

GIVING MORE THAN JUST CASH, OUR NEW “HELP CARD” CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



It’s often perplexing to come across a panhandler who is asking for help. Money for food or a motel room seems to be the most common request. It’s difficult to know if the person really needs help, or is just trying to buy alcohol or drugs.


Many of our supporters have told us that they are hesitant to give money to panhandlers, but also don’t want to just turn and look away. So for those who want an alternative, we have created “Help Cards” that people can freely give to panhandlers. These cards let panhandlers know that the Rescue Mission offers free food – fresh cooked meals and food boxes every day – as well as free nightly shelter and clothing.

There is also information about our New Life recovery program that can truly give the homeless a restored life by helping them off the streets and into employment and housing. So instead of giving money, we are encouraging our supporters to give a Help Card and let panhandlers know there is a place that can take care of their needs.

The cards are available at the Rescue Mission, or they can be downloaded and printed from our website, RescueSaltLake.org. Please use them to help panhandlers. We feel these cards will be more beneficial than cash, which they are likely to use for illicit purposes.



JUNE 2014 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Grace City Church	2 Road to Freedom Biker Mission	3 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth	4 South Mountain Community Church - Chapel and Kitchen	5 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church of Utah	6 Mt Olympus Presbyterian	7 Bible Baptist Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
8 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen	9 Intermountain Baptist	10 Unity Baptist	11 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	12 Millcreek Baptist	13 Hilltop United Methodist Church	14 Berean Bible
15 Alpine Church	16 Sandy Ridge Community Church	17 K2 - The Church	18 Capital Church	19 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church	20 Discovery Christian	21 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen
22 Grace Community Bible	23 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	24 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	25 First Methodist	26 Tooele Christian Fellowship	27 Midvalley Bible	28 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
29 Capital Church	30 Gateway Community Church					

RESCUER

JUNE 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



SHANE KNUDSEN: Coping with Life’s Pain without Alcohol

Editor’s Note: The Rescue Mission normally features stories of our New Life Program members who have come to faith in Jesus, kicked addiction and gained a changed life. This month, we feature the story of Shane Knudsen, who hasn’t yet made a decision to follow Jesus. Shane is what we might call a “seeker,” someone who came to us with little, if any, belief in God, but now believes there is some higher power out there, even if he is not ready to fully trust in the God of the Bible. Shane has always been open and filled with questions about his belief in God and process of faith. Please pray that God would continue to open Shane’s heart and lead him in truth.

My name is Shane Knudsen and, a year ago, my father and uncle tried to help my twin brother and I get help with our alcohol problem. Our drinking had increased steadily over the past two decades until it had become a serious problem.

Realizing the depth of our addiction, my father and uncle suggested we get help at the Rescue Mission. I took their advice and am proud to say I have been sober for the past year. But my twin brother refused to get help and a month ago he died in his sleep. The coroner said his liver gave out.

It was extremely difficult to lose my twin and best friend. Still, even during this hard time, I have been able to stay sober. I haven’t used a bottle to comfort my pain. Instead, for the first time, I feel there is something out there helping me to stay sober and get through it.

Developing a Lifelong Habit

I had a fairly normal childhood growing up in Taylorsville. My family belonged to a large church in our neighborhood, but we only attended sporadically. My father instilled a strong work ethic in my three brothers and me, and when I graduated from vocational school as a teenager, I started helping my father do plumbing and gas piping.



Shane Knudsen, who recently lost his twin brother to alcoholism, shares his story with other members of the Rescue Mission’s New Life Recovery Program.

I started drinking when I was 16 at weekend parties in our neighborhood. It didn’t seem like a big deal at the time. When I started working with my dad, I would work hard all day and then drink or go to parties at night or on the weekends.

I met a girl, and we got married and had a daughter together. But we were very young and our marriage floundered, ending in divorce three years later. Within a few years, I began a relationship with another woman and we had a son together, but, again, it ended five years later. My drinking had

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Connect with us

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WORKING TO END HOMELESSNESS IN SALT LAKE

Homelessness in Pioneer Park and downtown Salt Lake has been in the news lately.



Many of the reports have focused on crime, panhandling or loitering. Some of these reports are associated with the desire of developers to build condominiums in the area. The Rescue Mission is keenly interested in this because it is our neighborhood. It is home to the Rescue Mission and it is home to our homeless friends. It is where the Rescue Mission has been serving hurting people for over 42 years.

The police are taking proactive steps to curb crime. At the same time, the police realize that they cannot arrest their way out of such a complicated social problem. Homeless service providers, including the Rescue Mission, are also helping by actively working to identify and address needs in our homeless community.

To be sure, our homeless friends create unique situations. A mentally ill person or someone who never received love or learned social skills will struggle in public settings. A person who has been rejected their entire life and has no hope will often sit down under a tree or up against the side of a building and watch life go by.

Still, the homeless and hurting need our help. As Jason Mathis, Executive Director of the Downtown Alliance and member of the Salt Lake Chamber, noted in the May 9 issue of the Salt Lake Tribune, “It’s important to understand [that] the vast majority of homeless people are not criminals. Most are kind and generous souls who lead difficult lives – often through

no fault of their own. Think of a teen who ages out of foster care, a women fleeing abuse or a man whose medicals bills force him out of his home. Regardless of how people end up homeless, they deserve our help.”

As we continue to strive for solutions to help, the Rescue Mission welcomes a greater police presence in the downtown area. The police officers who currently serve the downtown area do a great job. Many of them know our homeless friends by name and continue to build trust and respect. In doing so, they learn who the true troublemakers are and hold them accountable.

If helping the homeless were easy, the situation would have been solved long ago. But it’s not easy! A person who experienced great difficulty in their early life may have not learned to read and write. They struggle in poverty, unemployment, debt, homelessness, addiction, and often have no hope. They need comprehensive, holistic care in each area of need. Yet most of all they require hope - hope through relationships with other people, and most importantly, Jesus Christ. If our homeless and hurting friends do not have hope, they will never let God change their lives. The solution requires all of us: individual citizens, service agencies, businesses, churches and government working together.

The Rescue Mission is a part of this holistic solution and we work with medical providers, employers, affordable housing advocates, law enforcement, and many other agencies. It takes time and cannot be solved in 30 days. Please pray that God blesses The Rescue Mission’s efforts to build trusting relationships and instill hope in people’s lives for lasting change. Thank you for enabling us to do so.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	April 2014	YTD 2014
Professions of Faith	41	87
Meals	12,676	48,877
Family Food Boxes	237*	980**
Nights of Shelter	4,724	16,488
Clothing	17,966	29,837
Day Service/Hygiene	321	1,422
	*4,740 meals	**19,600 meals

Our Stats
how your gift helps

SHANE:
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been increasing and it became a problem in our relationship. By the time my second long-term relationship ended, I was in my mid 30s, single again, still working hard and still drinking hard. I was a journeyman plumber earning good money building boilers and other complex pipe systems. My life was about me, money and alcohol.

Vegas, Booze and Golf

Soon after the turn of the millennium, construction in the Las Vegas area took off and my twin brother and I moved south for part of the action. We continued to make good money in piping and plumbing work for the seemingly endless construction projects happening at the time.

Not surprisingly, Las Vegas was a bad choice for two single brothers with a drinking problem. In Las Vegas, it seemed like access to alcohol was unlimited. While we still functioned at a high level at work, we kept drinking more and more. We devoted most of our free time to playing golf while drinking heavily on the course.

We made lots of friends and were even invited to become youth football coaches for a community team. On the outside life was good – golf, football and work. But on the inside, we both knew our drinking was becoming a more serious problem. By the late 2000s, the once sizzling Vegas construction market had gone belly up. With no more jobs, we moved back to Salt Lake City, where construction wasn’t quite as bad as it was in southern Nevada. Unfortunately, we brought our drink, work, and golf lifestyle with us from Vegas.

We kept drinking more and more, until one day last year, my father and uncle had seen enough and tried an intervention. They researched places that could help alcoholics get sober and eventually decided that the Rescue Mission was the best spot. My uncle knew the Mission’s House Manager, Don Hill, and Don said the Mission would help us.

When I heard my family wanted me to get help at the Rescue Mission, I said, “no way.” I had been working on a boiler project for a large downtown shopping center and each day after work I would stop at a convenience store directly across from the Mission. I would look across the street at the homeless people and judge them in my mind. “What a waste,” I thought.

Finally Getting the Help I Needed

In my mind, there was no way I was going to live with a bunch of homeless people. But the persistence of my uncle and father, and my continuing inability to stay sober, led me to walk through the Mission’s door. My brother, on the other hand, wouldn’t come with me. He refused the spiritual aspect of the program and didn’t want to read what the Bible had to say about life, hope or sobriety.

We had always been non-spiritual people, for the most part, so I understood his hesitancy. Still, I was desperate. At first, I hated the Rescue Mission. My family actually made bets about how long I would last there. Most said I wouldn’t make it longer than three days.

But each day I toughed it out and stayed sober. One of the biggest things for me was learning how to open the Bible and read it. I came to believe that there was a lot of truth in the

Bible and began to believe that there was something – God even – out there guiding me and helping me.

A month went by, and I was still sober. I started going to church at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake and found that I could use my experience as a construction foreman to help with several of the Rescue Mission’s building maintenance projects.

I discovered that I didn’t hate the Mission after all and that somehow being there was helping me stay sober. I was assigned a community mentor named Brent Platt, who is a graduate from the Mission’s New Life Program. He helped me, since he had gone through many of the same things I went through when he quit drinking at the Mission five years ago.

When it was time for me to enter the job phase of the New Life Program, I was blessed to get hired on for a downtown building project. I once again had a great job, but this time I was sober.

Then, about 11 months after I first walked into the Rescue Mission, I got word that my brother had died in his sleep after a night of heavy drinking. While I was devastated, I thank God that I have been able to stay sober, even after getting this news. My heart hurts, but I have not turned to alcohol to ease the pain.

In May, I graduated from the New Life Program and decided to move in with my nephew – my late brother’s son. He’s in his 20s, and I felt that I should be with him during this time. I really don’t know what I can say to my nephew or do to help him, but at least I will be there. I know he drinks alcohol and I can see the pattern of escalating alcohol use in his life. Please pray for me, my nephew and our whole family. Pray that we would get through this hard time. Pray that I could stay sober and continue to learn more about who God is. I thank all of you Mission supporters for giving me a place to go, get help and continue to rely on when I need it. Without the Rescue Mission, I might be dead too, but instead, I have been given a new life.

A SUMMER OF HOPE

Here at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, our “summer slump” is the time from June to August when gifts to the Mission slow down, but the number of people needing help stays the same or even increases. In fact, during the summer, the number of gifts we receive drops off nearly 45 percent! So before you head for the pool or take off on one last summer vacation, please remember the homeless and send a gift to the Rescue Mission. Your support will help us make this summer a true “Summer of Hope.” You can use the enclosed envelope or donate online at RescueSaltLake.org.