

IT'S COLD, AND WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO HELP

January is historically the coldest month of the year here in Salt Lake, and, consequently, the busiest time of year at the Rescue Mission. As we are gearing up to make sure all our homeless friends are warm and safe this January and February, we need your help!

Each day, when the temperature drops below freezing, our comfortable day room is open for those living on the streets to seek shelter and safety. We distribute warm winter coats, hats, socks, and sweaters. Our hot showers are open to thaw chilled bones and rinse away the grim of the streets. Safe shelter at night and healthy food for the belly also help ensure no one freezes on Salt Lake's streets this year.

All that help takes a lot of gas to heat the building and water, electricity to cook meals, and clothes to keep warm. So please consider donating to help cover these increased expenses. You can donate online, over the phone by calling our Donor Office at 801-746-1006, or by using the envelope included with this newsletter.

You can also look through your closet and see if there are any old coats, hats, gloves, socks, long pants, or sweaters you aren't using anymore. Throw those old clothes in your trunk and next time you are downtown, drop them by the Rescue Mission. We need all the warm clothes we can get this time of year, as supplies go out the door fast.

Of course, as we take care to meet basic needs and keep people safe, God gives us the opportunity to share His message of love and faith in Jesus. This message is important and necessary to warm hearts too!

Your support is critical to the important, life-saving work we are doing this January and February so please give today. We could not do it all without your help!



JANUARY 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

JANUARY 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

**TOMMY SANDERS:
An apartment after five years on the streets**

When my father died of a heart attack when I was 17, it felt like my life ended. He had been a preacher and I blamed God for his death. I couldn't handle the grief and for the next 25 years I spent my life trying to cover the pain by using meth and other drugs.

But while I may have turned my back on God at times, He never turned away from me and I am thankful he changed my life at the Rescue Mission.

During the five years before I came to the Rescue Mission my life had spiraled into hopelessness. I hadn't spoken to my daughter during that half decade and for most of those years I lived homeless in a tent. Sometimes I staked my tent down near the Jordan River or sometimes I pitched it in homeless camps around Salt Lake City. I covered my body in tattoos and I felt like my life would never get better.

The only times I wasn't homeless was when I was in jail for drug possession and probation violations. When I was arrested and put in jail in July 2017 I knew something needed to change. I started talking to a few of guys I was in jail with and they told me about the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

I talked to my case worker at the jail and he told me about some different recovery options. They were only 90-days long. I felt like I needed something longer. I had spent 25 years using drugs to cover deep emotional and spiritual pain. I didn't feel like 90-days was enough to really make a difference. I asked my case worker about the Rescue Mission. It was a one-year program and even though I knew it would be hard, I knew I needed something that would really change me.



Tommy Sanders spent five years living in a tent. Now he has a good job and his own apartment.

My case worker said the judge on my case was tired of giving me second chances. In 25 years I had never successfully completed the terms of my probation. I always ended up back in jail for violating probation or committing new crimes.

please see "Tommy" on Page 3

Connect with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org
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2018: A YEAR OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Thank you for a great year of ministry! At year's end (and the new year's beginning) it's a good time to reflect and thank God for the great work He did through the supporters of the Rescue Mission.



You – our supporters, prayer partners, and volunteers – made a big difference in the lives of the homeless community in 2018. As a note of encouragement, I wanted to share some great things that God accomplished through you this year.

> First and foremost, over 300 people (that we know about) received Jesus as their Savior at the Rescue Mission. Your support means we are free from any government subsidy, so we are free to proclaim the Gospel and provide Bible studies. We praise God for over 300 people receiving God's love for the first time or rededicating their life to Him.

- > This year there were more people on the employment phase of our New Life Recovery Program than we've ever had before. At times we had over 50 percent of the men and women on the recovery program in the employment phase. This big group included men and women who had transitioned off the streets, become sober, gone through recovery counseling, and were employed or job hunting.
- > We had 51 men and women who went through the initial addiction-recovery portions of the New Life Program and then found full-time time employment or progressed through our Transitions Program for those not needing the full recovery program. These men and women have become self-supporting members of our community, not dependent on government or societal handouts.
- > Likewise, we had 51 men and women who were able to find self-supported housing (they pay their own rent) after coming to us and going through our New Life and Transitions Programs. This is a great testament to our staff's focus on helping people become self-supporting, instead of consistently depending

on homeless service providers and other subsidies.

- > Through our reimagined Transitions Programs (which is designed to help people who don't need an addiction recovery program but are still homeless due to job loss or other factors) we helped dozens more people find work, housing, and get off the streets.

These highlights are just some of the ways your support helped the neediest people in Salt Lake during 2018. When you consider that the Rescue Mission amounts to a 170 -bed hotel for the homeless that also doubles as a full-time restaurant, day room, food and clothing pantry, inpatient recovery program, and more, you can begin to imagine all the work that God does here. It's amazing to see and such a blessing to be a part of it. Please know that your support is making a difference and helped restore many broken lives in 2018. By God's grace the work here at the Mission will restore many more broken lives in 2019.

I look forward with you in anticipation to see what God does this year.

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Christmas thank you!

We wanted to share a special thanks to all those who contributed to our Christmas gift outreach. We were able to give away hundreds of Christmas toys and gifts to needy children (and their parents). Your support also helped the men and women on our New Life Program be able to give gifts to their kids, even while they are separated temporarily as mom and dad work to overcome addiction. It was an awesome Christmas for many kids and families, thanks to your generosity.



TOMMY: Continued from Page 1

But the judge was gracious and gave me a final chance. It was December of 2017 when the judge let me out of jail so I could enter the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission. Through the Bible studies, meetings with my counselor, church services, and helping others, I learned that I had been too inwardly focused, thinking about myself all the time.

While recovery is a lot about yourself, it's also important to understand how your actions impact the people around you. God helped me to stop trying to control everything and be open to asking for help when I needed it. Soon, I was even able to take feedback (I used to call this unfair criticism) from other people and could use that feedback to change the way I was acting.

As I began to change I was able to forgive myself for the many wrong things I have done, instead of resenting myself. In my heart, I grew at peace with God regarding my father's death and forgave family members for wrongs I believed they had done to me.

As my heart changed, my life grew hopeful, instead of hopeless. Just a few weeks after I came to the Rescue Mission, my ex-wife and now 12-year-old daughter reached out to me. We met at a local diner near the Mission. It was the first time I had seen or spoken to my daughter in five years.

I apologized and told her I would work to be better. I knew that the proof would be in my actions, not my words, but it was pure joy to see her and to have the hope that I could become a real, sober part of her life.

Since that day I meet with her regularly. We go out to eat and just hang out. It's great to be able to be at least some kind of a dad for her, instead of completely missing in action.

God has made other changes in my life. I have a good

job now working on a construction crew out at the airport. I want to train to become an electrician and, for the first time that I can remember, feel that I have job opportunities where I can support myself and have a long-term career.

With my job I was able to work with my probation officer to get into my own apartment. It's a nice place where they take chances on renting to people who have criminal records. My apartment is right by the TRAX light rail line, so I take the first train each morning at 5:30 a.m. to make it out to the airport for my shift at 7:00 a.m. It's tiring, but it's an enjoyable, feel-good tiring, not like the debilitating exhaustion I felt when I lived on the streets.

In the next few weeks, my probation officer will apply to the court for me to be removed from probation. It will be the first time I have ever successfully completed probation and I am excited to be a completely

free man. At age 42, it's taken me a lifetime to feel truly free. I am free from legal troubles, free from addiction, and free in my heart because of what Jesus did for me.

It's hard to believe God has changed my life in all these ways. Still, I know I need to stay connected to Him and to recovery. I am going to regular recovery meetings and love my home church, Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake. I feel welcome there and not like an outcast. Pray that God will continue to help me stay sober, grow into a good dad for my daughter, and that I could continue to do well at my job. It's been an amazing change and I know it is all thanks to God and to you – the faithful supporters of the Rescue Mission. You make sure there is a place where hopeless people can find hope and a new life.

*As my heart changed,
my life grew hopeful,
instead of hopeless*

Our Stats how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	November 2018	YTD 2018
Professions of Faith	25	314
Meals	16,666	152,282
Family Food Boxes	139	1,331
Nights of Shelter	4,013	47,920
Clothing	14,832	60,901
Day Service/Hygiene	1,643	16,356
Jobs Obtained	1	51
Housing Obtained	2	51