



Friends of New Genesis:

Community - What does it mean? Being a part of something, sharing similar backgrounds, a bond and striving to always make it better. Reflecting on the past year, I found one unchanging concept the men, women and families of New Genesis continue to build together – *a strong community*. Daily, I witness our residents come together not only to help one another but to work together to improve the area around us. These are folks that have little to give, but they find a way to make it a better place.

There are two very different situations that touched my heart that I would like to share. The first is a brief story about a graduate, staff member and friend. Randy came to New Genesis eight years ago. He struggled with a cocaine problem which eventually led him to homelessness. His first year was not without challenges but once he overcame his desire to use he began thriving. He became a team leader and not long after that, a staff member. Randy had a heart of gold and was very well loved within our community. He remained a great employee until December 23, 2015 when he was diagnosed with lung cancer and given a dim outcome.

His illness left him without an income and he was hoping to reunite with family in Texas. Board members, Church members and residents of New Genesis, came together to support him, both financially and emotionally. In February, at a going away party, I witnessed residents of the men's shelter give him their last dollar, last five dollars even their last twenty dollars. Even though they didn't know each other, they didn't hesitate, because somebody in their community was in need, so they gave! We finished off that celebration with another resident, that had nothing to give but his kind words, lead us in a mountain dew toast, in honor of Randy (mountain dew was his favorite). Randy passed away on October 2, 2016 and again people of all walks of life came together to celebrate his life and remember him. *His legacy – a powerful community!!*

The second situation I want to tell you about, literally brought me to tears. As many of you know, the Denver housing market has exploded in the last two years and it has created problems for many, including New Genesis. The waiting list for our residents to move into one of our units went from 1-3 months to 3-6 months sometimes even longer. We have units specific to single men, single women and units for families. Earlier this year, a husband, wife and their four-year-old daughter were on our waiting list for nearly four months. We weren't sure when something was going to open for them but were anticipating another two months. Their situation took a turn for the worse and they were left on the streets with their four-year-old daughter. Both parents worked, were drug free but they couldn't compete in the housing market, no matter how hard they tried.

New Genesis hands were tied due to not having any open units. Word got out and the rest of our community heard about this families' desperate situation. Two residents, that had recently graduated from the shelter into one of our units for men asked to speak with me. Again, without hesitation and without knowing them, they offered to move back to the shelter and give their new

apartment to this family in need. You see, they couldn't stand the idea of a little girl living on the street while they slept in a safe place. Of course, I accepted their offer and just like that the family had a home. The four-year-old girl is flourishing and they are about to celebrate Christmas in a warm, safe, and happy home. Those two men added something extraordinary to this community - *solidarity*.

Many of you know my story and know that I've achieved many things in my life, but my most proud accomplishment is being a part of this community we call New Genesis. I want to share it with you and so I personally invite each one of you to get involved and help us continue to build a better community. Donations this year will enable us to expand our housing and help more families into homes. The four-year-old girl I told you about is not the only child faced with living on the streets, we have so many families in crisis situations. Your gifts are crucial for us to continue building a community that saves lives. Helen Keller, once said "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

*Thank you in advance for your 2016 contribution. I hope the stories I've shared brings joy to your heart and motivates you to join me in building a community that makes the difference!!!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tammie Carroll".

Tammie Carroll  
Chief Executive Officer