

## YOU WANT UPDATES? WE'VE GOT UPDATES!

We hope you were able to read about our merger with the Ogden Rescue Mission. Because of that merger we have a lot of updates to share, here goes:

### New look logos—Same great services.

Our merger created the need for a new logo, two in fact. They are the same design but one is for use in the Ogden area and the other for the Salt Lake area. Our logos highlight that we are one organization with two names. We are unified in purpose—to end homelessness and restore lives while showing God's love by providing basic human needs like food, shelter, clothing, and love.



### Watch for our new website.

With help from Harvest Media Ministries, we have been working on a new website. We know our current website is lagging behind the times and our ministry partners at Harvest Media are helping us rebuild it without charging us an arm and a leg. We hope that our new site will be live later this month. Look for it and let us know what you think.

### We have two job openings.

First, we are looking to hire a job placement and housing coordinator. This person helps members of our New Life Program and other homeless individuals by crafting resumes, finding job leads, and helping to connect people with affordable housing.

Second, we need an administrative assistant who knows QuickBooks.

Interested? Please contact Eileen Crist at 801.746.1006 or eileen@rescuesaltlake.org

## SEPTEMBER 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace	2 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	3 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Interm. Baptist Youth	4 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: Volunteer Group	5 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	6 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Volunteer Group	7 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
8 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	9 Chapel: Discovery Christian Kitchen: Discovery Christian	10 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	11 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Volunteer Group	12 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	13 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	14 Chapel: Berean Bible Kitchen: Calvary Chapel
15 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	16 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Volunteer Group	17 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	18 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteer Group	19 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	20 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	21 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
22 Chapel: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	23 Chapel: Living Waters Kitchen: Volunteer Group	24 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	25 Chapel: First Methodist Kitchen: Lifeline Men's Group	26 Chapel: Tooele Christ. Fellowship Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	27 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	28 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!
29 Chapel: Lifeline Church Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Volunteer Group	<p><b>Yes!</b> We are already preparing for our Thanksgiving Banquet and the busy holiday season. Be an "Early Bird" and donate now! Your support today will make sure we don't have to turn anyone away this holiday season. Use the enclosed envelope, give online at <a href="http://RescueSaltLake.org">RescueSaltLake.org</a>, or call our Finance Office at <b>801.746.1006</b> to give via credit card over the phone.</p> 				

# RESCUER

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

## KEVIN JOHNSON: God is faithful, even when people struggle

*The last time I shared my story with you, it was 2014 and I was sober, having found a new life at the Rescue Mission.*

When I graduated the recovery program I did well for quite a while. Yet, when I moved into a subsidized housing complex where there was a lot of drug use, I started slipping into my old ways. Eventually, I quit going to recovery meetings, began hanging out with the wrong people, and turned to drugs again. My drug abuse grew so bad that I ended up in the hospital with a serious infection that almost took my life.

I am not sure how, but I acquired Botulism Type A. It could've been from food, or it might have been from some tainted needles or drugs, but on Thanksgiving Day in 2016 I slumped over in a chair at my friend's house and didn't regain full consciousness for five days.

During those five days I was close to death. I recall having several out-of-body experiences, where it felt like I was hovering above my body watching medical professionals work to keep me alive. I was on a hospital bed and recall people yelling things like "Code Blue" and "He's not going to make it." When I did regain consciousness, they told me they had received an antitoxin that they had to order from a military supply. Still, doctors said they couldn't guarantee I would survive.

But thanks to the foundation that God built in my life at the Rescue Mission, my life started to turn around again. Members of the church family I had connected with during my time at the Rescue Mission began showing up to pray for me. I'm not sure how they knew I was on my death bed at the hospital, but many faithful members of Calvary Baptist Church stopped by to pray. I felt blessed, grateful to have that prayer support network.

Please see "Kevin" on page 3.



Pictured here with a coworker at a recent veterans support event, Kevin Johnson is living with a sober mind and helping others do the same. Kevin is working at a recovery center where he helps other people who have struggled with addiction.

Connect  
with us

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## GOD BRINGS THE SALT LAKE AND OGDEN RESCUE MISSIONS TOGETHER

*This month, I want to share some Rescue Mission history. Mostly, I want to share how that history has come full circle to create an exciting announcement about our future.*



In the early 1970s a small group of Salt Lake-based Christian businessmen regularly drove from Salt Lake to Ogden to serve at the only Christ-centered homeless service provider in the State of Utah the Ogden Rescue Mission. On one trip, father and son Dan and Don Kramer, invited Kay Nakashima, a friend and fellow Christian businessmen to come along. On the return trip, Kay asked why they drove past all the homeless people in

the Salt Lake area to head north. Kay's question led to this small group of men, along with their families, to consider establishing a Rescue Mission in downtown Salt Lake City.

In 1972—after much prayer and second mortgages on four of our founders' homes—the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake was incorporated and began serving our homeless friends and neighbors. Our first location was just blocks away from the location of our current Homeless Service Center and Men's Recovery Program.

Since then, the Rescue Mission has developed services to meet the immediate needs of our homeless friends (food, shelter, clothing, and more). Additionally, we have created comprehensive, life-changing programs to provide a pathway off the streets through addiction recovery, Christian education, employment, housing, and restoration of relationships.

Over these many decades, the Mission successfully paid off the downtown Homeless Service Center's mortgage, opened the Rescue Mission Women's Center in 1984 a few blocks south of downtown, and thanks to generous donors has transitional housing complexes for both men and women who are moving off the streets.

But it wasn't until just recently that God brought the Rescue Mission story full circle. After years of friendship and collaboration, I am excited to announce that the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake has joined operations with the Ogden Rescue Mission. We have formed one organization under the umbrella of the

Rescue Mission of Salt Lake that will care for Utah's most vulnerable populations all along the Wasatch Front and partnerships that reach out to most of the state of Utah.

This means the Rescue Mission now has five locations the Ogden homeless service center and shelter, the Salt Lake homeless service center and shelter, our Women's Center, and our two transitional housing homes.

In total we are serving just over 300 people nightly, with up to 90 men, women, and children participating in our New Life Programs. The formal merger came at the request of Ogden Rescue Mission Director Judy Doud and Ogden Rescue Mission Board of Directors. The Rescue Mission of Salt Lake Board of Directors excepted their request knowing that we were better together. Our purpose is the same to transform people's lives in the name of Jesus Christ. The Rescue Mission of Salt Lake will bring the experience of a more formalized addiction recovery program and executive/administrative experience to the combined organization.

One organization, yet two great names to serve our great communities. Our Ogden facility and operations will still be known as Ogden Rescue Mission serving the Ogden Valley and surrounding area. Rescue Mission of Salt Lake will continue to serve the Salt Lake Valley with outreach efforts to much of the state of Utah.

With this expansion of ministry, our goal remains the same as it was back in 1972: To love God with all our soul, to love our neighbors, and to help our homeless friends find faith and serve God with all their being. Through that faith we hope they will also discover a pathway off the streets and into sobriety, housing, and employment. Thank you for supporting us and helping the neediest members of our community find hope. Please pray for us as we integrate our two great organizations and staff teams into one.

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director



Two of our founders—Kay Nakashima and Don Kramer—along with long-time Ogden Rescue Mission Director Judy Doud.

## KEVIN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The hospital eventually released me to hospice care, with doctors thinking I had suffered so much internal damage that I still might not survive. But those prayers worked and after a few weeks in hospice, my appetite returned. I was on a feeding tube but I kept telling my caregivers that I felt like I was starving. They brought in a dietitian who said that when a sick person's body starts healing, it needs extra calories to repair. My constant hunger was a good sign that God was healing the body I had broken. After a few weeks I was released from hospice.

With my life saved, I recalled what I had learned at the Rescue Mission and started stopping by to talk with the

*“It has been a blessing to find a job where I can help others.”*

staff more often, especially George Sproul and Pastor Chris. I remembered that it was connection with people, regular recovery meetings, and a relationship with God that would help me stay sober. So, I began recovery classes again, humbled by my recent downfall.

Through recovery, I came to realize that after I left the Rescue Mission, I lost what the Bible calls a sober or “sound” mind. I remembered 2 Timothy 1:7 which says, God has not given His people a spirit of fear, but a spirit of a sound mind. After I left the Rescue Mission, when I was not using drugs and was technically “sober”, my mind became filled with the wrong things. Thoughts of fear, worry, and sin crept in. I no longer had a sober mind. It was only a matter of time before I started using again.

But getting back into recovery classes allow me to find that sound mind that God desires for His people. It's a peaceful mind that is not focused on fears, or money, or drugs, but on God's greatness and goodness.

Through this experience I learned I can never stop working on my recovery. I wanted to help others as so many had helped me. I was able to take some classes

through Utah State University and became certified as a Peer Support Specialist, trained to help other people struggling with addiction stay clean and sober.

My new education and sober mind allowed me to start working again. I was blessed to secure a job at a recovery program called Odyssey House. I feel this is the place where God wants me. Many people come to Odyssey House for help with addiction and I believe I can support them. After all, I have experienced many of the same struggles they are going through and can relate to them. I can give them real-life advice.

It has been a blessing to find a job where I can help others. Through work, I have been able to secure an apartment in West Valley City near a TRAX station so I can ride public transportation to my job. I have also been able to clear up the legal charges I faced, related to that Thanksgiving Day in 2016 when I fell over an almost died.

I want to thank Rescue Mission and its supporters for allowing me to keep stopping by to check in and reaching out to me while I was in the hospital. It's a privilege to share my story for a second time. I hope that through my

*“No Christian is perfect and no ex-addict who becomes a Christian will be perfect.”*

story, you understand that people who graduate from the Rescue Mission can backslide. But, the foundation laid at the Rescue Mission is so strong, that it helps and saves backsliders. No Christian is perfect and no ex-addict who becomes a Christian will be perfect. Some will return to drugs at times. But based on the relationship they began with God at the Rescue Mission, God will call them back into sobriety and faithfulness. He will use his people to do it, just like He did for me. Thank you for being His people and for praying for and supporting people like me, who need your ongoing support.

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

## Our Stats

*how your gift helps*

	July 2019	YTD 2019
Professions of Faith	26	195
Meals	16,800	101,796
Family Food Boxes	158	885
Nights of Shelter	4,277	28,752
Clothing	2,072	31,548
Day Service/Hygiene	1,102	9,266
Jobs Obtained	3	27
Housing Obtained	3	25