

THANK YOU GENEVA ROCK AND PARKIN TENNIS COURTS



Running what amounts to a full-service hotel, restaurant, and recovery center for more than 200 homeless men and women each

day creates a lot of wear and tear. Our washing machines breakdown, our carpet wears out, and pipes spring leaks.

In short, there's a lot of building maintenance that needs to happen at the Mission! Our latest big need came at our Women's Facility where the concrete around our building had deteriorated to the point that it became mandatory to have it replaced.

A generous donor of the Rescue Mission said that he and his wife wanted to help make the concrete project happen. He jumped on the phone and called a couple of others to help, but the cost was still more than the donations they were able to gather.

That's when our great friends at *Parkin Tennis Courts and Geneva Rock* stepped in. Geneva Rock gave a generous donation of nine cubic yards of concrete and discounted price for the rest of the concrete needed to finish the project. Parkin Tennis Courts, who has helped with other concrete projects around the Rescue Mission, discounted their prices to put us within our budget.

We couldn't keep our buildings safe and secure without generous donations from community partners like Geneva Rock, Parkin Tennis Courts, and other generous donors, like you. We want to give you all a big thank you!

You are making a difference in the lives of homeless women, and those fleeing from domestic violence, by creating a safe environment. You help ensure that the Rescue Mission can Restore Broken Lives by providing a free inpatient recovery program and by supplying the poorest among us with hot food, safe shelter, warm clothing and a way off our streets.



APRIL 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

APRIL
2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JEFF AYDELOTTE: After a five-year descent, a father climbs back

It was just five years ago, the year before I turned 50, when my life spiraled out of control. My marriage fell apart and I started using meth. I lost my 20-year career as a funeral director and transformed from a run-of-the-mill, sober, middle-aged man living in Northern Utah to a homeless person, trying to survive on the unfamiliar streets of San Francisco and Salt Lake.

Getting divorced at age 49 shocked me. I had six children and years and years of marriage. Everything I knew fell apart. Lonely and alone, I made friends online and some of those friends introduced me to meth. I quickly became an addict. I started using every day. I lost my career as a funeral director and soon I couldn't hold down even basic employment. I worked at a call center for a little while but started coming to work high and eventually I couldn't deal with the customers. During one intense call, I stood up and said, "I can't do this." My employer gave me a drug test and then fired me.

With no job and a meth habit to support, I lost all my money and my residence. My brother put me up for a while, but I kept using and eventually he kicked me out. I knew some people in Northern California so I left Utah and went to stay with them, but that didn't work out either. Soon I was living as a homeless person on the streets of San Francisco.

The life of a San Francisco homeless person is shocking. There are so many homeless people. It's so crowded. It's scary and you often feel in danger. There's a lot of violence and it seems dirtier than most cities. Every day I was on the street I would look at the Golden Gate Bridge and think about going up on it and throwing myself into the Bay. It's hard to fully describe the complete misery I felt. But I now know that God uses all things, even misery.



Jeff Aydelotte is sober and has a great job in the transportation industry.

While I had grown up in a religious home, I hadn't prayed to God in years. But the misery of being homeless in San Francisco caused me to get on my knees and talk to God. I remember trying to bargain with Him. I told God that if He would just get me out of San Francisco, out of my hopeless situation, then I would serve Him.

Please see "Jeff" on page 3

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with us

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HE LIVES TO MAKE OTHERS COME ALIVE

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Luke 24:5b

This question was posed to a group of women who had come to make certain preparations around Jesus’ tomb on the day after the Passover Sabbath. It was the morning of the first Easter. The women found Jesus’ tomb empty and a pair of gleaming angels proclaiming that Jesus had risen from the dead.



Later, many of Jesus’ followers saw even more evidence, including His resurrected body. Each day I work at the Rescue Mission I see similar evidence that Jesus is alive. That evidence is most often seen when a soul is resurrected—when a person’s

soul is transformed from the dead, to the living as they come to know Jesus personally and intimately.

The people who spend time around the Rescue Mission are a diverse group, some know Jesus well and strive to follow Him, yet limited skills or underemployment keep them on the streets. Others are spiritually dead. They are broken to the point of giving up. Their pains are so great that the only “life” they can muster is to walk around, head down, seeking drugs or avoidance of people in order to dull the pain they can’t cope with anymore.

Some of our homeless friends are the deadest “alive” people I know. Oftentimes they seem like lost causes. “No amount of compassion or good advice we could give would ever make a difference,” I sometimes think. “It’s going to take a miracle.”

Good thing Jesus is alive to do miracles.

When I see people some would consider “lost

causes” transformed into faith-filled, sober, employed people, who move off the streets and into housing, I see evidence that Jesus is alive. I envision the empty tomb and understand Jesus is working on this Earth to save His people and change them. He is the only one I know who can transfer the dead to the realm of the living.

This Easter season I look forward to seeing many more life-changing miracles at the Rescue Mission. Each time I see one, I feel a little like those women at Jesus’ tomb who saw the first evidence of His resurrection. The next miracle I see Jesus do in the life of one of our homeless friends, like the one He did in Jeff Aydelotte’s life, will just be the most recent in a long chain of evidence that began on that first Easter. He is truly risen from the dead and lives even now to save those who come to Him.

I hope you have a blessed Easter and see evidence of Jesus’ resurrection in your life.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

The Tax Man Cometh!

Have you done your taxes yet? Remember April 15 is the day. If you have been blessed with a refund from the tax man this year or need a tax deduction for 2019, please consider making a special donation to the Rescue Mission. We could really use the extra support this year!

Our Stats

how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

| | February 2019 | YTD 2019 |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Professions of Faith | 23 | 49 |
| Meals | 15,521 | 31,990 |
| Family Food Boxes | 148 | 285 |
| Nights of Shelter | 4,046 | 8,286 |
| Clothing | 2,403 | 6,332 |
| Day Service/Hygiene | 1,502 | 3,207 |
| Jobs Obtained | 4 | 7 |
| Housing Obtained | 2 | 4 |

JEFF: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was just a few days later that I was given a bus ticket from San Francisco to Salt Lake. I saw the generous gift as an answer to prayer. When I returned to Utah, I went to a detox center. There I met someone who told me about the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and the New Life Program.

I was skeptical. Despite my answered prayer, I remained a religious scoffer and I knew the Rescue Mission’s approach focused on a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

But I came to realize that a relationship with God is what I needed. I remember the day I accepted Jesus as my Savior. I was talking to my counselor George Sproul, who kept encouraging me to seek God as I fought for sobriety. It was in George’s office where I told God that I believed in Him and His Son and truly wanted God to run my life.

Since that time, I have realized God is what I needed all along.

All my past attempts to stay sober and be a better person failed because I didn’t have God in my life and His help. I know now that God is real, and because He is real, He can help me stay sober.

It’s been nine months since I last used meth. Providentially, it was the same day that I stopped using meth that my first granddaughter was born. Since I have been sober, I have been able to build better relationships with my family. It’s a big family. I have four brothers and six kids. A few weeks ago, my father passed away. We all gathered in Ogden for his funeral. While it was a melancholy occasion, it was important for me to be able to spend time with my family as a sober brother and father. Some of my family relationships remain strained because of my addiction, but I can see God working to heal these relationships, even as our family endures the

loss of a father and grandfather.

One of the greatest things God showed me at the Rescue Mission was the value of serving others. When I was in the initial phases of the New Life Program I was able to help many needy families get family food boxes and helped others get the clothes they needed. I realized that a big part of my life needed to be focused on serving others.

When I moved to the employment phase of the New Life Program I was blessed to get a job where I felt like I could serve other people. I secured a job in the transportation industry. Right now, as low man on the ladder, I am a substitute. So, when other drivers call in sick or take vacation time, I fill in. There are so many routes and drivers that I always have work.

My job that helps me feel like I am continuing to serve people. Many people need help getting to jobs, grocery stores, appointments, or other places.

Now that I am working again, I am saving money so that when I graduate from the New Life Program in a couple months I can get my own apartment. I also want to stay connected to my home church, Berean Bible in Sandy. I enjoy the close-knit community there and feel accepted.

These new experiences: spending time with my family and working, are just adding fuel to my recovery. They kindle my desire to stay sober, even as I realized that Jesus is the one who can truly help me. Please pray that God would continue to keep me sober, make my relationships with my family better, and help me in my new job. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. Without your support and God’s help, I don’t know where I would be, or if I would even be alive. Thank you for this chance at a new life!

“I know that God is real . . . He can help me stay sober.”

Easter Banquet

Our Easter Banquet for the Homeless is Saturday April 20 in Pioneer Park. Hundreds of homeless and low-income kids will be coming for the egg hunt, face painting, and carnival games. Our homeless friends will enjoy live music, while receiving free clothing, a great meal, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, crisis counseling, and the opportunity to join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind.

We still need help to make our Easter Banquet happen. We need donations, including plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please), along with small stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games.

Please consider donating plastic eggs and candy or other kid-friendly fare. We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will see the love of Christ, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. If you would like to donate or volunteer at the Banquet, please contact our volunteer coordinator **Danielle Vaughns at 801.355.1302** – especially if you would be willing to cut hair during our banquet.