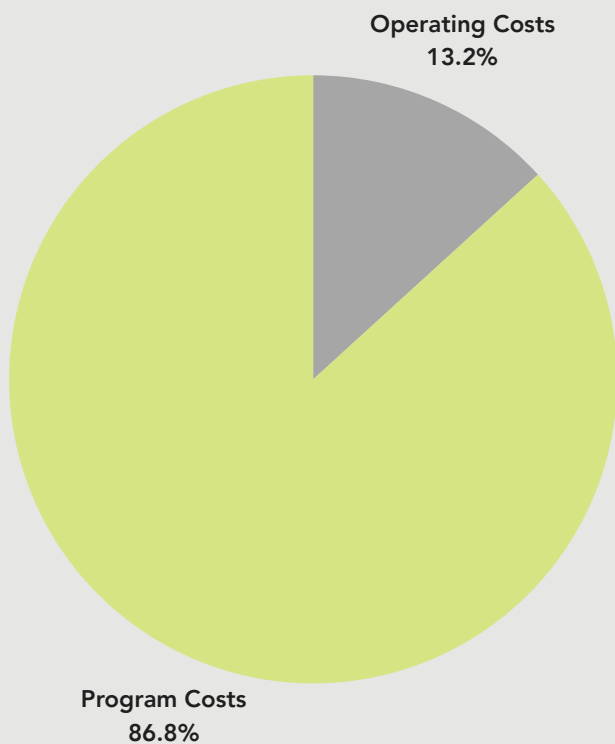
Watch Andre’s
Story Here



“You stand with the least likely to succeed until success is succeeded by something more valuable: kinship. You brace yourself and stand with those whose dignity has been denied, and you locate your own. Then the margins get erased, and we all find ourselves in one circle, equal and sacred.”

— Father Greg Boyle,

how we steward our RESOURCES



Operating Costs	\$134,000
Administration & Operations Staffing	\$77,000
Insurance & Professional Services	\$20,000
Occupancy, Administrative & Misc.	\$37,000

Funding the Mission

Program Costs **\$879,000**

Relational Support & Advocacy Staffing* **\$352,000**

- Life Coaching & Spiritual Companionship
- Mental Health Support & Emotional Care**
- Systems Navigation & Companionship

Life & Job Readiness Program **\$219,000**

- Learning Spaces: Classrooms, Therapy & Coaching Spaces
- Educational Scholarships & Nutrition Support
- Curriculum & Educational Supplies
- Program Staff: Therapists, Coaches, Teachers*

Awareness & Educational Experiences **\$164,000**

- Elevations Trips, Vision Tours & Internships
- Program Leadership & Facilitation*

Community Spaces **\$88,000**

- Dry Bones Living Room: Showers, Laundry, Hospitality & More
- Community Building Activities (Picnics, Bowling, Camping, Hangouts, etc.)

Physical Support & Stabilization **\$56,000**

- Meals, Groceries & Nutrition**
- Housing, Health Needs & Emergency Assistance**

* Dry Bones' team includes nine dedicated employees and four seasonal interns who support and sustain every aspect of our programming. Because relationships are at the heart of what we do, much of our impact is driven by the daily, personal, and consistent presence of staff walking alongside members of the Dry Bones community. Their time, care, and expertise are central to every program — from meals and mentorship to curriculum, coaching, and crisis support.

**Includes in-kind donations

one donor's **STORY**

Our family has been giving to Dry Bones for 8 years now. We were introduced to them by some dear friends, but quickly connected to their mission on our own. In a world that can often feel overwhelming and consumed with keeping up, Dry Bones is a place to be. It's a place where everyone is welcomed and dignified, regardless of where you're coming from or how you're showing up. That kind of friendship is soul-satisfying and something we could all use more of.

We remain committed to giving to Dry Bones because we've also seen behind the curtain and know that our gifts are being thoughtfully stewarded by the staff there. This isn't a place seeking accolades for their work. It's a place where everyone genuinely believes in the mission and their commitment to companionship is deeply ingrained in who they are. It has been and continues to be a great gift and privilege to be a part of their community and we look forward to seeing where their journey takes them next.

- Tom and Hannah

join our COMMUNITY

Ways to Be Involved

We sincerely hope you'll consider supporting Dry Bones Denver this year. Your partnership helps us offer consistent presence, radical belonging, and soul-centered support to unhoused and street-connected youth. Here are some meaningful ways to get involved:

Attend & Sponsor Events

- Come to Our Gala
- Be part of an unforgettable evening of celebration and purpose
- Sponsor a Table or Become a Corporate Sponsor
- Support our gathering and growth with a one-time gift or sponsorship package.



Invest in Long-Term Transformation

- Support a summer or year-long intern (\$5,000-\$25,000—or fund our full internship program including spiritual formation and leadership development (\$50,000).
- Support a Life & Job-Readiness Participant (\$15,000)
- Contribute monthly or annually to sustain individualized coaching, transportation, and training.



Give Monthly, Build Stability

- Become a Monthly Donor
- Your consistent support sustains meals, outreach, hygiene care, and transformative relationship-building all year long.
- Your monthly gift brings us closer to our 2025-26 goal of raising \$250,000 in new annual support.

Volunteer & Spread the Word

- Attend "Dry Bones 101"
- Explore how you can be a companion on this journey.
- Share Our Story
- Invite a staff member to speak, pass along this booklet, follow us on social media, or bring a friend to an event.



Meet Practical Needs

- Provide glasses for a young person – \$200
- Buy work clothes for a new job – \$100
- Fund a "Welcome Home" kit – \$400
- Pay a prescription co-pay – \$10-\$50
- Offer a micro-loan – \$50-\$1,000
- Fund a life coaching session – \$80
- Supply survival gear – \$250 per friend
- Pay for a Colorado ID – \$15
- Host a birthday lunch – \$100
- Provide a car seat for a newborn – \$100
- Cover rent for community space – \$7,000



Share Meals & Create Community

- Cover a weekly meal for 40 youth – \$150
- Sponsor a Safe Haven night – \$100
- Fund a special gathering (picnic, birthday, baby shower) – \$50-\$500



Engage With Your Group

- Join a Turf Tour
- Host a Vision Trip
- Lead a Donation Drive
- Bring your youth group for a weeklong Elevations Experience



Learn more: drybonesdenver.org/be-involved

However you give—time, resources, or presence—
You are helping young people like Sunshine (p.9) move from instability to healing and profound purpose.

immersive EXPERIENCES

Dry Bones Vision Trip Experiences

Dry Bones offers a range of immersive opportunities for individuals and groups to “come and see.” Whether you're looking for a short walk or a week-long journey, each experience is designed to spark deeper understanding, compassion, and vision. Join us for a 2.5-hour Turf Tour through the heart of our city, a multi-day Vision Trip, or a full Elevations experience in both the mountains and the city—each one an invitation to walk alongside our team, engage with our community, and glimpse the transformative power of presence and belonging. Come with open eyes, leave with renewed inspiration.

Quick Highlights

Turf Tour: 2.5 hours | Walking reflection through the heart of Denver

Vision Trip: Multi-day city immersion

Elevations: A full journey | Mountains & City

Elevations

Dry Bones Denver offers Elevations Vision Trips—immersive experiences that blend wilderness adventure with urban engagement to inspire deeper connection and spiritual growth. Participants begin with three days in the Rocky Mountains, where they camp, hike, and engage in contemplative practices, fostering a sense of awe and introspection. The journey then transitions to Denver's urban landscape, where participants collaborate with Dry Bones to build relationships with unhoused youth and young adults, sharing meals, stories, and activities. These trips are designed not merely as service projects but as opportunities to see the world through new eyes, encouraging ongoing reflection and action rooted in compassion and community.



Internship Opportunities at Dry Bones

Dry Bones Denver offers transformative internships for college students and young adults seeking deeper experience in relational outreach, spiritual growth, and community life. Each year, we welcome a cohort of summer interns for a 10-week journey, along with semester- and year-long interns throughout the year. Interns become a vital part of our community—companioning unhoused youth, supporting Safe Haven gatherings, and helping host visiting Vision Trip groups. Through hands-on service, reflection, and shared life, interns grow in empathy, leadership, and purpose.

These experiences often spark meaningful partnerships, deepen compassion, and inspire enduring support as participants return home transformed.

connect WITH US

Whether you're new to Dry Bones or have been walking alongside us for years, we'd love to hear from you. Let's keep building a community of compassion, and radical belonging together.

Call or Email

General Inquiries:

info@drybonesdenver.org

Phone: (303) 809-7389

Follow Along

Instagram | Facebook | YouTube



@drybonesdenver

Stay in the Loop

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter

Stories of transformation, upcoming events, and ways to get involved

→ drybonesdenver.org/contact-us

Invite Us

Want someone from our team to speak to your church, organization, or school?

We'd love to share the story.

→ drybonesdenver.org/contact-us



For 23 years and counting, we've been building a community of love and belonging. Thanks for walking with us.