Your support this May will have double the impact.

To make it happen, all you have to do is make a donation to the Mission this month. ImpactHomes.us and an anonymous donor, will match every donation the Mission receives in May, dollar for dollar, up to a total of $15,000. So every dollar donated turns into two!

This opportunity means Rescue Mission donors can double their impact, having their gift go twice as far to help homeless and hurting men, women and children off our streets.

Just imagine your gift providing:

- Double the number of meals provided
- Double the nights of shelter
- Double the hours of job coaching
- Double the number of people off our streets
- Double the number of meals provided
- Double the nights of shelter
- Double the hours of job coaching
- Double the number of people off our streets

If we can match the ImpactHomes.us and the anonymous donor’s challenge it will mean $30,000 that will help hungry and hurting people in our community. This amount will be part of what we need to sustain the Mission’s life-changing ministry during the hot summer months when donations to the Mission fall off, and our costs, like water and electricity, soar.

So please take up this important challenge today. Use the enclosed envelope to donate, give securely online at RescueSaltLake.org, or call our donor relations line at 801.746.1006 to give via credit card over the phone. Together we can make this happen!

P.S. We want to give a special thanks to ImpactHomes.us for providing this opportunity. They have

...continued...

It was really the daily bible studies, chapel services, prayer, and personal Bible study that God used to heal me. While I had grown up in a religious home, I had never learned even the basics of the Bible. Understanding who God is and knowing His forgiveness changed me from the inside out. The counseling sessions helped as well because I carried around a lot of guilt, especially related to my four children. One is 19 now and the others are 11, 10, and 5. I believe that would be my lot as well, to never work and instead live off a small Social Security check each month.

But somehow, God miraculously healed my brain at the Rescue Mission. Most of the people in Mental Health Court are put on Social Security disability because they are not able to work. I believed that would never be the “real me” again.

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**Making More Mother’s Days**

Everyone, at some point, has had a mom. The vast majority of us have loving moms we cherished throughout our lives. For some people their mother is no longer in their lives. The curse of sin causes death and hurt feelings that leave some without their mothers or estranged from them. At the Rescue Mission, we are in the business of making great Mother’s Days happen (Father’s Day too). Many times, the women we help haven’t had the best moms in the world and have been hurt. In turn, some have not been the best moms. Because of addiction, and life struggles, they have neglected their kids, sometimes securing other family members to raise their children when they can’t.

It’s hard for kids to see moms lost to addiction. Children can’t understand how a mother could choose a life of drugs or alcohol over their own children. But that is just how strong the grip of addiction is, tearing even the strongest bonds of children and mothers apart.

For moms struggling with addiction, the guilt over not caring for their children can be suffocating. Like Mindy Irazoqui, who shares her testimony in this month’s Rescuer. The weight of addiction is, tearing even the strongest bonds of mothers and children apart.

So join us in praying for the mothers still living in addiction on the street and the ladies striving to rebuild their lives at our Women’s Center. It’s very easy to judge them, and many do, but realize they are often judging themselves too. They need our help to once again be healthy moms to kids who will often welcome them back with open arms, just like the father who embraced his Prodigal Son. It doesn’t happen overnight or without many tears, but it does happen. It blesses me to see God make it happen and I hope it makes you rejoice when we share stories about mother’s being reunited with their kids. Your support is a key part of that process.

If you have been blessed with a great mother, remember to thank God and thank your mom this Mother’s Day. And even if your mother is no longer in your life, I want you to know that you can celebrate Mother’s Day too, as you pray for and support the Rescue Mission. Your prayers and support are making great Mother’s Days across Utah as women whose lives have been changed at the Rescue Mission become moms again.

God bless you.

Chris D. Crosswhite

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**Spring Cleaning?**

If you are cleaning out your closet for Spring, remember the Rescue Mission is a great place to bring your old clothes. We especially need men’s underwear and socks, but all clothes help. If you have things that don’t fit or are out-of-style bring them to the Rescue Mission and we will pass them on to some of the neediest people in Utah. Drop by anytime, we are always open.

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**Mindy:** Continued from Page 1

signed my parental rights for three of them over to my father, and my 11-year-old I gave up for adoption. It’s an open adoption and she is doing well. I get to see her often.

But I felt overwhelmed shame for not being a good mom to my two youngest kids. When I was on meth I neglected them. I would sleep in until three o’clock in the afternoon and didn’t do the normal mom things most mothers enjoy. I kept no schedule for them and the guilt I felt for being a neglectful single parent overwhelmed me at times.

But accepting Jesus as my Savior, while embracing God’s forgiveness, healed me from this guilt. Not that I don’t remember it and am sad about it at times, but the paralyzing guilt is gone and living free from shame, in light of God’s grace, freed my soul.

Today, I have been sober for 17 months. While most people are required to be in Mental Health Court for three years, I am doing so well that I think they are going to let me graduate a year early. I have two months left until I complete the Rescue Mission’s New Life Program and once I graduate the Mission’s program, the judge will likely graduate me from Mental Health Court as well.

Another thing that has helped me is the great support I receive from my home church, Calvary Baptist, and the Rescue Mission staff and volunteers. I was baptized at Calvary Baptist on Easter and my community mentor and I meet twice a week to talk about how I am doing. The Mission’s staff helped me to understand that life is not all about me. While at the Mission I oversaw our clothing orders, so I was able to put together clothing packages for women and children who couldn’t afford to purchase clothes for themselves. Helping others, instead of always thinking about my own life and mistakes, was a mental game-changer for me and was another step towards becoming healthy.

Looking to the future, I can see myself working in a field that helps low-income people or those struggling with addiction get back on their feet. I am considering schooling to become a counselor or other type of social-worker. But my goals are far in the future. For now I am working on getting my driver’s license, something that will open up opportunities for me. Also, I am still working through custody questions with my dad. He wants me to prove to him that I can be sober outside of a structured environment like the Rescue Mission. I will need to continue to make progress in sobriety and personal growth once I leave the Mission before he will let me have regular contact with my kids again. For now, I am only able to talk to them on birthdays or special occasions. And while I really appreciate my dad stepping up and becoming like a parent to my children, I do hope to one day be their mom again.

I love my kids and want to be there for them in the future. So please pray for me. God has changed me so much but I am still a work in progress. Pray that I would make a smart decision about where I move when I graduate from the Rescue Mission. I need God to show me the right place for me. Also, pray that I would continue to do well at work and stay sober. God has given me a second chance and healed my mental health issues. I need His continued help so I won’t go back to where I was, when I had truly lost my mind because of addiction. Pray I would stay connected to Calvary Baptist, my home church, and that I would continue to build strong relationships.

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

June 2017 YTD 2017

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