

DONATE TODAY! SUBWAY IS OFFERING A \$10,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE IN MAY



Please donate to the Rescue Mission during May to support the sixth annual Subway Days! This year, there's even a way you can earn a free, six-inch Subway sandwich.

Here are the three ways you can get involved.

First, be part of Subway's May Matching Gift Challenge. Once again, Subway Restaurants will match every donation made to the Rescue Mission in May, dollar for dollar, up to Subway's maximum contribution of \$10,000. Every dollar donated turns into two!

This opportunity means Rescue Mission donors can double their impact in May, having their gift go twice as far to feed the hungry and help poor men, women and children off the streets. If Mission supporters' donations add up to \$10,000, it will mean \$20,000 for the Mission! \$20,000 means a lot, especially during the summer months when donations to the Mission fall off, and costs, like fuel and electricity, soar.



Second, pray for Subway Day. As part of the Rescue Mission/Subway partnership, Mission volunteers and Subway employees will head to Pioneer Park on Tuesday, May 19, to serve free six-inch subs to the hungry and homeless. Hopefully, Subway Day will provide not only food, but also encouragement for the homeless in our community. We want them to take advantage of our life-changing services, designed to get people off the streets and into housing and employment.

Third, earn a free six-inch sandwich. New this year, Subway is urging people to donate new and gently used tennis shoes to the Rescue Mission. People who come to the Mission and donate a pair of shoes in good condition will get a certificate for a free, six-inch Subway sandwich. Quantities are limited - so it's first come, first served! And remember, only one certificate per person.

MAY 2015 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mt Olympus Presbyterian	2 Bible Baptist Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
3 RMSL	4 Road to Freedom Biker Mission	5 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth	6 South Mountain Community Church - Chapel and Kitchen	7 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church of Utah	8 Hilltop United Methodist Church	9 Berean Bible
10 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen	11 Intermountain Baptist	12 Unity Baptist	13 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	14 Millcreek Baptist	15 Discovery Christian	16 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen
17 Alpine Church	18 Bennion Christian Center	19 K2 - The Church	20 Capital Church	21 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church	22 Midvalley Bible	23 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
24 Grace Community Bible 31 RMSL	25 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	26 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	27 First Methodist	28 Tooele Christian Fellowship	29 Gateway Community Church	30 Capital Church

RESCUER

MAY 2015

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



ZACK HARRIS: A three-time cancer survivor is healed

My name is Zack Harris. When I came to the Rescue Mission last year I was only 21 years old, but had already beaten cancer three times. Still, my fight with cancer, which began when I was diagnosed with childhood leukemia at age four, had left me listless. I needed something to change on the inside, and I found the change I needed at the Rescue Mission.

Healing my Heart

While I didn't know it when I walked into the Rescue Mission, after about a month and a half of being at the Mission I realized I hated God. At the very least my true feelings toward God were distrust, anger and frustration. I came to realize that deep down, I blamed God for my cancer. Why did I get childhood leukemia when I was four and spend the next three years of my life undergoing chemotherapy and radiation at Primary Children's Hospital? Why, when I was almost eight, did I wake up from a nap ghost white, and discover the cancer had come back? Why, after being in remission for several years, did I walk out of Taylorsville High School with a crippling headache, only to find out a cancerous tumor was growing in my brain?

In my heart I answered these questions like this, "Because God hates me. He did this to me." I really didn't know I felt like this until I came to the Rescue Mission. While I was skeptical of "religion," I had always believed in God or a "higher power." In my darkest days of going through cancer treatment, hearing about my prognoses and feeling like I was going to die, I would cry out to God. I begged Him to reach down and save me.

And while God has always answered my cries (even my brain tumor responded to chemo and radiation treatment), I still blamed Him. I felt like He was punishing me for something. That He had forgotten me.

It was only after I had been at the Rescue Mission for over a



Zack Harris stayed at Primary Children's Hospital many times as he battled childhood leukemia. Now, by God's grace, Zack is in remission and works as a custodian at the hospital.

month that I realized what I needed to do to change. I was sitting in the nightly chapel service at the Mission. I started praying quietly to myself. I told God that I couldn't hold onto my burden anymore. I realized that it was a burden to hate God. That hate, to carry it around inside of you, especially when the one you hate is God, can cripple a person.

It sounds strange or even blasphemous to say this, but in that moment I forgave God. I told Him I didn't want to hate Him anymore. I asked Him to help me forgive and let go. It was in that moment that I felt my relationship with God was

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Connect
with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org
 Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)
 Email: info@rescuesaltlake.org
 Phone: Main - 801.355.1302 Finance Office - 801.746.1006
 Mail: PO Box 1431, Salt Lake City, UT 84110
 Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

OUR TRANSITION PROGRAM

I wince when I hear people suggest that the Rescue Mission only helps people who are homeless and addicted. After wincing, I try to help people understand that our ministry to the community is so



much larger than sheltering the homeless and addiction recovery. People become homeless for many reasons, not just because of addiction, and are not always in need of joining our inpatient New Life 'Recovery Program.' For those that are "situationally homeless," we come to their rescue and provide them with the temporary help they need to get back on their feet.

This was largely the case for Zack Harris, who shares his testimony in this month's Rescuer. Zack didn't have

a major addiction problem, but instead became homeless after a life of cancer treatment left him rudderless and bitter. While Zack needed our full New Life Program to get back on track, many of the situationally homeless need less intensive help. As always, we are blessed to help them.

Like Zack, many of the situationally homeless have medical issues that force them to streets. Many have long-term medical issues and resulting bills that leave them without employment and deeply in debt. Others might have legal woes that cause them to lose their housing. "Roger" is one man that we are helping right now on our two to four month "Transitions Program." Roger was living with his father and helping to take care of him.

When his father passed away, Roger realized that the house was in his father's name and his dad's will was not really clear as to who inherited the house. Roger was forced to leave the house and, as a result, had nowhere to go. Roger has been forced to spend all his money on an attorney who is now fighting for Roger

to get back his father's house through the probate process.

With nowhere to live and all his resources exhausted on legal fees, Roger came to the Rescue Mission and asked for our help. We have been able to let Roger live at the Rescue Mission for free, while giving him some case management on his legal issues and how he might transition back into housing, even if he can't recover his father's home.

While Roger is frustrated by his situation, he has truly appreciated our help and we have been able to show him God's love while he deals with the loss of his dad and experiences legal frustration. If we were not here, I truly do not know what Roger would do.

I share this to let you, our faith supporters, know just how much your support means to so many people in our community. There are all sorts of reasons why people need our help and oftentimes it is through no real fault of their own. I personally appreciate your support as it enables us to come to the rescue of so many. I wish you could experience the joy I feel when I tell people that we can and will help them. It's one of the best parts of my job and is enabled 100 percent by our great God and you, our faithful supporters.

I hope that by reading this you realize what a great service your support is providing.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite

Executive Director

The Rescue Mission's Transitions Program is designed to help people who don't need our full thirteen-month inpatient New Life Program. Transitions helps people who are situationally homeless because of loss of employment, housing, health or other problems. Transitions lasts one to four months and offers the full services of the Rescue Mission with less of an emphasis on individual counseling, and a more immediate emphasis on job placement and budgeting. It is our goal to meet as many needs as we can in our holistic approach to helping people in need.

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	March 2015	YTD 2014
Professions of Faith	25	61
Meals	14,723	40,982
Family Food Boxes	226*	688**
Nights of Shelter	4,865	13,935
Clothing	10,294	35,375
Day Service/Hygiene	497	1,494
	*4,520 meals	**13,760 meals

Our Stats

how your gift helps

ZACK: Continued from Page 1

reconciled. And then I just thanked Him. I thanked Him for Jesus and making forgiveness possible. I thanked Him for my family who was there for me when I was stuck in Primary Children's Hospital getting chemotherapy. I thanked Him that I was alive.

I thanked Him for my father, who had become a Christian a few years ago, after he and my mother divorced. It was really because of my dad that I came to the Rescue Mission. I had seen such a change in his life since he became a Christian. He was like a different person. My father had become so nice and kind that I wanted to be like my dad. I wanted what he had.

On that night at the Rescue Mission chapel, I believe I began to have a real relationship with God that led to my life change. I came to the Rescue Mission without much of the drug addiction and alcoholism that many deal with. Instead, I just lacked hope and direction.

Cancer and Laziness

After I graduated high school (which I was proud to do, despite my continuous childhood treatment) I had bounced around from my dad's house, to my mom's house, to my aunt and uncle's house, to couch surfing at friend's houses. Everywhere I went I was kicked out for not paying rent or not doing what I had committed to do. At my dad's house, for instance, he told me I could stay with him rent free as long as I went to college. So I enrolled at Salt Lake Community College, but after a few weeks I quit going to class and dropped out. When my dad found out, he told me I had to find another place to live.

Similar situations happened and eventually I had no one who would put up with my freeloading. I felt bad about burning bridges, especially since my family was always there for me. When I had to stay at Primary Children's for treatment, my aunts, uncles and other family members would come stay the night with me when my parents needed a break. They even arranged for special teachers to come do schoolwork with me at the hospital or in my house when I was getting treatment as a child. My family had always been there for me and I blew it. I could make excuses about how chemo and radiation had caused me to have a bad memory and made me unable to concentrate at times, but really it just seemed like I was being lazy.

So after I had no one who trusted me enough to let me live with them, my dad and my step-mom suggested I try the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. Maybe, they said, the New Life Program could help me. And after that night in the chapel when my heart changed, I can truly say they were right.

When I first arrived at the Mission, I thought I was better than all the "homeless people." I wasn't really a drug addict or alcoholic so I looked down on those who were. But after getting to know people, I found that they were just like me. They had the same thoughts, feelings, hopes and fears that I did, only they struggled with sobriety more than I did.

I came to appreciate all the people I met, including my community discipler, Kevin Hanley. He helped me reconnect with my mom. Kevin got me to reach out to my mom on Facebook and then start communicating with her. Now, I visit her and her fiancée regularly, usually once a week. It's awesome to have a good relationship with her again.

In December it was time for me to move to the employment

stage of the New Life Program and start looking for work. Employment, in all honesty, has been one of my biggest struggles in life. My poor work ethic was the biggest reason my parents would not let me live with them anymore. My typical pattern was to be lazy in looking for work and then, only when people were putting a lot of pressure on me, would I actually get a job. The jobs I would get would just be fast food or convenience store type positions and I never lasted very long at one place.

Breaking Free from my Pattern

So when I first started looking for work on the New Life Program, I fell back into a pattern of procrastinating and then, when I did work, it was only at temporary jobs. Finally, Greg Sheffield, the Mission's Job Placement Coordinator, implored me to go up to Primary Children's Hospital, talk to the human resources director and share my story.

At Greg's encouragement I did just that. I took the light rail up to the Hospital and sat down with one of the HR representatives. I told her the story of how Primary Children's had helped me beat cancer three times. I told her how the nurses took care of me and how they made me laugh, even when I was at my lowest points. I told her how much the hospital had meant to me and how I probably wouldn't be alive without it.

Then I shared how I became homeless. How I was living at the Rescue Mission. How my life, in many ways because of cancer, had gotten off track. I told her I needed a job and how I would love to work for Primary Children's Hospital since it was a place I knew and loved.

I have heard that it can be a long process to get hired by Intermountain Healthcare, the company that owns Primary Children's Hospital. However, I got a call from the HR person that night. She said she wanted me to come in the next day for an interview. I had one interview and they hired me as a custodian. I was so happy. It was just one more way the hospital had stepped in to save me.

Today, I feel like I have a future and hope. My job at Primary Children's Hospital has great benefits, including tuition reimbursement. My plan is to use this tuition assistance to get into a nursing program and, hopefully, move into a nursing position at the hospital one day. I remember how much the nurses at the hospital meant to me when I was there. I feel, because of my experience, I could be a great nurse and help others who are struggling with things like cancer and have to stay in the hospital.

I can't believe how my attitude and outlook has changed since I have been at the Rescue Mission. Without the Mission's support I would not have the future I have now. My goal is to get my own apartment when I move out of the Mission this month. Please pray for me as I transition out of the Mission. I have always struggled with managing my finances and paying bills. Usually, I just spend and waste money without any financial discipline. But I think that, with God's help and the budget the Rescue Mission is teaching me to put together, I can make it. I know I can also rely on great support from my home church, K2 the Church, where I attend with my father and step-mom. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and creating a place that is there to help people like me get back on their feet. God bless you!