

# OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM MEMBERS ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



"I am thanful for the New Life Program. I would not be alive today without God blessing me with such an amazing opportunity." ~ **Kat**



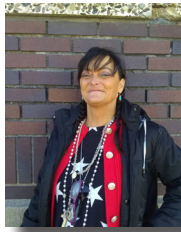
"I thank God for the Rescue Mission. It saved my from myself and my 32-year addiction. I thought I was going to die. Now I see hope at the end of the tunnel. I love God, this place, and you, for helping me." ~ **Winfred**



"I am grateful for the grace and understanding that I am shown by the staff as I journey to recovery. The patience the Mission has for me is amazing, even as I slip and make a mistke, they still support me and help me up." ~ **Isaac**



"I am grateful to be in the New Life Program and have an opportunity to learn a new way to live, get rid of my false beliefs, and finally be free from my addiction " ~ **Chelle**



"I am thankful that a total a stranger told me she loves me and is praying for me" ~ **Cherie**



"Finally, by the grace of God, the comforting support of the Rescue Mission, and the loving donors—I have now been found. I am so very grateful for an opportunity to find, not just God, but myself." ~ **Robert**

## NOVEMBER 2019 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian  Kitchen: Lexie Matson Group	2 Chapel: Bible Baptist  Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
3 Chapel: Gospel Grace  Kitchen: Gospel Grace	4 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley  Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	5 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake  Kitchen: Intermt. Baptist Youth	6 Chapel: SMCC  Kitchen: SMCC Youth Group	7 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist  Kitchen: Katie Demchenko Group	8 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist  Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	9 Chapel: Berean Bible  Kitchen: Calvary Chapel
10 Chapel: Abundant Life  Kitchen: Jenn Smith Group	11 Chapel: Discovery Christian Church  Kitchen: Discovery Christian Church	12 Chapel: Unity Baptist  Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	13 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite  Kitchen: Candice Downing Group	14 Chapel: Milcreek Baptist  Kitchen: Andrea Amezquita Group	15 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	16 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ  Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
17 Chapel: Abundant Life  Kitchen: Angie Jacobson Group	18 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center  Kitchen: Christy Martin Group	19 Chapel: K2 - The Church  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	20 Chapel: RMSL  Kitchen: Isabel Pande Group	21 Chapel: New Beginnings Church  Kitchen: Lifeline Men's Group	22 Chapel: Midvalley Bible  Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	23 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake  Kitchen: The Rising Youth Group
24 Chapel: Grace Community Bible  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	25 Chapel: Living Waters  Kitchen: Conway West Group	26 Chapel: Canyons Church  Kitchen: Renee Scanlan Group	27 Chapel: First Methodist  Kitchen: Lifeline Church	28 Chapel: Tooele Christ. Fellowship  Kitchen: Fresh Life	29 Chapel: Utah Partner. for Christ  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!	30 RMSL  Kitchen: Volunteers Welcome!

# RESCUER

NOVEMBER  
2019

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

## AUBREY WATERS: Business Owner, Wife, and Mother

*Editor's Note:* Occasionally we share "update" stories of New Life Program graduates and how they have continued to succeed after first sharing their life story in the *Rescuer*. This month we bring you an update about Aubrey Waters, who first shared her testimony in the July 2015 *Rescuer*.

I am amazed at how God has continued to change my life since I graduated from the New Life Program.

As a quick refresher, here's my backstory: I started partying when I was a teenager, became pregnant at 16, and married my boyfriend at 17. With an infant in tow, we fell into opioid addiction and were driving back and forth between Utah and Las Vegas using fake addresses and doctor shopping to get prescriptions. By the time my daughter was two, I had to call my father and ask him and my step-mom to take her. She wasn't safe with us anymore.

My father and step-mom legally adopted my daughter and she was raised thinking they were her parents and I was her big sister. My husband and I started buying and selling heroin. But after just a couple years we were arrested and charged with multiple felonies.

That's when God stepped into my life. My attorney connected with the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and the judge allowed me to enter the New Life Program, instead of going to prison. In the program I met the real true God and learned how much He loves us. I was able to find forgiveness and even forgave myself for the many mistakes I had made.

When I graduated, I had been sober for over a year and had a good job at Mylar Disability Center, helping disabled people apply for Social Security. I worked there for five years and was promoted so that I supervised a team of eight people.

During my recovery I was divorced. When I left the Mission and started to live on my own, I met a new man and we began dating. We were married about a year later and moved into our own place. I had been sober for over two years by that time



Aubrey Waters has a new life and family after finding hope at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

Please see "Aubrey" on page 3.

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with us

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GRATITUDE CHANGES LIVES -
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

When I read Aubrey Waters' testimony in this month's Rescuer, I was struck by the sense of gratitude she had.



She was thankful to the Mission, her counselors, her parents, and most of all to God, who changed her life. Reading Aubrey's story, I felt like her overall attitude was one of thanksgiving towards God. Yes, she has everyday grumbles just like all of us, but her general countenance is one of gratitude and thankfulness.

I mention this because, over the years, I have come to believe that the one thing that fuels addiction and homelessness more than anything

else is a lack of gratitude. There may be very good reasons why a person who is struggling with addiction and homelessness is not grateful. They may have faced suffering and abuse in life. Serious, abuses like being dangled upside down outside an apartment window because your four-year-old is not being a good boy (as one of our program members recently shared with me). Other times a person might simply feel that their life is substandard when compared to their perception of other people's lives.

But whatever the cause of ungratefulness, it is there, and it helps feed addiction. Without heart-level gratitude, a person's soul feels like they are missing something. They feel picked on, neglected, and unloved. To escape from these negative feelings, they will turn to drugs or alcohol, which can help for a short while but ultimately lead to even further despair.

I thank God that He gives us great holidays like Thanksgiving where we can remind ourselves and

others how much we have to be thankful for. The starting point, obviously, is the thankfulness we can have towards God for sending Jesus to die for us. Because of this gracious gift, we can be forgiven through faith and be welcomed into Heaven. And in this earthly life we can experience love, peace, joy, and get God's help to live the life He intended for us now that is something to be thankful for!

So, this Thanksgiving season, join me in taking time to be grateful and express that thankfulness to God and to other people. Helping other people (especially our homeless friends who may be stuck in self-pity) experience gratitude is a key to helping them know God and experience a life-change.

At our Thanksgiving Banquet (and really every day!) the Mission staff and volunteers will hopefully help people become grateful by offering free clothing, food, shelter, love, and a permanent way off the streets. By showing that we care, we hope our homeless friends will know that God cares, and they will begin to experience long-term gratitude towards Him, just like Aubrey.

Please know that you make everything we do at the Rescue Mission possible, by supporting us and providing hope and love to hurting people. Without your support we would not be here and wouldn't see life-changes like Aubrey. We are grateful to God for you!

Happy Thanksgiving,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

Table with 3 columns: Category, September 2019, YTD 2019. Rows include Professions of Faith, Meals, Family Food Boxes, Nights of Shelter, Clothing, Day Service/Hygiene, Jobs Obtained, and Housing Obtained.

AUBREY: CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

and my parents approached me about my daughter. They told me they were proud of the progress I had made and thought it was time to tell my daughter that I was her mother. They said they would give me guardianship and let her live with me and my husband.

I was floored. I had gone through life thinking that my parents would never let me have my daughter back. After all, they had legally adopted her, raised her (at this time she was six-years-old), and they might have been skeptical that I would stay in recovery.

But I was overjoyed at the offer. My daughter welcomed the news, and we clicked immediately. Soon afterward I became pregnant and my husband and I had a son. My daughter went from being a little sister in my parents' home (I have two little brothers who she grew up with) to being a big sister in our home. It was awesome to see her enjoy the change and be an awesome big sister.

We made a good family together. My husband and I both had good jobs and we were bonding as a family. But after working in an office-style setting for five years, I wanted a change. I discovered that I had a knack for photography and was able to start my own photography business. I started out doing photography jobs on the side while I worked, but my company grew successful and I was able to leave my job at Mylar Disability Center to run my photography business full time. The business has grown so much that I recently put up an announcement on my website that I was no longer seeking new customers. I don't want to be spread too thin or have work take over my life.

In my past thoughts, I believed the life I live now was unreachable. I am blessed to have a loving husband and two great children. I even run my own business have a good car. I went to parent-teacher conference recently and my daughter (who is 10 now) is above average in all her classes. My husband and I have worked hard and have saved up enough money where we can purchase some land to build our own house. We are currently

looking at lots and will decide soon. It will be nice to own a home, instead of renting.

I know that material successes are not what life is all about, but for someone who was a heroin addict living out of motels and facing prison time, it's amazing to see how God has blessed me. I stay close to God through prayer and journaling. My counselor from the Mission and I talk every week, if not more often, and her fellowship and friendship encourages me to put my relationship with God first. One of my goals moving forward is to attend church more regularly. As I started my photography business, I had to work a lot of Sundays (for weddings, and events, and family pictures). One reason I don't want more clients is so I can slow down and ensure I have close connections and relationships at church and focus on my family.

"In my past thoughts, I believed the life I live now was unreachable."

I know God can use me to help others. My biological mother has struggled with addiction for most of her adult life. I was able to take her to the Rescue Mission where she received help

for her addiction. Now my biological mom lives with my husband and me and helps take care of our kids when we are working or away.

The best way God is using me is as a mother. I am fortunate to have a second chance at being a mom. My husband and I are in the process of legally adopting my daughter. While my parents had given me guardianship, they remained my daughter's legal parents. Since I have been sober for nearly seven years, they said it's time for me to have legal custody again.

The way my life has changed is unexplainable and that's how I know God did it. He brought me to the Rescue Mission where I could hear the truth about Him and experience new life. Thank you for helping to change my life and reading my updated story. If not for the Rescue Mission I would probably just be getting out of a long felony sentence. Your support of the Mission means so much to people who need help, like me.

With less than a month until Thanksgiving, we are still in need of many items for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets. Our biggest needs are hams, turkeys, and warm winter clothes such as coats, hats, long pants, and gloves. Donations and support for these items would be greatly appreciated. Through November and December (and really the entire winter) we see a huge demand for food, shelter, and clothing. With the likely closing of the downtown public shelter, we expect this winter's demand will be especially high. Please help today! Give using the enclosed envelope, calling our finance office at 801-746.1006, or online at RescueSaltLake.org.

