Easter is coming early this year! That means we will be having our Easter Banquet for the Homeless next month, so we really need to start preparing now.

So join us by giving, praying and volunteering for this important event. After the holidays, we are low on some items we need to make our Easter Banquet complete so please consider using the enclosed envelope to donate today or via our website at RescueSaltLake.org!

On March 31, the Saturday before Easter, we will serve over 1,000 meals at our banquet in Pioneer Park, in downtown Salt Lake. The banquet will include music by local churches, messages of hope and God’s love and give the homeless in our community an invitation to join the Mission’s New Life Program – a free program that helps people get out of homelessness and into sobriety, employment and housing. There will be warm clothes, haircuts and we are planning an Easter egg hunt and carnival games for homeless and low-income kids.

Please see “Victoria” on page 3.
Having a mother and father is so meaningful for kids.

One of the best parts of my job is getting to be part of a restoration process that sees mothers and fathers reunited with their kids. Victoria Moore’s story in this month’s Rescuer is just the latest example. Her children are so excited to live with her again.

Many of the men and women we help here at the Mission are estranged from their kids. Because of addiction and homelessness their kids might be in foster care, or, as it was in Victoria’s case, living with relatives. So it’s a true blessing to see parents and kids reunited. The injury done to children from being separated from their homeless fathers and mothers is truly one of the unseen tragedies of homelessness.

As a faith-based and privately funded organization, the Rescue Mission is not actively involved with the legislative process. Yet, personally, I am excited about a bill being proposed in this year’s Utah legislative process. Yet, personally, I am excited about a bill being proposed in this year’s Utah legislative process. And while the bill this session focuses on fathers, hopefully as you read Victoria’s story you can see that mothers matter to kids too. For the men and women in the New Life Program, time and time again, being mom and dad to their children is reason they turn their life around and stay turned around. We are actively trying (and succeeding with God’s help) to reunite mothers and fathers with their kids in healthy ways. It’s one of the key ways we are restoring broken lives. Thank you for supporting our work here. Your prayers and giving help power the work we do.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

One of the things that helped me was having a community mentor, Marge Berry. She has a lot of life experience and can give me advice about things I go through. She has been a great friend and mentor to me. I am enjoying going to Capital Church and am encouraged by the messages and the people there.

I am now in the employment phase of the New Life Program and have a great job working as a housekeeper at a senior living center. I love the residents there. They make me happy and I enjoy helping them. They have so much wisdom to share with us younger people, so it’s a good place with a great environment. It feels good to support myself through honest work. I started selling meth several years ago and, although I made a lot of money doing it, eventually I became a drug addict myself. I was into the gang culture, so I would scheme ways to make money by shoplifting, opening fake bank accounts with forged checks and stealing from people.

It was a horrible life and caused me to miss most of my kids’ childhoods. When I started selling meth my son was two years old and my daughter was just an infant. I couldn’t have them around all the people who were constantly in and out of my house buying and using drugs. So I called my mom, who lives here in Salt Lake, and had her take them. They have lived with her since then, because I have never been able to get my life in order enough to be a mom. I am so thankful that my mom was a mom to my kids when I could not be.

When I started injecting meth a few years ago, my life really spiraled out of control. I would walk the streets at night with nowhere to go. I would walk and walk all night. Sometimes I would break into an empty house and spend the night, just to have a place to lay down. It really was a blessing to get arrested and end up on my knees before the judge.

Now, I am excited to try and make up for lost time with my kids and it blesses me to see how excited they are to move in with me. I know I still have a lot of work to do. There will be new challenges to face and lots of forgiveness.

I do have another 5-year-old daughter who lives with my mom. She was fed up with my drug abuse, took her and left Utah about four years ago. I haven’t wanted to reopen communication lines with her, so I don’t have any contact. I know that the situation is in God’s hands and He will work it out in a way He knows is best. I hope that one day I can be involved with my youngest daughter’s life as well.

As I settle in to my new life, I need to stay connected to my accountability team and my church family. I also need to keep away from old friends. I only need about eight credits to get my high school diploma and then I want to become a dental assistant. I have always wanted to be a dental assistant because I love to help people smile.

One part of my new life will be sharing my story with other people who are struggling with addiction. I believe God wants to use me to give hope and a spark of faith to others, who just need some help, like I did, to get off the streets.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and please pray for my kids and me. We need God’s help to be a family and I need His help to be a good mother.

Pray that God would take care of us.

Victoria:
Continued from page 1

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The Rescuer newsletter is a monthly publication of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. • Newsletter Editor: Brady Snyder • Printed By: Speedy’s Printing

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

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Thank you for your gift!