



***Touching Hearts, One Stomach at a Time***  
*The Lamb's Ministry in Boulder*  
Elsi Dodge



“Being homeless for Christmas isn’t a good thing, but I think this is the best Christmas I ever had!” a homeless man said, taking his cream-cheese-slathered, toasted bagel. The volunteer with the Lamb’s Ministry blinked back tears as she turned to the next man on Christmas afternoon.

Now in our 18<sup>th</sup> year, the Lamb’s Ministry is a multi-church outreach to the homeless and needy of Boulder County, offering hot meals, clothing, and a safe place off the streets.

“Let’s hear it for the cooks!” And several dozen homeless men, women, and (yes) children cheered and applauded as dishes of Ben-and-Jerry’s ice cream (from Boulder Food Rescue) were brought to their tables. They had just finished a lunch of Mac ‘n’ Cheese Cordon Bleu with chicken and ham, roasted potatoes, fresh fruit, and green salad.

“The doctors say I could die any day now. So I’m speaking from my heart here—Jesus understands what you’re going through! And He’s here to help!” John Mier, with family and friends, had been singing some encouraging songs, and now he was giving a message to the homeless, before praying for the meal.



“You know, it just feels so good to really help actual people!” a teen commented after a long Saturday of cleaning floors and bathrooms.

“When do we get to go to the Lamb’s Lunch again?” a child asked her dad before Thanksgiving. Youth groups, Scout troops, adult Bible studies, families visiting from out of town—all seem to enjoy volunteering at the Lamb’s ministries, helping the homeless feel that someone cares.



“I know you’ve been taught never to talk to strangers. But I’m here to tell you, please talk to strangers today,” we tell children and teens who have volunteered to serve a meal on Saturday. “After all, Jesus said, *Whatever you do for one of the least of these, you do for Me.* So smile when you scoop those mashed potatoes on a plate, because you’re giving them to Jesus!”

Services offered by the Lamb’s Ministry at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres:

- Lamb’s Laundry, Tuesdays
  - washer, drier, movies, and fellowship
- Lamb’s Café, Thursday
  - hot breakfast
  - access to the Deacon’s closet
- Lamb’s Lunch, Saturday
  - Bible study for women through the Reverence Movement
  - safe place off the street
  - quality hot lunch
  - Christian music and message

Churches participating in the Lamb’s Ministry:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian
- Boulder Chinese Baptist
- Boulder Valley Christian
- Calvary Bible
- Reverence Movement
- Rock Creek

Lamb’s meals, monthly:

- 1500 meals
- 2000 pounds of food from Community Food Share
- 500 pounds of food donated by Boulder Food Rescue, Panera, Einstein Bagels, and individuals

Lamb’s clothing and sundries, monthly average:

- 40 pairs of jeans
- 45 sets of long underwear
- 50 pairs of socks
- 35 pairs of gloves
- razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo