

CLEAN OUT YOUR WINTER CLOSET  
AND HELP THE HOMELESS

There are few things more freeing than getting rid of your old stuff. And if we take Jesus’ advice about not storing up treasures on earth, we can even view decluttering as a biblical mandate.

As you prepare to purchase new winter clothing (and subsequently purge your old winter gear), please remember the homeless. Each year when temperatures plummet, we run very low, if not completely out, of things like coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots. It’s heartbreaking to tell a cold homeless person that we don’t have warm clothes for them or see a person wearing sandals on our snowy streets. So put your old warm clothing in the trunk of your car and next time you are downtown, drop them off at the Rescue Mission. You’ll benefit by decluttering the stuff you aren’t going to wear anymore and you’ll help make sure the homeless have warm winter clothes.

If you need more motivation, here’s three tips from buzzfeed.com to get you started.

1. To begin cleaning out a messy closet take every single thing out of it, then you can work backwards by putting the things you want to keep back in.
2. When choosing items to keep, ask yourself a few vital questions.
  - Does it still fit?
  - Have I worn it in the last 12 months?
  - Would I wear it again?
  - If I saw it in a store now, would I buy it?
3. If there isn’t anything wrong with the items that you do not want to keep, consider giving them away.

And if you do give them away, please give them to the Rescue Mission, where we will pass them on to the neediest people in Utah. We will find a good home for all types of clothes—men’s, women’s, and kids. Winter is coming and we need your help to make sure everyone stays warm this year.



SEPTEMBER 2016 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

RESCUER

SEPT  
2016

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake

RANDY THORTON:  
Failing my way into God’s success

**Editor’s Note: We are often asked about our success rate. People wonder, “How many of the people who come through your door end up changing their life and leaving the streets.” This month, we bring you a story that may help people understand how complicated it is for us to measure success. Randy Thorton would probably fall into our official “unsuccessful” category. He never graduated the New Life Program, despite three attempts. Still, God was able to use Randy’s time at the Mission to make him into a new person.**

My name is Randy Thorton and just last month I was able to convince my brother to join the Rescue Mission’s New Life Program. Like me, he has been a long-time addict. But unlike me, he doesn’t have a year of sobriety under his belt. I told my brother how much the Rescue Mission had taught me about God. I explained how staying close to God through prayer, fellowship, and reading the Bible—all things I learned at the Rescue Mission—helped me stay sober.

My brother listened as I shared how using the principles I learned at the Rescue Mission was the only way I was able to stop using meth. I praise God that my brother joined the Rescue Mission’s New Life Program. Today, I go down to the Mission on a regular basis and work a shift in the Mission’s kitchen just to show my brother that I support him and am staying sober myself. I encourage him to stick with the New Life Program and know that it can help him.

Even as I encourage my brother, I must acknowledge that I didn’t follow my own advice. I went on and off the New Life Program three times. The longest I stayed was five months. Once, I relapsed and had to leave. Another time I got into a disagreement with the Rescue Mission staff, and a third time I



Randy Thorton has been a life-long meth addict. Today he is connected to a local church, has been sober for a year and has a good job doing road maintenance.

left because I violated curfew and eventually was put in jail for a probation violation.

Still, throughout all my ups and downs, the things I learned while on the Rescue Mission’s New Life Program never left me,

Please see “Randy” on page 3.

Connect  
with us

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FINDING SUCCESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD



As noted in this month’s testimony, I am often asked about our success rate. This question makes me ponder success and how we define success at the Rescue Mission.

Is merely feeding, clothing, and sheltering the poor a success? Many people would say that it is not, but I disagree. Our emergency services are designed to keep people alive and safe so that we can build trusting relationships to encourage people to change their lives through a relationship with Jesus.

Ultimately, we do hope that success is defined by a changed life. While Randy Thorton (who shares his testimony in this month’s Rescuer) never graduated from the New Life Program, the impact the Rescue Mission had on his life was immeasurable. The things he learned here about God, living within the Body of Christ, and being dependent on other people, changed him from the inside out. When Randy left the New Life Program for the third time without graduating, there’s no way we would have consider him one of our “successes.”

But now, I see him continue to stay sober, volunteer at the Rescue Mission and encourage other addicts to join the New Life Program. As I see him work to support himself and his family, I have to admit we were more successful with him than we ever knew.

God keeps His promises. When He tells us that our efforts to teach people about Him will not be wasted, we can trust God means it. What we started in Randy at the Mission, God completed in Randy’s heart several months after he left us. It’s God, after all, who changes people.

Our Stats how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

|                      | July 2016    | YTD 2016       |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Professions of Faith | 58           | 383            |
| Meals                | 17,180       | 92,249         |
| Family Food Boxes    | 323*         | 2,031**        |
| Nights of Shelter    | 3,806        | 29,537         |
| Clothing             | 5,006        | 49,569         |
| Day Service/Hygiene  | 274          | 1,699          |
| Jobs Obtained        | 3            | 24             |
| Housing Obtained     | 1            | 11             |
|                      | *6,460 meals | **40,620 meals |

In the end, the Rescue Mission measures the success of the people we work with in five major ways, 1) do they have a relationship with God through connection to a local church, 2) are they sober and living in recovery, 3) do they have a full time job, 4) is their income at a level where they can support themselves without government assistance, and 5) are they off the streets in their own self-supported housing.

Randy has a changed life and is connected to a local church. He is working, not homeless, and trying to take care of his family. This kind of change is what we desire for the people we help. We don’t desire that people be dependent on government programs that largely keep them in poverty. Instead, we believe God’s plan for most people is to live for Him while providing themselves, their family, and, if possible, others. I am not saying there is no place for government programs, there certainly is, especially for those who are so profoundly hurt they will never be self-sufficient.

Still, our success rate is based on the notion that God desires each of us to strive for our highest, God-enabled capacity in life. We all should consider and treat the life given to us as valuable and for a purpose.

So we strive to help hurting people have changed lives. That’s what we strive for and it is hopefully what Randy Thorton continues to achieve.

Thank you so much for your support. Please continue to support our mission. We continue to ask God to use us to bring glory to Himself and restore broken lives.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

RANDY: Continued from page 1

and today, at age 28, I feel like I am someone who can help others. Even my brother, who is six years younger, tells me I am a role model to him and that he looks up to me.

I started using meth when I was just 14 and was kicked out of a half-dozen junior high and middle schools in Weber and Davis County. Eventually, they just started putting me in juvenile detention. Some days, I remember crying, asking God to help me stop using meth, all while cutting up a line of meth to snort. Once I was talking to my mom on my back porch. I was just crying wondering why I couldn’t stop using.

During the times between when I would leave the Rescue Mission and then come back, I always felt like God was

I was just crying wondering why I couldn’t stop using.

drawing me there. After I left the first time, I remember coming down to Salt Lake (I have spent my life living in Ogden) to buy meth. It seems like every time I would come down, God would make sure I had to pass by the Rescue Mission. Each time I saw the “Jesus Saves” sign I felt drawn to come back.

Eventually, God used my longest stint at the Rescue Mission, combined with several months in jail, to help me. It was early last year when I entered the New Life Program for the third time. The Mission’s leaders were gracious in allowing me back. But after about five months, I took an unauthorized trip to my girlfriend’s house and got in a fight with another guy there. I was picked up for a parole violation and taken to jail. With five months of sobriety already under my belt, my stay in jail helped me continue to stay sober.

I started going to a Bible study in jail and when the person who was leading the Bible study was let free from jail, I started leading the Bible study. I remembered what I had learned through the many Bible studies and counseling sessions at the Rescue Mission and was able to teach others.

I was even able to quit drinking coffee. While I am not judging people who drink coffee, for me, a meth addict, getting that little bit of caffeine rush gave me just a little taste of what

meth was like. God convicted me to quit, so while I was in jail, I gave away my last two bags of coffee that I had stored up. It was a big victory for me to be free from all stimulants.

When I was released to a halfway house I completed my time there as well, still staying sober. Today, I am living independent back in Ogden. I have been sober for over a year and have a job with a company that contracts with UDOT to do road maintenance and signage projects.

In all my ups and downs I had four children, three with one lady and one son with another. Now I am able to be there for my three children, and even have some visitation with my other son. Since I have a job I can provide for them and strive to be a real dad. Growing up as someone whose parents were addicts, I know it is hard having an addict father. I feel sorry that I am repeating this cycle but am depending on God to keep me sober and break the cycle of addiction in my family.

I am thankful that God has used me to help my brother get the help he needs.

I am thankful that God has used me to help my brother get the help he needs. I am going to the Genesis Project church, which meets at Hub 801 in Ogden. I like the people there along with the relaxed atmosphere combined with a firm commitment to the Gospel and God’s word. Please pray for me that I will continue to be plugged in at my home church. Pray also that I will continue to spend time in God’s word. It’s easy to read the Bible in jail or in a recovery program because there is time set aside for reading. But in everyday life, it is a lot harder to spend time with God.

Also pray for my family. I am currently trying to have a God-honoring relationship with the mother of three of my children. We are seeking God’s direction for the future of our family. Pray also for my other son and his mother, as I would like to have a better relationship with him. I realize it is my fault we haven’t had a good relationship to this point. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission. While in many ways I feel like I let the Rescue Mission and its supporters down, you should know that without the Mission I truly believe my life would’ve never changed and I would still be a homeless meth addict.

We are starting our preparations to serve over 1,500 meals to homeless and hungry Utahns at our annual Thanksgiving Banquet, which features a hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings, access to thousands of items of winter clothing, and so much more. Please support our banquet by using the envelope included with this newsletter, by calling our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone, or by visiting [rescuesaltlake.org](http://rescuesaltlake.org) to give online. Hope begins with a meal. Please consider helping today.

