

**PLEASE HELP THIS THANKSGIVING**





In just over a month, our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. While everyone comes for our tasty, "street-famous" food, we will be providing much more than a hot turkey dinner.

There will live, God-honoring music, free warm clothing, showers and hygiene items, along with haircuts and flu shots. Our staff members and volunteers will be showing love to our homeless friends and, where needed, they will provide crisis care to the weary and downtrodden. Most importantly we will be sharing how much God loves them, how much we love them, and offer friendship and a way off the streets.

Our goal is to create an experience so wonderful that our homeless friends will stay and join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets into faith, employment, and permanent housing. When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life Program then we can truly say that their restored hope began with a meal.

So please support our banquet by using the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone or visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate online. We are also in need of warm clothes, winter boots, turkeys, and hams. Check out our website for a full list of needed items. We do not want to turn anyone away and want to ensure that, at least for this Thanksgiving, no one will go hungry. Please help today.

**OCTOBER 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake  Kitchen: Interm. Baptist Youth	2 Chapel: SMCC  Kitchen: SMCC	3 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteer Group	4 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	5 Chapel: Bible Baptist  Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church	6 Chapel: Gospel Grace  Kitchen: Gospel Grace
7 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley  Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	8 Chapel: Unity Baptist  Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	9 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite  Kitchen: Volunteer Group	10 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist  Kitchen: Volunteer Group	11 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist  Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	12 Chapel: Berean Bible  Kitchen: Calvary Chapel	13 Chapel: Abundant Life  Kitchen: Volunteer Group
14 Chapel: Discovery Christian  Kitchen: Discovery Christian	15 Chapel: K2 - The Church  Kitchen: Volunteer Group	16 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteer Group	17 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship  Kitchen: Capital Church	18 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	19 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ  Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ	20 Chapel: Abundant Life  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!
21 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	22 Chapel: Canyons Church  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	23 Chapel: First Methodist  Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	24 Chapel: Tooele Christ. Fellowship  Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	25 Chapel: Midvalley Bible  Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	26 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	27 Chapel: Grace Community Bible  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!
28 Chapel: Living Waters  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	29 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	30 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	31 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome			

**RESCUER**

OCTOBER 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

**KEVIN THOMAS:  
A father connects with his daughter again**

*After never being homeless, and living, to a large degree, a sheltered life, I was somewhat shocked to walk into the Rescue Mission a year ago and ask for help.*

I see now that my entry into the Rescue Mission's New Life Program was an answer to me falling on my knees and begging God for help last year. But while the Mission was a culture shock to me, I soon realized the place was different than it seemed at first glance. I noticed there was more laughter at the Mission than any other place I had been. A lot of people seemed to have real joy. As the men on the New Life Program and the staff worked to serve the homeless, they joked around and had fun. The other New Life Program members enjoyed helping other people, even as it helped them in their personal recovery.

As someone who came to the Mission with severe depression, I am happy to say that I became one of those laughing, joyful people. I admit that at first, I was skeptical. While my parents taught me about God when I was a kid, I didn't really believe. For some reason, which I didn't fully understand, I had a lot of anger towards God and that anger led to unbelief.

But I made a conscious decision that I would fully commit to the New Life Program. After all, the choices I had made only led me to alcoholism, depression, and unemployment. I knew that I didn't have the answers and decided to trust that the New Life Program did.



Kevin Thomas is overcoming depression, has achieved sobriety and employment, and is able to be a father to his daughter again.

So, I dedicated myself to daily Bible studies, chapel services, work therapy, one-on-one counseling, and church each Sunday. As I did, I realized that God was not a vindictive master, but gracious and forgiving. With this realization, my heart started to change. Instead of being negative and distrusting towards Jesus, I found that Jesus became the center of my life. My perspective was transformed, my attitude changed, and I felt like I had a purpose again. I truly was a new person. I have a new life.

Please see "Kevin" on Page 3

Connect with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org  
 Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - Twitter/@rescuesaltlake  
 Email: info@rescuesaltlake.org  
 Phone: Main - 801.355.1302 Donor Relations & Accounting - 801.746.1006  
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## THIS WILL LIKELY BE OUR BUSIEST WINTER IN HISTORY

*The Rescue Mission has an exciting opportunity ahead and needs the support of God and His people more than ever. As*

Salt Lake's new homeless resource centers come online this month, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and Ogden will be on the front lines in a way we never have been before.

You might remember that a few years ago state and local leaders made the decision, with homeless service providers' recommendation, to decentralize homeless services from a large and concentrated shelter in the

downtown area to smaller resource centers located throughout Salt Lake County and the rest of the State. The decision has led to the construction of new resource centers in the Salt Lake Valley.

The time for those new shelters is now, with one already operating and the other two opening this month. Accordingly, the large public housing shelter in downtown will close and eventually be demolished, to make way for downtown redevelopment.

The closure will leave the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake as the major shelter in downtown and will probably push some of our homeless friends out of Salt Lake and into Ogden. When the new resource centers are brought fully on line there will be approximately 400 fewer shelter beds in Salt Lake County. Significant efforts have been made to account for this decrease, yet there remains a gap of 50-60 people who will be displaced. That decrease is prior to the freezing temperatures of winter setting in and driving our homeless friends who camp in the summer to shelter.

For us, the result will be that the Rescue Mission's men's shelter, the Rescue Mission's women's center, and the Rescue Mission's Ogden shelter will be packed full this winter. We have committed to local leaders that we will try to accommodate the needs of our homeless friends in creative ways. We will open our overflow space

on our chapel floors to ensure no one must spend a cold, scary night on the street.

While it will be hard for the Mission to take on this burden, as it is every winter, I do see God's hand in our extra workload. All of the new homeless resource centers in Salt Lake are government funded. That means they can't share the good news about Jesus, like our privately funded, faith-based ministry can. The Rescue Mission, then, will have more opportunities to share the Gospel. We will have more interactions with a greater number of our homeless friends and will have more opportunities to truly influence hearts and minds for Jesus.

As we anticipate an increase in ministry this winter, I ask you to pray about how you can help. With the closing of the downtown public housing shelter and many of our homeless friends saying they want to stay in the downtown area, the Rescue Mission will be the front line for homeless services. While the "resource center" model is designed to spread the homeless population around the valley, many of our homeless friends are reporting they need and desire the services offered downtown.

In downtown they have good access to the internet at local libraries, access to healthcare at the Fourth Street Clinic, a free fare zone for transportation, quick access to the courts, and better access to employment services, social events at the Galvan Center and ample locations to move into the surrounding area instead of staying in one place. With the Rescue Mission left downtown to serve this population we will need your help. Please pray about how you can support our faith-based ministry through giving, praying, and volunteering. We will need your help more than ever as we anticipate the busiest winter we have seen in our nearly 50 years of ministry.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

## KEVIN: Continued from Page 1

Before coming to the Rescue Mission, I had a decade-long struggle with alcoholism. When my daughter was born five years ago, I actually was able to quit drinking for more than three years. But during that time, I grew more and more depressed. My life revolved around my daughter, and I began to think, "when she is grown, I am going to be all alone again." This thought depressed me and I turned to alcohol again to cope with my deepening depression.

I started wondering if life had any meaning. I wondered if work was just something people did to distract themselves from the meaninglessness of life. I was in a deep, sad place.

Of course, drinking only made my depression worse. By last fall I had lost my job and was no longer paying child support. My phone and internet had been turned off. I wasn't really communicating with anyone.

That's when I got down on my knees and, even though I really didn't believe in God, I asked Him for help.

Soon afterwards my sister got in touch with me. She said she found a place in Salt Lake that helps people struggling with depression and addiction like me. The Rescue Mission, she said, would allow me to stay in Salt Lake where my daughter was, but still get the help I needed. I took her recommendation and walked into the Rescue Mission.

God really has been so gracious to me ever since. He led me to a great church family at Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake. He also enabled me to have every Wednesday off so I could spend one day a week with my daughter while I completed the New Life Program.

My parents, my sister, and my daughter's mother have truly supported me as I have worked on my life this past year. I couldn't be more grateful to them, the staff here at the Mission, the Mission's supporters, and to

God. I have received so much love that I really didn't deserve.

What really made the difference, I think, is that growing up I heard a lot about God and what He was like, but I didn't know Him. I didn't have a personal relationship with Him that allowed me to know what He was like, instead of just hearing about what He is like. Having a personal relationship with God through Jesus has truly changed me.

As I write this, I have about one month left until I graduate from the New Life Program. God has blessed me with a great job in the hotel industry where I have a lot of room for career advancement. I am busy catching

up the child support I owe to my daughter's mother. She has been kind to me as I have not been able to properly support my daughter for many months.

I am looking for a place to move when I graduate. I need a safe place

where my daughter can come and stay with me. Please pray that God would lead me to the right housing. Pray also that God would keep me in recovery. I attend a weekly bible study, church on Sundays, and a weekly recovery meeting. I know I need to keep doing those things if I want to be close to God and stay sober.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission. Without this place I don't know where I would be or if I would even be alive. Without this place my five-year-old daughter might not have a dad. Your support has meant so much to me and my family and I could not be more grateful.

Editor's Note: In rare cases the men and women who share their testimony in the Rescuer need to keep their identities private. For this month, the name and picture of the New Life Program member sharing his testimony has been altered to protect his privacy.

*I received so much love that I really didn't deserve.*

## Our Stats how your gift helps

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

	August 2019	YTD 2019
Professions of Faith	30	225
Meals	21,496	123,290
Family Food Boxes	128	984
Nights of Shelter	6,242	34,994
Clothing	4,776	36,324
Day Service/Hygiene	2,354	11,620
Jobs Obtained	7	34
Housing Obtained	5	30