

REAL LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

REAL Life Community Services is more than just the Declaration House. Although REAL Life Community Services is able to provide affordable housing for 10 families, the Denver Community Health Center and the Willow Creek Discount Grocery through the use of the Declaration House, they also offer many programs outside the Declaration House to help “connect the community to hope.” The faith based non-profit organization works hard to make sure that people feel significant in a world that tries to discount them daily.

One of the programs offered is the Lighthouse Youth Center, which is becoming more and more of a community center. Youth in the Cocalico School District can come for fun events, educational resources, mentoring opportunities, and the Momentum Club for youth development. REAL Life Community Services actually began as a youth ministry, working with the schools to meet the needs of at-risk youth. They quickly found that there was a direct correlation between at-risk youth and families in need.

Seeing the needs of families living in poverty and the lack of resources available, Rod Redcay started a non-profit group called R.E.A.L. Youth Ministries. In 2016, the name of their organization was changed to REAL Life Community Services so they could

focus on the community as a whole. Rod is currently the Executive Director of REAL Life Community Services, the mayor of Denver and the president of the Mayor’s Association of Lancaster County. His wife Sunny, who had been working in youth ministry since 1994, is the administrator at REAL Life. Chris Hibbert, who has worked with organizations like the Community Action Partnership and served within the Cocalico School District for over 25 years, is the Director of Social Work.

REAL Life Community Services purchased the warehouse behind the Declaration House and renamed it Warehouse 916. With this expansion, they are able to provide food to more people in the Cocalico School District. Programs such as the Power Packs Project and the Cocalico Food Pantry Client Choice are offered to help people experiencing food insecurity. Through the Transitional Home for Moms, REAL Life is able to help a single mom and her children who are homeless to get back on their feet and thrive. REAL Life is also the Denver location of the Northern Lancaster Hub, a coalition of 20+ non-profit organizations funded by the United Way to help end poverty.

REAL Life Community Services is located at the Declaration House, 240 Main Street, Suite B, Denver. Their business hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They can be reached at 717-336-7797 or you may view their website at www.reallcs.org.

