



August 4, 2026

Rocky Mountain Refuge
PO Box 2941
Littleton, CO 80161-2941

To the High Plains Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado.

Rocky Mountain Refuge is a specialized shelter in Denver that provides a place for people in Colorado who are experiencing homelessness to receive end of life (hospice) care. We provide family style custodial care and the hospices provide the medical care our residents need. We are able to continue our unique care thanks in part to the generous support of the \$5,000 grant we received from the High Plains Region.

Unhoused people approaching the end of their lives have shockingly few choices for care, and what care is available is often not tailored to their needs. This leaves them feeling isolated and unsupported during one of the most critical times in their lives. The High Plains grant has helped Rocky Mountain Refuge do our best to ensure that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, has the dignity and support they deserve.

So far this year (2026) the average length of stay for one of our residents is 26 days and we have served 13 people, 10 of whom have died with dignity because of our care. One resident revoked hospice to pursue curative care. One was taken inpatient by his hospice when his care needs exceeded what we are able to provide, and he died there a few weeks later. One resident is still with us as this report is written. Through the end of July we have provided 284 days of care.

2025 was our busiest year to date, with 18 residents and 438 days of care, and this year is on pace to pass it. In our four and a half years of operation we have now walked alongside 67 people for a total of roughly 1,430 days of care.

Most of our residents this year are between the ages of 50 and 64 (46%), while those below 49 are 23% and those over 64 are 31%. The average age of our residents is 61. Unhoused people typically arrive at the Refuge younger and sicker than the housed population, as these numbers continue to reflect.

The current racial makeup of our residents is 54% White, 23% African American, 15% Asian American, and 8% Native American. Nearly half of the people we have served this year are people of color. One of our residents this year was Hispanic, and one was an undocumented immigrant who had been paying rent on his own apartment until his illness made that impossible.

We have not served any veterans so far this year, which is a change from last year, when veterans made up 21% of our residents. We continue to maintain our relationship with the VA. Our experience remains that our folks often pass away before the VA can act to help them.

One set of numbers is worth putting in front of the Region. In the six months before they came to us, these 13 residents accounted for 17 emergency room visits and 18 ambulance runs. People at the end of life with nowhere to go do not stop needing care; they simply receive it in the most expensive and least humane way available. A bed at the Refuge is not only kinder than an emergency room. It is a great deal cheaper for everyone.

The High Plains grant went into our general fund, where it helped us pay our caregivers and keep our doors open this year. Our caregiving contract is our single largest expense at roughly \$287,500 a year, and \$5,000 covers close to a week of the around-the-clock care our residents depend on. The grant also helps sustain our Program Manager position. He revamped our training and record keeping when he arrived, and that work continues to improve how we coordinate with the hospices and how well we care for our residents.

Concerning our long term plans for self sufficiency, we continue the dialog we opened with several City of Denver leading organizations to address this issue. These include Denver Health, Denver Hospice, the City of Denver's Housing Stability Committee, the Denver Housing Authority, and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. There is still no payer in Colorado for the custodial end of life care we provide, and building one is the work ahead of us.

Two things happened this year that we are glad to be able to report. In May, UCHHealth Today published an article about our work titled "Where do unhoused people go to die? Rocky Mountain Refuge has an answer." It has brought us volunteers, donors, and referrals from well outside Denver. And on June 6 we gathered in the chapel at the Denver Hospice Inpatient Care Center to remember ten of our friends who died in our care. We lit candles, told stories, and were grateful to have known each of them.

We are also sending two videos along with this report. The first is a thirty minute documentary about the Refuge and the people we serve. The second is a two minute version for anyone who would like a shorter introduction, and it may be the more useful of the two if the Convocation would like to show something to the room.

Thirty minute documentary: https://youtu.be/wLtDa_lwxYk

Two minute version: <https://youtu.be/EcE9LAN6fgk>

We remain the only shelter in Colorado providing this sort of service and one of only a handful nationwide. The High Plains is helping to change the last journey of people who have been forgotten by the world, and we deeply appreciate it.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Br. James Patrick Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Br. James Patrick Hall, BSG (he/him)
Rocky Mountain Refuge
for end of life care
Information: 720-955-5596

A few pictures* of our residents from this year.



**No one's photo is ever shared without written permission from that person.*