

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Because every young person deserves a safe place to call home



For most of us, the holidays mean warmth, safety, and the comfort of home. But for too many young people in our community, home is uncertain. It might mean under a bridge, on a couch, in a car, or on a friend's floor. At The PLACE, we believe every young person deserves more than survival; they deserve a safe place to call home.

ALEX'S STORY

This year, Alex is finally home for the holidays.

Just a few months ago, the holidays felt impossibly far away. Alex was spending his days trying to stay safe, warm, and fed while bouncing between couches, short-term stays, and nights outside. The constant uncertainty made it hard to think about anything beyond getting through the day, much less imagine a season filled with comfort or connection.

Everything changed when he connected with our Outreach team. They helped him navigate resources, access basic needs, and take the first steps toward stability. With steady support and a clear path forward, Alex moved into housing through The PLACE.

Today, he has a warm, stable home of his own — a door he can lock, a bed that's his, and a quiet space where he can breathe, rest, and begin rebuilding the life he deserves. This holiday season, he's experiencing something he hasn't had in a long time: the feeling of being home.

MARK'S STORY

When Mark first connected with The PLACE, he had been experiencing homelessness for quite some time. Through every challenge, his dog Baxter never left his side. Keeping Baxter made finding housing more difficult, but Mark refused to give up the one constant source of comfort he had.

Mark visited our Drop-In Center regularly for warmth, connection, and help rebuilding the pieces of stability. With support from staff, he secured identification and other important documents that opened the door to new possibilities.

Today, life looks different. Mark works two restaurant jobs downtown, pays his own rent in a home that welcomed both him and Baxter, and still stops by The PLACE for encouragement and community.

This holiday season, they're finally home.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, you make home possible. Your generosity reaches young people like Jay, who arrived at our doors carrying everything he owned in a single backpack, unsure where he would sleep that night and even more unsure who he could trust. Because of supporters like you, Jay now has a room of his own and a place where he can close the door, exhale, and finally feel safe.

For the youth we serve, “home” often has been something distant — a word that belonged to other people. But your compassion helps transform that word into something real:

The warmth of clean sheets. The smell of soup cooking on the stove. The soft glow of a lamp beside a bed that’s theirs. The quiet comfort of knowing someone down the hall cares if they’re OK.

Your gift doesn’t just provide shelter, it restores dignity, creates stability, and reminds young people that they are worthy of care and belonging. Because of you, youth can finish school, start new jobs, breathe easier, and begin to imagine a future they never thought possible.

Our Home for the Holidays campaign is about more than a season. It’s about giving youth the kind of home we all long for, a place where they feel seen, safe, and supported. And your generosity makes that transformation possible:

- \$50 provides warm meals and essential supplies to young people visiting our Drop-In Center.
- \$200 helps furnish an apartment for a youth stepping into stable housing.
- \$500 provides case management and life-skills support that helps rebuild confidence and independence.

Thank you for opening the door to hope, stability, and a sense of home this holiday season and for reminding youth that they are not alone.



MAY’S STORY

When May first connected with The PLACE, she was struggling with substance use and living in an unsafe, unstable environment. Life was incredibly hard, and she didn’t have the support she needed to make a change.

Today, her story looks completely different. May recently was recognized as Employee of the Month. Two months ago, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Paige, and now has a healthy supportive partner, the baby’s father, who is actively involved in their lives.

May maintains a strong relationship with her leasing office, whose staff have commented on the “night-and-day” transformation they’ve seen. Her resilience and determination are truly remarkable, and her journey reflects the power of stability, support, and hope that The PLACE helps make possible every day.

Homeless Contribution Tax Credit

The Colorado Homeless Contribution Income Tax Credit offers a unique opportunity for Colorado taxpayers to support eligible homelessness-related projects, including The PLACE. Donors can claim a 25% state income tax credit on contributions of \$100 or more, directly impacting the lives of at-risk youth in our community.

SCAN BELOW TO DONATE NOW



Or visit www.theplacecos.org/donate

UNDERSTANDING RECENT FEDERAL FUNDING CHANGES

In November, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its annual Continuum of Care (CoC) funding notice. This year’s NOFO includes major structural changes that reduce renewal funding nationwide—one of the most significant shifts in federal homelessness funding in recent years.

For organizations like The PLACE, which rely on CoC dollars to support outreach, case management, and housing services, these reductions create operational uncertainty. The need in Colorado Springs hasn’t decreased, but the federal resources available to meet it have.

What You Can Do

Policy changes at the federal level directly affect local capacity. Community members who want to support effective homelessness response can:

- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative to express the importance of stable, predictable federal funding for homelessness and housing programs across all populations.
- Ask Congress to protect and strengthen CoC resources to ensure communities can effectively respond to homelessness at every level.
- Stay informed about how federal shifts affect local service systems, including the programs that support individuals, families, and young people experiencing homelessness.



JOE’S STORY

Joe came to the United States from Somalia seeking safety and opportunity. But when he first arrived, the family he stayed with became abusive, leaving him scared, alone, and unsure where to turn. After fleeing that situation, Joe found his way to The PLACE Drop-In Center — a warm, welcoming space where staff helped him access support, stability, and hope.

With guidance from his case manager, Joe has been staying overnight at Springs Rescue Mission while spending most of his days at the Drop-In Center. There, he’s found a sense of belonging, encouragement from peers, and a safe place to rebuild after so much uncertainty.

Recently, Joe started a new job at a local fast food restaurant and was accepted into housing — significant steps toward the independence and safety he has been working so hard for.

THE PLACE WORD SEARCH

H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	S	P
B	Y	T	B	I	P	K	S	K	P
D	T	C	E	P	S	E	M	O	H
O	E	A	L	I	N	E	T	H	O
N	F	P	O	D	H	E	R	C	P
A	A	M	N	K	N	C	D	A	E
T	S	I	G	T	L	O	V	E	C
E	K	S	I	S	M	A	E	R	D
B	D	A	N	T	E	E	R	T	S
K	L	D	G	C	B	L	H	U	B
N	O	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C

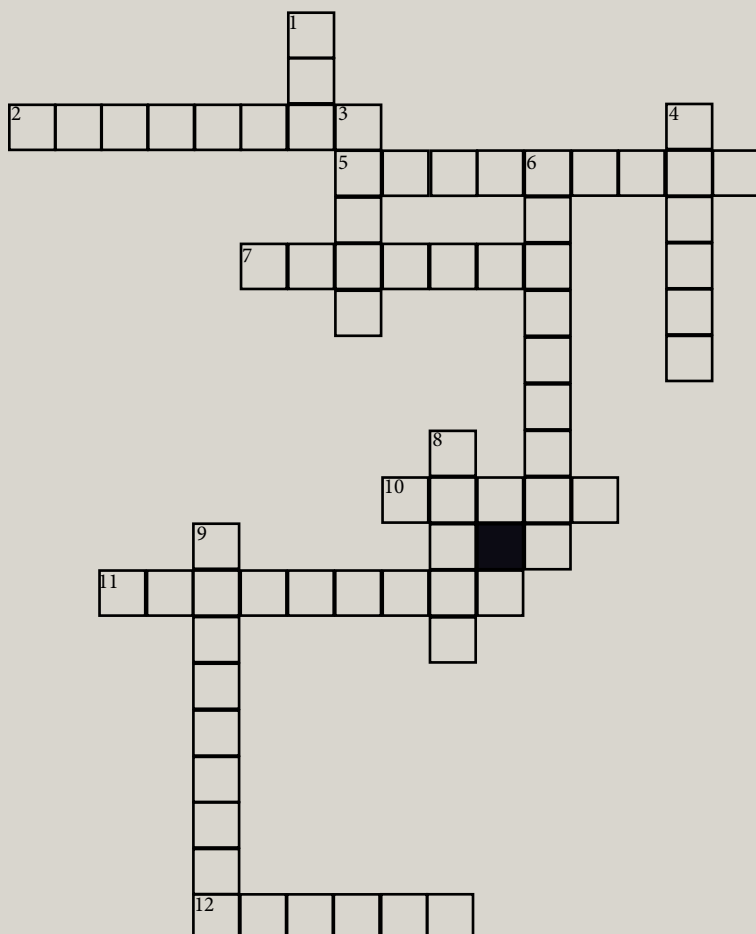
- OUTREACH
BELONGING
DONATE
DREAMS
KINDNESS
POTENTIAL
- CONNECTION
HOME
IMPACT
SAFETY
HOLIDAYS
- LOVE
CARE
HOPE
STREET

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

SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

- Give online: Make a secure donation at www.theplacecos.org/donate
- By mail: Send a check to The PLACE 423 E. Cucharas St. Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- Donor-Advised Fund (DAF): Recommend a gift to The PLACE (EIN 84-1549702) through your fund provider
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution: If you're 70.5 or older, you can make a tax-free distribution from your IRA directly to The PLACE
- Employer match: Double your impact—check with your employer to see if they'll match your donation
- Gifts of stock or securities: Contact development@theplacecos.org for simple transfer instructions
- Legacy giving: Consider making The PLACE part of your lasting legacy through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation.

CROSSWORD FOR A CAUSE



Be the 10th person to send us a picture of your completed crossword with the correct (according to us) answers and win a The PLACE themed gift basket. Email pics to info@theplacecos.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends of The PLACE,

As the holidays draw near, I find myself thinking about what “home” really means. For most of us, it’s more than walls and a roof; it’s warmth, safety, and belonging. It’s the comfort of knowing there’s a place where we’re accepted, cared for, and loved.

For the young people served by The PLACE, that sense of home can feel out of reach. Many arrive with little more than hope, a backpack, a story, and a deep desire to belong. Yet with your support, we’re helping them find their footing, their confidence, and their way home.

This year, The PLACE has helped hundreds of youth find safety through our housing programs, access vital resources at our Drop-in Center, and receive the guidance of caring case managers who walk beside them every step of the way. These are life-changing moments made possible because of people like you.

As you plan your giving this season, I invite you to include The PLACE in your generosity. Your donation, whether \$50, \$150, or more, provides not just food or clothing, but hope, stability, and the feeling of home.

Together, we can make sure every young person in our community has a place to belong.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Wayne C. Bland

Wayne C. Bland
Board Chair, The PLACE

CROSSWORD CLUES

Down

1. What hope lights in dark times
3. Everyone deserves a safe place to do this each night
4. What a warm bed provides on cold nights
6. What we build together through kindness and generosity
8. The feeling of being cared for and accepted
9. The PLACE helps young people find this

Across

2. The season of giving and togetherness
5. The PLACE’s newest apartment community
7. What our youth discover when they feel safe again
10. The population The PLACE serves
11. Gives time, love, and hope freely
12. Cause of gratitude

The PLACE

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