

## EMPOWERING HOMELESS WOMEN IN MARCH

What does the world's strongest woman, the Salt Lake City Stars basketball team, and NiTOR Performance have in common? They are teaming up with the Rescue Mission to fight homelessness and inspire homeless women during Women's History Month this March - and they are inviting you to participate!

As part of this outreach, Leslie Hofheins, who secured the title of "The Strongest Women in the World" in 2016 will share her inspiring story at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake's Women's Center. Two years before winning her title, Leslie, a victim of domestic abuse, had put a gun in her mouth and pulled the trigger. The gun jammed, and that blessed misfire led to an inspiring story of redemption and restoration, not dissimilar to the kind of stories God does on a regular basis here at the Rescue Mission. Leslie will speak to homeless women about overcoming obstacles and becoming the strongest women possible.

In addition to having homeless women at the Rescue Mission hear her inspiring story, this



outreach will raise support for the Mission and homeless women. NiTOR Performance will be donating some of the proceeds from its March sales to the Rescue Mission. The Salt Lake City Stars, in turn, will be hosting *Superhero & Women's Empowerment Night* at their March 8 game.



To support the Rescue Mission, people can purchase tickets to the March 8 game at the Lifetime Activities Center-Bruin Arena at Salt Lake Community College's Redwood Campus. When fans purchase the tickets through the link on the Rescue Mission's website ([RescueSaltLake.org](http://RescueSaltLake.org)) the Stars will donate half the ticket price back to the Rescue Mission.

So please visit [RescueSaltLake.org](http://RescueSaltLake.org), buy tickets, and join us on March 8 for a Salt Lake City Stars NBA G-League game. Pray that God would use these events for His glory and to change the lives of the many women who are struggling with abuse and homelessness on our streets.

### FEBRUARY 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

# RESCUER

FEBRUARY 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

## ZACK WITLICKI: A Young Man Finds the Help He Needed

*About two years ago I had what could have become a viral moment. People were pulling out their cell phones taking videos of my bad behavior.*

I thank God my poor behavior is behind me now, and that He has changed my life at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. I came to the Rescue Mission after being released from jail in Las Vegas about a year ago. While in jail I realized my heroin and meth use had grown out of control. The criminal activity I engaged in to support my habit had landed me in jail for eight months.

In jail I had started going to weekly church services and was reading my Bible. I told my mom I wanted to get help and remembered the church services that my grandmother had taken me to when I was a boy. I told my mom that I thought I needed a faith-based recovery program to help me when I was released from jail.

My mom researched some recovery programs and found the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. The next time I talked to her from jail, she read me the testimony of Mike "Buddy" Whitesell, who was about the same age as me. He had graduated from the New Life Program and seemed to have a changed life, working as the assistant house manager and driver at the Rescue Mission.

Mike's story inspired me, and I agreed I would go to the New Life Program when I was released. The day after my release from jail, I had nothing, so my mom bought a bus ticket and I arrived in Salt Lake. While I had never been homeless before, I was used to living in large group settings in jail, so I didn't mind the shelter life.

I made friends with a couple of the other men on the New Life Program and we were able to talk to each other about addiction recovery and what to do when we were tempted to use drugs.



Zack Witlicki has a job and has saved up enough money to get out of homelessness.

Please see "Zack" on page 3.

Connect  
with us

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 Social: [facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake](https://facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake) - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)  
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## “HANGRY” TO HOPE

*Lunchtime. We've all been there.* Whether you're typing away at a desk job, lifting beams on a construction site, or chasing toddlers around the house, come noontime, you start to feel hunger pains. Your typing becomes more arduous, your lifting more laborious, your attitude to your toddler's "playful disobedience" a little more frayed. You think, "I need some food to feed my body and brain, so I can finish the second half of this day." We all get "hangry."



The homeless are *hangry* more often than most. What we might mistake for standoffishness or mental illness on the part of the homeless is oftentimes just plain old hunger. It's hard to be yourself when you haven't had lunch and you skipped breakfast. When you haven't eaten, and don't know really know when or if you can get food, you can't really focus on much else. Cordiality and other societal niceties go out the window. The *hangry* mind takes over.

So that's why our latest campaign, Hunger to Hope is so important. Hunger to Hope focuses on the idea that one Easter meal can eliminate the stress and anger that comes from lack of food and allow a person to think clearly again. And while this campaign is centered on our upcoming Easter Banquet, this is our philosophy with all the food we serve at the Rescue Mission.

By providing hot and nutritious breakfasts, lunches, dinners, sack lunches for those who work, and

special banquets, we help eliminate the angst of hunger. With food in the stomach, a homeless person can think more clearly about deeper things. The homeless can better consider how they might seek help for addiction, ask for help with a resume or job leads, or seek treatment for a mental illness.

When hunger is removed, there can be hope for something better, something new. With a full belly, a soul can better contemplate the spiritual hunger Jesus talked about in John 6:35 when He said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

At the Rescue Mission we treat the human condition of physical hunger, so that a person can better understand their spiritual and emotional hungers. Truth be told, all people walk around spiritually hangry every day they live apart from faith in Jesus. Your support helps us eliminate spiritual and physical "hangriness" as we fill bellies with food and hearts with God's message of love, peace, and joy.

Thank you for supporting Hunger to Hope this year. We would not be Restoring Broken Lives without you and God's enabling grace!

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

### These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	Dec. 2018	Total 2018
Professions of Faith	23	337
Meals	15,807	166,889
Family Food Boxes	120	1,451
Nights of Shelter	4,180	52,100
Clothing	13,163	74,064
Day Service/Hygiene	1,385	17,741
Jobs Obtained	1	51
Housing Obtained	6	55

## Our Stats

how your gift helps

## ZACK: Continued from page 1

I developed a great relationship with my community discipler, Steve Trost, who has taught me a lot about the Bible and what I should do when I am tempted to use drugs.

And while I still need a lot of help to stay in recovery, I do feel like God has brought me a long way. After all, I started using drugs when I was 13 just because I felt it made me have a personality that people liked. I felt more outgoing and likeable when I was on drugs than when I was sober, so I kept using them.

By the time I was 23, I needed more and more money to support my drug habit. I started stealing and was in and out of jail for theft and other drug-related crimes. About two years ago, I was in Mesquite, Nevada just up the freeway from Las Vegas. I walked into a hardware store, grabbed a bunch of expensive items and walked out.

The store alarms went off, but I was used to it. When I would steal expensive items in Vegas, the store alarms would sound, and nobody would pay much attention.

But Mesquite is a small town, not like Vegas. As the alarms went off, people pulled out their cell phones and started filming me. Some people even got in my way, like they were going to stop me. But the store manager called out to let me go. I think she didn't want anyone to get hurt, and even though I had no intentions of hurting anybody, she didn't know that and was willing to let me escape to protect her customers.

I put the stolen goods in my car and drove through town in a panic. I didn't know much about Mesquite, so I ended up driving into a dead end in an apartment complex. I laid low for a few hours. I took the stolen merchandise out of my car and hid it and then decided I would drive back to Vegas. I stopped to get some gas and when I came back out of the convenience store, my car was surrounded by police. The store manager was there and pointed me out. I tried to act like I wasn't the guy since I knew I didn't have any of the stolen things in my car, but there were so many videos that people had given to the cops, they knew it was me and they arrested me.

Looking back, getting arrested and spending eight months in jail was really the best thing for me. It's what led me to seek help at the Rescue Mission and allowed God to change my life.

Today I don't steal. Instead, I work at one of the movie theaters owned by the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies. It's a good, full-time job, but I look forward expanding my career options. I am working on getting my GED and, once I do, hope to enroll at Salt Lake Community College. I would like to get some training or education where I could work with animals or youth. I would like to try to help at-risk animals or youth who are in need.

In the meantime, I feel blessed for the job I have and have saved up enough money where I can move into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House this month. I want to move into Freedom House, the Rescue Mission's transitional housing unit, so I can continue to have accountability and some rules, while also preparing myself for when I have my own apartment. I want to take things slow and know I still need accountability if I am going to succeed.

*I feel blessed for the job I have and have saved up enough money where I can move into the Freedom House this month.*

My relationship with my mom has continued to grow better and better. As she has seen me stay sober and succeed, she trusts me more and more. I am also talking with my father, who lives in California, and he is proud of

me too.

I have become friends with the Mission's assistant house manager, Buddy Whitesell, whose story inspired me to come to the Rescue Mission. I have a great church family up in Farmington at Lifepoint Church. There's a guy who drives me and another New Life Program member up to Lifepoint each Sunday. I feel welcome there. Everyone there knows my story and, yet, they still love me. People invited me to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with them this year, so I feel like they accept me, despite my past. It's a good feeling.

The hardest part about joining the New Life Program was leaving my family behind in Vegas. Now, I feel closer to them than ever and feel like God has given me great family-like relationships with my brothers and sisters in Christ here in Salt Lake. If you remember, please pray for me as I graduate from the New Life Program and move into the Freedom House this month. Pray that God would keep me connected to my local church and recovery groups and that He would give me direction for the future. At age 26, I finally feel like my future is bright, if I stay close to God and in recovery.