

SAVING A LIFE AT THE RESCUE MISSION



July was unbearably hot and the August swelter is in full effect, so we are continuing Operation Hydration to make sure the homeless remain safe this summer. To date, we are not aware of any heat-related deaths in the homeless community and we want to keep it that way. Yet it's been close.

A few weeks ago, just steps away from the Rescue Mission, our staff had to call 911 for 'Kelly' one of our homeless friends who was found non-responsive and laying on the sidewalk. Kelly is a lovely lady who struggles with mental illness. She talks with our staff team daily. As we tried to revive her, we noticed her lips were dry and peeling.

Despite the intense heat, she was not sweating and seemed to have been trying to wrap more clothes around herself as if she felt cold. We praise God for the many people who rushed to help Kelly. After two days in the hospital with IV's to hydrate her, Kelly is back at the Rescue Mission and has made a full recovery from severe, heat-related dehydration. She is now fully aware of Operation Hydration.

As part of Operation Hydration we have coolers filled with bottles of water, reusable squeeze bottles, hats, sunscreen, lip balm, and a cooled day room that keeps our homeless friends of the heat. Every day Kelly and a line of our homeless friends come to the hydration station in the Rescue Mission's foyer.

A neat part of the Hydration Station is that, given the Rescue Mission's limited staff size, the station is being manned by our homeless friends who have a trusted relationship with the Rescue Mission. It's an amazing thing to listen to our homeless friends manning the station talk with their friends about being careful in the heat and drinking plenty of water. They even encourage people to join the New Life Program.

Please consider supporting this effort by donating today. With more days of near 100-degree heat approaching we need your help! We want to ensure our homeless friends remain safe from the scorching heat, blistering sun, and stay out of the hospital.

AUGUST 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

AUGUST 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

TERRESA WOOD: A Grandmother gets off the Streets

Before I came to the Rescue Mission Women's Center, I don't remember knowing it existed. I don't recall looking for it, nor do I remember dialing the phone number, but I do recall asking them for help. I had been living on the streets of Salt Lake City for the past year and was at rock bottom. I had been robbed at knife point, slept behind dumpsters, used sidewalk curbs as pillows, and done things I thought I would never do to ensure I was safe.

But, at my absolute lowest point, I remember being on the phone with someone at the Rescue Mission. I remember pleading for help, and I remember a kind voice on the other end of the line saying they would help me. When I arrived, they told me they wouldn't force me to change the lifestyle I was living but that they would teach me God's truth from the Bible. And as I learned God's truth from the Bible, He did change me.

God took away the shame and guilt I was feeling. My previous view of God was that He demanded obedience and perfection. In fact, two years earlier I had joined a church where I was taught that God expected perfection from people. But by studying the Bible at the Rescue Mission, I found a different God.

I saw a God who had abundant love and forgiveness. The one true God is a God who could and would forgive me, not only for my past, but for my future mistakes as well. These realizations took away the guilt and shame of my many past sins (and the sins I knew I would inevitably commit in the future). I realized that if I found my worth in Jesus and what He did for me, I would experience joy, instead of pain and shame; and I did!

With a new belief and identity in Jesus, I felt less violent. It is difficult to admit, but I have been a very violent person. I have numerous assault charges and have often resorted to violence when I was angry or scared. I knew no other way to douse my anger or protect myself. Since fully turning my life to Jesus I have only had one violent episode, when I threatened another member of the New Life Program here at the Rescue Mission.

That threat was the turning point in my recovery. As a consequence of my threat, I had to leave the Rescue Mission for 48 hours and decide if I really wanted recovery and a new life. I was sobbing as I packed my bag for 48 hours away from the Mission. I felt mistreated and picked on. But then God changed my heart. I realized I wasn't picked on, I was the problem. While I was forgiven for my threat, I still needed to accept the consequences for my actions. When I returned



Terresa Wood has a good job and has left her life on the streets behind.

Please see "Terresa" on page 3.

Connect
with us

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COUNTING THE COST OF CARING

It costs a lot to take care of a person.

Think about the people in your life whom you might have taken care of at one point or another.

Maybe a child, or an aging parent, or a loved one with a disability. Perhaps it was someone in a unique circumstance who needed help.

It's difficult to account for the true cost of supporting one life. Of course, there's food, clothing, and housing. But there's also education, activities, household supplies, utilities, medical care, transportation, and spiritual nourishment.

So, when I read stories about homeless providers having costs

that exceed their anticipated budgets, I am not surprised, but I am sympathetic. It's hard to create a future-looking budget that envisions all the costs associated with taking care of just one person, let alone an entire community of our homeless friends.

While not surprising, this realization makes me praise and thank God. Since 1972, God has faithfully provided for the Rescue Mission. He has enabled us to pay water bills for showers and toilets, provide food for hungry bellies and souls, wash clothes, and have funds for a staff to teach Bible studies, recovery classes, personal counseling, job skills, and much more.

Really, God has used you, our faithful friends and supporters, to supply all of this. Because of our faith-based approach of boldly sharing that faith in Jesus is to the only real path to a new life, we do not accept any government funds. We don't have the ability to tax or take funds from one person to give to another. Instead, we use every penny entrusted to us to invest in people's lives with

wisdom, stewardship, and a balanced budget.

Your investment in other people's lives allows us to continue to meet all the needs of the people we take care of—even those needs that it is hard to budget for—while still sharing the love of God and the Gospel of Salvation. We wouldn't exist without your support, which I know comes from God through your gifts. Thank you for helping to take care of so many people. You are not only providing a meal and HOPE but a permanent path off the streets, into the arms of a loving God, who is creating self-sufficient, yet God-dependant people.

Your ongoing support of the important work God is doing at the Rescue Mission is paramount so we can continue our fight to Restore Broken Lives.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director



See page 3 for information about how the Rescue Mission is helping poor families during back-to-school time.

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	June 2019	YTD 2019
Professions of Faith	26	169
Meals	15,705	84,996
Family Food Boxes	134	1,697
Nights of Shelter	3,847	21,475
Clothing	8,058	29,476
Day Service/Hygiene	1,266	8,164
Jobs Obtained	4	24
Housing Obtained	4	22

Our Stats

how your gift helps

TERRESA: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the New Life Program I felt changed and have not had another violent incident since.

When I was on the streets, violence was all around me. One time I was robbed at knife point. The thing that stuck with me about being robbed was not the fear, it was the fact that I wasn't scared. I had grown so accustomed to the violence and abuse of street life that having a knife pulled on me didn't faze me.

Living on the streets for a year had made the crazy and unimaginable seem normal. Sleeping behind dumpsters had become acceptable.

That's a scary place to be, where things that would've shocked you previously become commonplace. You find yourself willing to do almost anything for basic safety and human needs. No person should experience street life, but many, in the deep fog of addiction, accept it.

I hadn't always been homeless. For much of my young adult life I was sober. I had five children, went to college, and had some normalcy, even as I sometimes struggled with substance abuse and abusive relationships. But the shame and guilt I felt over my past mistakes led to increased drug abuse. My addiction grew out of hand and I ended up on the streets, estranged from my family and friends.

I thank God that He led me to the Rescue Mission, where I was excepted and learned how much God loved me and wanted to create me into the woman He wants me to be.

Today, I am trying to rebuild my relationships with my five children and 13 grandchildren. Because of my struggles, I have only met three grandkids, but I want to be a loving, sober grandmother to all those babies.

“Living on the streets for a year had made the crazy and unimaginable seem normal.”

God has provided me with a good job at a uniform shop where I clean and repair uniforms for various companies. It's not necessarily a job I want to keep for the rest of my life (my goal is to eventually have a job where I can help others off the streets) but, for now, it allows me to provide for myself as I get used to working again.

In a couple of months, I will graduate from the New Life Program. I am hoping to move into the Mission's Hope House, which is a transitional housing unit for women who are getting off the streets. At Hope House I will have

the structure I need as I make the jump back into “normal” life. In my preparations to leave the Mission I am doing the things I know I need to do to stay sober. I go to recovery meetings, attend church on Sunday, go to

Bible studies, and talk with my accountability partners, including my community mentor, Bette Jean.

My great church family at Capital Church has made a huge difference in my life. A few weeks ago I was baptized into God's true family of believers. No, I am not perfect, but I realize I am forgiven because Jesus was perfect and sacrificed Himself for me.

I want to share a special thank you to the Rescue Mission's supporters. I am amazed that this place receives no government funding. When I was at my lowest point, the Mission gave me food, safe shelter, clean clothes, and loved me through addiction counseling. This was all provided to me at no cost, because of the generosity of the Mission's private donors, like you.

I thank you and praise God for you and His provision. It has been amazing to experience a complete life-change and I feel gratitude to all of you who helped make it happen.

Helping poor families go back to school

The Rescue Mission is here to help back-to-school parents who are struggling to make ends meet. By providing “like new” back-to-school clothing at no cost, the Rescue Mission ensures that poor working families can spend their minimal resources on rent, utilities, and transportation. Perhaps most importantly, parents can focus on keeping their kids in school, thus breaking the cycle of poverty, addiction, and homelessness.

The Mission will be giving away thousands of items of kid's clothing during back-to-school time. We have pants, shirts, shoes, socks, underwear, jackets, and more. We receive these items from donors and pass them on at no cost to the working poor. By “upcycling” these items, we ensure the working poor can spend their limited funds on maintaining housing so their families do not become homeless.

If you have “like new” kid's clothes or other kid-items, consider donating them to the Rescue Mission. The best place to drop them off is the Rescue Mission Women's Center: 1165 South State in Salt Lake. We will make sure these donations get to kids who truly need them, and, prayerfully, won't need our other services because you have helped them break the cycle of addiction and poverty.