LESHA GROVES: Mental Health Center of Denver supports career growth in so many different ways. Their ability to really look at people individually and look at their skill set, and really try to shape a person's development based on what their goals are.

DEVIN MUNIZ: The ability of the program managers to be on site in an atmosphere that's not necessarily so clinical. It's not necessarily so institutional I think it's really important. I think it's really shown a lot of the people we serve that there are environments in which they can feel comfortable. And I think that benefits their growth and their progression through trying to feel a little bit better.

DRAKE LOUIE: For me personally, I think that the Mental Health Center of Denver has helped me grow because they've allowed me to be creative. They've allowed me to come in with great ideas and have the finance and the organization to be able to help me achieve those goals for myself. And those goals happen to impact the community in a very positive way, so kind of a win-win situation in a lot of ways.

DEVIN MUNIZ: When I first came on board, I came in the middle of a project where they were supplying brand new beds and linen and mattresses to a lot of the residential sites. I noticed one of the ladies, one of the people we serve, was very excited about it.

And I spoke with the program manager about it and she had said that she'd been homeless for two years. She finally had a space. So for me, it was very rewarding being able to provide sheets for a mattress. Very small thing that we were able to do. But for me, it was very rewarding.

LESHA GROVES: One of my biggest accomplishments I would say is being able to talk about, to the entire all staff, which was over 100 employees, about self care and compassion fatigue. Even that could be kind of a taboo topic for mental health professionals.

The fact that I was supported to get in front of everyone and just name that and talk about, this is where that happens and you have support around that and talk to someone, was just so impactful to me personally and I think very powerful for everyone else.

DRAKE LOUIE: I came in pretty hot. I came in with a five-year plan. I wanted to expand pretty much

immediately. The goal was to automatically set the culinary program in. Dialed in every single time. Don't really need to worry about it. My co-supervisor and I then were able to go to Dahlia to create connections here at this facility. Garnering product, helping them with their community.

Because why shouldn't our program nourish and feed the rest of the Mental Health Center of Denver as a whole and create a community around that? Because we are trying to build ourselves back up and others back up, it only makes sense for us to have a very definite identity. And I think that we can do that partly through food.

A lot of individuals as program managers, or as VPs, directors, they have been in the Mental Health Center of Denver for elongated period of time, which means they had the experience, they have the acumen to be able to help individuals fulfill their goals. But also in the sense of this organization, because we're strengths-based. Because we are an open and free space. We're very inclusive. The uniqueness that comes with working at the Mental Health Center of Denver is the fact that you constantly get to communicate with other human beings.