

## THE HIDDEN HOMELESS

The Rescue Mission tries to spotlight the struggles the homeless face and our efforts to help them. This month, we want to share the story of Utah's hidden homeless, caused by skyrocketing housing costs and underemployment along the Wasatch Front.

According to rentcafe.com, the going rate for an 862 sq. ft. apartment in Utah is \$1,166 per month. Many of our homeless friends who receive services at the Rescue Mission are employed, but don't make enough to pay \$1,166 rent on a wage of \$8-9 an hour. They want to have a place of their own, but they are working two part-time jobs that don't make ends meet. Their employers will not hire full-time employees because they want to avoid providing benefits, like livable wages and insurance.

Many people may not be aware of Utah's hidden homeless. People don't see them on the streets, standing in line for a meal, or panhandling. People don't see them because they are working or out looking for a better job.

In fact, about 25 percent of our homeless friends who seek shelter at the Rescue Mission are working. Many are staying at the Rescue Mission while they save money for first and last month's rent or are trying to work their way up the pay ladder, so they can afford a place to stay. Others of the "working homeless" are sleeping in their cars and vans discreetly parked all over Salt Lake Valley or discreetly staying in abandoned buildings.

One friend of the Rescue Mission, Brandon, has an elaborate system. His income is low and he can't afford an apartment, but he refuses subsidized housing. He can afford two memberships to two different 24-hour gyms. When he isn't working, he goes to one gym or the other in the evenings and slowly "works out" for hours.

It's not about fitness, it's about having a place to stay. He will take a shower, put on clean clothes, rest in a discrete place, and cause no problems. Other times he will dress up, take TRAX out to the airport, and pretend to have a flight that is departing early. This way, he quietly sleeps sitting in a chair while acting like he is waiting for a flight. Sometimes he will do laundry in an all-night laundromat, just so he has a plausible reason to be inside the laundromat while catching some sleep. Other members of the working poor have similarly elaborate schemes to "house" themselves while keeping their dignity.

There aren't any easy solutions to the problems of underemployment and high housing costs in Utah, but the Rescue Mission is committed to helping the poor through shelter, food, clothing, hygiene, friendship, and placement in living-wage jobs and affordable housing. Please support our efforts by giving, volunteering and praying. We are here to help both the obviously homeless and the hidden homeless end the cycle of homelessness and get into stable employment and housing.

# RESCUER

JUNE  
2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



## JUSTIN BOLLAND: After 15 years, a son finds sobriety and peace

*There are many things that "saved" me when I came to the Rescue Mission.*

First and foremost, it was developing a relationship with Jesus Christ. But I didn't expect God to use the work therapy portion of the Rescue Mission's New Life Program to make such a big change within me.

For the past 15 years, I have been in and out of jail and addicted to meth and other drugs. During this time, I didn't do a lot of work, other than selling drugs to support my addiction. So, when I came to the Rescue Mission last year without much productive work history, I felt like a failure. My confidence was shot, and I didn't know if I could ever work in a "normal" work environment, interacting with customers and coworkers. Having a "normal" job seemed like an impossibility.

But almost immediately, the Rescue Mission put me to "work." As part of the New Life Program you help run and organize the Mission. There is laundry to be done, meals to be cooked, homeless and low-income friends to help. Beds need to be made and spills cleaned up. There are dishes to be done and evening chapels to prepare for. There are homeless men who need someone to talk to, someone who can understand the deep struggles they are going through.

When I walked into the Mission, I didn't realize I would quickly become part of this work. But as I understood that part of the New Life Program was helping to run the Rescue Mission's day-to-day services to our homeless friends. I could feel God begin to change my heart.

As I made beds, cooked in the kitchen, washed dishes,



Justin Bolland has a good job working on the Salt Lake City Airport construction project and has reconnected with his family.

and was eventually promoted to the check-in desk, I felt part of a team. I dealt with sometimes difficult customers. I interacted with coworkers. I stayed sober and seemed to make a positive difference in many other people's lives. I know most of you reading this probably accomplish similar things on any normal day, but for me, it was confidence-building. I began to believe that I could have a real, respectable job again. I believed in myself and my ability to serve God and people through work.

Because of the confidence I gained through work therapy at the Rescue Mission, I wasn't so nervous to enter the employment phase of the New Life Program.

Please see "Justin" on Page 3.

### JUNE 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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with us

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## BIG FATHERS OF UTAH

*I'm sure you have all heard of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. It's an organization that partners at-risk youth with healthy mentors.*



In this month when Father's Day arrives, I like to think of us at the Rescue Mission like "Big Fathers of Utah." We recognize that not everyone is blessed with a good father (which is all the more reason to thank God if you are blessed with a good one). In this fallen world, the reality is that some people will be born with abusive and addicted dads (and moms). It's a sad reality that many people

who are abused and neglected by addicted fathers become homeless and struggle with addiction themselves.

That's where the Rescue Mission steps in and acts like Big Fathers of Utah. To many young adults who never had a good father, the Rescue Mission's compassionate staff and army of community disciplers steps in to be loving father-figures. They fill fatherly roles to the men and women in our New Life Program who unfortunately never had a good relationship with their dads.

A great example of this is one of our former students, Patrick. He was in his late 20's and had never been to a zoo in his life. When Norm, Patrick's discipler, learned this, he immediately arranged to take Patrick to Utah's Hogle Zoo. Patrick returned home to the Rescue Mission that evening beaming like a little boy who just discovered ice cream.

Filling the shoes of absentee "dads" is important because it can break the cycle of addiction a cycle that sees the kids of the addicted struggle with addiction themselves. By providing fatherly love, support and guidance, the cycle can be broken, healing can occur, and children can thank God for the positive, father-like relationships He has provided. Best yet, they can learn to accept God as their loving "Abba" a daddy who loves and cares for

them unconditionally.

If the world was without the scourge of sin and selfishness, everyone would have a perfect father. I know that is how God wanted it when He created people. Unfortunately, we humans have messed up God's perfect plan and part of that messing results in imperfect fathers. Fortunately, God sent His son Jesus to provide forgiveness for sin and a way that we can all be with our one, true perfect Father in Heaven one day.

Until that time, I am proud that we have staff counselors and a team of volunteers who believe in Jesus and can act like "Big Fathers of Utah" to so many homeless men and women on the streets of Salt Lake. It's a joy to love people, as we experience Jesus' love towards us. When Father's Day rolls around this month, remember to thank God. Thank Him if you were given a good father. If you weren't given a good father, thank Him that there are people, like the staff and volunteers at the Rescue Mission, who are willing to love like fathers should. And most of all, thank God that He is the one and only good Father who has graciously made a way for his Sons and Daughters to live with Him in Heaven one day.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director



Read our story about Utah's Hidden Homeless on the back page. Rescue Mission friends like this women are living out of their cars or finding other creative ways to "house" themselves.

## JUSTIN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite my nearly constant drug addiction over the past 15 years, I did have some training in welding. With confidence in hand, I was able to secure a good job with a construction company working on the Salt Lake City Airport construction project. My company is doing a lot of the piping work and I help with fire safety on the welding crew. It's a good job and I have the potential to advance to become an actual welder.

As God has changed me, I have reestablished good relationships with my parents. Prior to coming the Rescue Mission, they had cut ties with me. Through my drug addiction, I had taken advantage of them so many times that finally they told me, "we're not going to help you fail."

It was a blessing to tell them that I was in the New Life Program, was sober, and was experiencing God's changing power. When I called them they immediately came to the Rescue Mission and visited me. It was heartbreaking to hear my mother tell me that she had resigned herself to the fact that one day she would get a call informing her that her son had died from a drug overdose.

It was hard to hear that my addiction had caused this fear to settle in her mind, but I know that part of recovery is moving forward from past regrets and accepting the forgiveness of God and His people.

In the past, I felt overwhelming shame. Every time I called my parents it was to tell them bad news. I had lost a job. I had been arrested. It reached the point where I couldn't communicate with them anymore because I felt like such a failure. Now, they are proud of me. They appreciate that I came to the Mission on my own and have reestablished a relationship with God. It's an amazing feeling to have your parents believe in you again. My community discipler, who the Mission set me up with, walked me through the story of the Prodigal Son in the Bible and it felt like my story.

The best part has been having a personal relationship with Jesus. One of the biggest things I have realized here

at the Rescue Mission is the gravity of what Jesus went through for me, for us. He died in a terrible way for us. That is no small thing, but it is something that I have taken for granted in the past. Being constantly reminded of Jesus' sacrifice and the help from the Holy Spirit that His sacrifice offers, has been huge for me. Learning the facts about Jesus and believing them has made all the difference.

The Rescue Mission has even helped me physically. I have type 2 diabetes and when I came to the Mission my disease wasn't in control. But the Mission connected me with the Fourth Street Clinic and I now have healthcare and a plan for better health.

All this good news is not to say I am without struggles. I remain on probation for the numerous drug-related crimes I have committed. Still, my probation officer is proud of me and I look forward to completing probation.

During my time on the New Life Program, the Rescue Mission has been so good in helping me get to one court date or another. It's amazing, but for the first time in a long time, I don't feel like a criminal.

My sister, who I have wronged so many times, understandably remains skeptical of the change that has happened in my life. She is still reluctant to have contact with me. I hope that though lasting change, I can have a relationship with her again.

I was in a dark place physically, mentally, and spiritually when I came to the Rescue Mission. But I was shocked at how quickly God changed my life by surrounding me with His people, His word, and His work. It's been an exciting journey. When I graduate from the New Life Program in a couple of months, I plan to move into the Terri Timmerman Freedom House, which is the Mission's transitional housing unit for men. There, I will continue to have good structure and accountability while gaining more independence. Please pray for me as I make this transition. Pray that I would stay close to God, continue in sobriety, and have further restoration of relationships.

*"I WAS SHOCKED AT HOW QUICKLY  
GOD CHANGED MY LIFE"*

## OUR STATS how your gift helps

*These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!*

	April 2019	YTD 2019
Faith:	30	217
Meals:	11,729	56,201
Family Food Box:	88	472
Shelter:	4,071	16,543
Clothing:	9,621	18,768
Day Service:	1,177	5,556
Jobs:	4	15
Housing:	7	15