

**THANKS FOR A GREAT THANKSGIVING -
HELP US GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS!**



It was a great Thanksgiving here at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. We served over 1,200 Thanksgiving meals with extra help from Smith's Food and Drug, who donated turkeys and R&R Barbeque, who smoked them for us. We, were also blessed to have Gov. Gary Herbert, Utah First Lady Jeanette Herbert, Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox and their families help serve Thanksgiving dinner.

With that awesome blessing behind us, we have less than a month to prepare for a Christmas season of outreach, including our Annual Christmas Banquet for our homeless community with Christmas blessings for all who come to us.

The truth is, many of Utah's homeless don't have anywhere to go for the holidays. So, we want to be a "family" for those who have none. This December, we are planning to serve another 1,500 meals at our banquet and provide over 10,000 hot meals and

hundreds of Family Food Boxes to needy families. Our food service comes in addition to handing out warm winter coats, new socks, hats, gloves, long pants and thousands more items of clothing.

We hope that our great food, warm clothes and smiling faces might be the encouragement a person needs to join our New Life Program, which changes lives by helping people off the streets and into employment, housing, and restored family relationships. Please pray that our Christmas outreach would touch many lives this year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus—and please prayerfully consider how you can be a part!



DECEMBER 2018 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Merry Christmas!	1 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
2 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace	3 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	4 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermt. Baptist Youth	5 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC	6 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	7 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	8 Chapel: Berean Bible Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!
9 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	10 Chapel: Intermt. Baptist Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	11 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Alpha Tau Omega - U of U	12 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	13 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	14 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	15 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
16 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	17 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	18 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	19 Chapel: Discovery Christian Community Kitchen: Discovery Christian Community	20 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship Kitchen: Capital Church	21 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	22 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!
23 Chapel: Grace Community Bible 30 Chapel: Lifeline Community	24 Chapel: Living Waters 31 Chapel: RMSL	25 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	26 Chapel: First Methodist Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	27 Chapel: Tooele Christ. Fellowship Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	28 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!

RESCUER

DECEMBER 2018

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

**STEPHANIE STEPHENS:
Sober and cancer-free for Christmas**

Five years ago, I spent three nights sleeping inside a playground tube slide. I was homeless and living on the streets, struggling with a drug addiction.

Curled up in the tube, I was at least hidden from view and shielded from the wind. After those three terrible nights, I had reached the end of my rope and knew if I continued the way I was, then I was going to die. I reached out to Pastor Dean, a pastor who is a long-time volunteer and former board member of the Rescue Mission. I had previously met Pastor Dean when I was in jail and he was one of the pastors who came and visited with people. He urged me to go to the Rescue Mission Women's Center where the staff could provide the help I needed for a changed life.

A changed life is exactly what I got while on the New Life Program. I was introduced to God and experienced what it was like to have a relationship with Jesus and have Him help me do what was right, instead of what was wrong. One of my goals at that time was to just stay the way I was because I had never been happier. I knew I would have to fight to stay sober and I wanted to help other people and use my story to encourage them to leave drugs and the street life behind.

But soon after I left the Rescue Mission the first time, at the end of 2014, I received a devastating diagnosis. My doctors told me I had colon cancer. I blamed God, asking Him why He would bring me out of addiction only to die of cancer. Around the same time, I suffered a painful betrayal by members of my family that hurt me like only family can. I fell into a dark place of self-pity and felt like a victim of life and my circumstances. I lost faith and trust in God and doubted His love for me. I began to go back to my old lifestyle because I found validation, and what I thought was love, by being needed on the streets. People on the streets need to feel safe, want drugs and money and I knew how to provide what they needed. When I provided what they needed then I felt like I mattered to someone.



Stephanie Stephens is sober again, has a great job and has become a strong voice for the homeless.

Please see "Stephanie" on page 3.

**Connect
with us**

Web: RescueSaltLake.org
 Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)
 Email: info@rescuesaltlake.org
 Phone: Main - 801.355.1302/Donor Relations Office - 801.746.1006
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 Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

LET'S HELP THE HOMELESS THIS CHRISTMAS

We don't really know how cold or warm it was when Joseph and Mary made the journey to Bethlehem.



In my mind the streets of Bethlehem probably were chilly after the sun went down. The couple would've been cold, tired and hungry at night, as they found no place to stay except a shepherd's cave.

I figure Joseph and Mary were a lot like the homeless men and women who seek shelter from the Utah cold here at the Rescue Mission. Like Joseph and Mary,

the people we serve at the Rescue Mission are tired, hungry and need a warm place to stay. I think all of us would like to believe we would've taken Joseph and Mary in. In our minds we believe we would've fed them and done anything else we could to help with the soon-coming childbirth.

But do we have a similarly welcoming attitude towards the homeless who are here in our town? This season, I want to encourage all of us (myself included) to have an open heart to the homeless. I pray that we would want to help them find shelter, have warm clothes, and receive the blessings of Christmas gifts and a pathway off the streets

The Rescue Mission will be engaged in this effort throughout the Christmas season and I encourage you to join us. You can donate hats, winter gloves, coats, and winter shoes. You can support one of our low-income families through Christmas gifts. You can give towards our upcoming Christmas Banquet. You can volunteer to serve a meal or do other service.

You can pray for the homeless community and the Rescue Mission as we strive to end homelessness by meeting the individual needs of the men, women and children who come to us

We need all this help to provide for the countless Josephs, Marys and babies who will come through our door this December and beyond. They will be cold, tired and hungry and we will give them warmth, rest, food and a loving message of faith in Jesus as the key pathway out of homelessness.

It's interesting to think that, while Jesus was born as a homeless person, He ended up creating an everlasting home for everyone who puts their faith and trust in Him. The forgiveness of sins and an eternal home - what a great gift God gave us! The knowledge of this gift provides us with a great opportunity to give back to the neediest people in our community this Christmas season.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

P.S. We want to provide Christmas presents to the needy families we work with. There are two ways you can help bring Christmas joy to these needy children.

1. Call or email Greg Sheffield at: 801.355.1302, Greg@rescuesaltlake.org, to "adopt" a child or a family.
2. Make a monetary donation designated for the Christmas gift outreach.

We know Christmas isn't all about presents. But we hope simple gifts, as well as the literature we share about Christ's birth and the true meaning of Christmas, will show God's love and be the spark needed to restore broken lives. We need your help, so please consider a gift today!

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	October 2018	YTD 2018
Professions of Faith	33	289
Meals	15,251	135,616
Family Food Boxes	135	1,192
Nights of Shelter	4,286	42,907
Clothing	6,390	46,069
Day Service/Hygiene	2,257	14,713
Jobs Obtained	3	48
Housing Obtained	4	49

Our Stats

how your gift helps

STEPHANIE: Continued from page 1

I set aside what I learned at the Rescue Mission: that only through a relationship with God can I have real freedom. I had also lost my belief in the characteristics of God that I had been taught and personally experienced when I was in the New Life Program.

I was arrested in January 2016 for drug and illegal weapon possession. I knew I was headed for a prison sentence of no less than 15 years. But, my case was not properly filed within the legal five-day window when the police must charge arrestees, so I was released. I spiraled down from there. I was using multiple identities and losing my own identity by living a life full of so many lies, so much bondage to sin, and so much internal pain.

On October 24, 2017 I was in a fight with a man and he cut my hand open with a knife while he was threatening to kill me. The fight ended when the police arrived, and we

"I believe that God did a miracle in my body"

ran away. I went to the ER and while I was there the song "Take me to the King" by Tamela Mann began to play. I broke down crying. The chorus says:

Take me to the King
I don't have much to bring
My heart is torn in pieces
It's my offering
Take me to the King

I prayed for God to take me to Heaven. I was tired of fighting cancer, fighting men on the streets, and fighting for my own identity. Two days later, on October 26, 2017, I was arrested on my warrants from 2016. Pastor Dean came to see me in jail again and told me to confess, repent and write to the Rescue Mission Women's Center asking to come back. This was so difficult because it felt like I was admitting failure and I was afraid of being rejected.

The staff at the Rescue Mission welcomed me back with open arms and I began the work of looking to God for my identity and letting go of my need for validation from the world. I now know my needs can only be met by God and that trying to get them met in any other way just leads me into chaos. I can now admit when I don't know something and not be embarrassed by it. I now understand where my strengths come from and that I must lean on God instead of myself.

Today, my doctors tell me I am cancer free. I believe that God did a miracle in my body, because, since I was living on the streets, I never did any of the treatments my doctors recommended. I praise God that he has taken my cancer away and pray that I can still trust Him if the cancer comes back.

I have a good job at the Western Nut Company. This is our busy season as we package Christmas and Holiday gifts that are shipped around the world. Also, God has enabled me to use my story to inspire others to make a difference in the lives of the homeless community. I was able to share my story at the Rescue Mission's New Life Banquet in November. Later that month I spoke at a press conference announcing construction updates on several new homeless resource centers in the Salt Lake Valley. I even got a hug from Gail Miller, Chairwoman of the Miller Group of Companies and owner of the Utah Jazz, at the press conference. I can't believe she would love and hug me and that God would use my story to help others.

Please continue to pray for me. I am still living at the Rescue Mission as I save up money that I will use to get my own place to live when I graduate from the New Life Program, likely in January or February. I thank God that he led me back to the Rescue Mission. His grace and mercy has been poured out on my life over and over. I thank you, the Mission's faithful supporters, for supporting a place where someone like me - who had no other real options - could come, yet again to receive a changed life.



Stephanie Stephens speaks at a press conference for homeless services on Nov. 26, 2018