

THE PATH

The Place ignites the potential in youth to exit homelessness and create self-determined, fulfilled lives.



thePLACE

Striking the Right Chord

A Journey to Self-Sufficiency

If you are a fan of 80's rock musician Billy Squier, you are probably familiar with the following lyrics from his hit "Nobody Knows"—

*I see my future at the rainbow's end
Happy hours, timeless friends*

And if I ever chance to find my way

Rest assured, I will stay.

For Daniel, The PLACE's resident musician, not only is this a favorite piece of music, but also a representation of his grit, determination, and congenial spirit.

In early March, Daniel arrived at The PLACE, where our mission supported his desire to live a self-determined and fulfilled life. Prior to his arrival, Daniel faced a barrier familiar to many—battles with depression and anxiety. These mental health issues had begun to intercept his day-to-day routine, and eventually their effect on his personal relationships led him toward a path of homelessness. Rather than succumbing to the challenges he was facing, Daniel chose to utilize the services at The PLACE as a catalyst to confront and combat his mental health barriers and reroute his path to one of happiness and self-fulfillment.



Daniel: The resident musician.

Once at The PLACE, Daniel wasted no time in taking advantage of the health and wellness program. Just days after entering the shelter, he expressed his desire to improve his approach toward his mental health barriers; as a result, he began participating in an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). In a matter of weeks, Daniel, himself, and his case manager, Matthew,

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have both seen extensive improvements in Daniel's coping skills. With the help of the program, he has made significant progress, having developed various mechanisms for dealing with any unexpected triggers.

While Daniel displays diligence in his mental well-being through IOP, he also understands that an important part of self-care is enjoying the company of others while participating in fun activities. In his downtime, he and his peers at The PLACE have a special appreciation for playing the video game Super Smash Brothers.

When asked about his experience at the shelter, Daniel said, "Some of the rules are a little

strict, but I understand why they are there because of COVID. I like that we get to do things like play video games with each other, though. That's been really nice."

One of the many wonderful contributions Daniel has made to The PLACE is sharing his music with staff and peers. He is an extremely well-rounded musician, showing expertise in a variety of musical outlets including vocals, guitar, and piano. On a sunny day he can be found in the courtyard, entertaining everyone with songs by artists ranging from Billy Squier to Johnny Cash.

His persistence and the concept of delayed gratification with learning new techniques in music can be directly correlated

to his most recent accomplishment—passing his test at the local YMCA for lifeguard certification. As an avid swimmer, he has thoroughly enjoyed the trips to the YMCA through The PLACE, and he is very proud to have achieved such an impressive goal: "I think the best kind of lifeguard is someone who prevents accidents from happening. I want to be a lifeguard who helps people before they need to be rescued."

When mentioning this goal, he agrees that it is a great metaphor for life and suits his proactive and caring nature.

"I want to be a lifeguard who helps people before they need to be rescued."

Through his experience at The PLACE, Daniel has formed strong relationships, improved his mental well-being, and gained

employment. His future plans include putting money aside earned at the YMCA to eventually place a deposit on a rental home. While juggling all of this, he continues to be an example and an advocate for any others he sees facing adversity. "I love it here," Daniel states. "I saw someone my age on the street the other day, and I told them about this place, and said they should really come check it out. The PLACE has really helped me out and I'm so happy to be here."



It's very clear that Daniel is truly finding his way and "seeing his future at rainbow's end."

Two Times The Fun

The PLACE has two options for our Off the Street Breakfast this year — either in person or virtual! We hope you can join us for one, the other, or both. Please take a look at both options and save the date(s)!

In Person

When: Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:30 AM

Where: Under the Colorado Avenue bridge on the east side of the railroad tracks (this is new) crossing S. Sierra Madre Street.

Details: This hour-long breakfast maximizes your time to hear from our Executive Director, Shawna Kempainen and a youth that has been through The PLACE's program.

This is a fundraiser and guests will be asked to make a meaningful gift. This event is sponsored so that each gift made at this event goes directly to programs.

This event is free to attend, but we need to know you are planning to join us. There are two ways to attend:

Become a Table Captain: Commit to hosting a table and invite 5 other people you believe might be interested in supporting the work of The PLACE. Tables are limited, so please let us know soon.

Be our Guest: We may have space available if you and a guest would like to experience this event.

For either option, please email andy.petersen@theplacecos.org and he will send you all the information you will need to host.

We are thrilled to be back in person again this year and we hope to see you on July 15th!

For more information, please go to our website at:

<https://theplacecos.org/off-the-street-breakfast-2021/>



Virtual

When: Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Where: Your place!

Details: Perhaps you are unable to attend our in person event, but still want to participate. Join our 30 minute virtual event online. Let us know you will join us by pre-registering at:

<https://givebutter.com/OTS2021Virtual>

The virtual event will be shown on your registration page. This way you can hold a watch party in your own home!

Breakfast delivery is available to viewing groups of 2 or more. Only one person per viewing party/location needs to register for their group.

Breakfast is brought to you by...



Each year Picnic Basket leads Off the Street by providing a delicious and fulfilling breakfast so that you will join in supporting The PLACE. We are grateful for what they do to make this event take place. They will be supplying breakfast for both the in person event, as well as the virtual for groups of 2 or more.

Thank you, Picnic Basket!



423 East Cucharas St
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Return Service Requested

Celebrating 20 Years

In December 2020, The PLACE celebrated 20 years of serving young people in homelessness here in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. The impact on our region has been significant.

7,650

This is the number of youth we served in two decades.

2,525

The number of young people engaged in our Shelter or Outreach programs that permanently exited homelessness.

\$89.8 MILLION

If the young people who permanently left homelessness were to instead be on the street as a chronically homeless adult for just one year it would cost taxpayers *\$89.8 million!

* \$35,578 per, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2017

Your support in these 20 years has helped to create 2,523 success stories. We cannot do this work without you and we are truly grateful for your support!

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