

ON A MISSION TO LOVE

In this month when love is celebrated, we wanted to share our Mission to Love our homeless friends.

We have hope that our *Mission to Love* can change lives. That loving hope is to end homelessness for every person who walks through our doors. For us, our initial *Mission to Love* is to meet the immediate needs of our homeless friends – food, shelter, and clothing. Then, we let each of our homeless friends know about the long-term help we provide on the New Life Program for their specific situation.

Whether they're struggling with substance abuse, poor money management, mental health issues, or a lack of education and life skills – we offer real, loving help. We provide addiction counseling, life skills training, employment assistance, meals, and safe shelter. Additionally, our community connections can help with educational advancement, transportation, and mental and physical health care.

We believe that, with God's help and your support, we can meet most of the needs our homeless friends have. So, join us in our *Mission to Love* this month and beyond. Often the journey to a restored life is for a hurting person to understand that there is hope, and that with God's enabling dedication they can achieve their goals and dreams, which are often as simple as holding down a job so they can have a bed of their own and a place to set their tooth brush. Hopes and dreams are the beginning of the journey which will take determination to finish. Consider giving hope and the opportunity for a hurting person to achieve their dreams by investing in others through volunteering, praying, and donating. We need your help to complete our *Mission to Love* our homeless friends in Utah!



FEBRUARY 2020 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

*Email DVaugns@RescueSaltLake.org to schedule your volunteer request.

RESCUER

FEBRUARY
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



JOSH TYSZCO: Sober after 20 years of meth addiction

Growing up in a bible-believing, stable family, I am probably not the type of person you would expect to end up at the Rescue Mission.

I never did drugs as a youth and my parents took me to a good Christian fellowship each Sunday. My dad had a stable job as a salesman at a well-respected Utah furniture company. In many ways, my life up through high school was very normal.

It was just shortly after I graduated from high school that I attended a party and was introduced to methamphetamine. A friend I knew from school was there and she suggested I tried it. I did and have spent the last nearly 20 years of my life battling addiction to meth.

I was married at 19, shortly after I first tried meth, and my wife and I quickly had three daughters together. At 38, it is strange to say that I am a grandpa, as my first-born daughter recently had her first baby.

My wife and I divorced after several years of marriage and she and my daughters all live in Montana, where we had moved for a couple of years for a job. Our marriage was rocky and the conflict in our marriage only grew worse after my mother died from cancer. It was devastating to me and caused me to turn to drugs even more.



Josh Tyszco has a stable job at a construction equipment supply company and is rebuilding his family relationships after two decades of suffering through addiction to meth.

Our rocky marriage became more difficult as my addiction grew. Eventually, my wife and I divorced and I found myself living in Utah again. Over the past decade I have mostly been down-and-out using meth. While my family was supportive of me at times, they eventually grew tired of my lies and drug abuse. They couldn't trust me anymore and, after I lost their support, I had nowhere to go and became homeless.

Please see "Josh" on Page 3.

CONNECT
with us

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DETERMINATION IS KEY, BUT WE NEED HELP

One of the great books in Christian literature is *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. The main character of the book, Christian, faces consistent obstacles as he makes his way from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City.



There are times when it seems like Christian will fail or even turn back. He finds the Slough of Despond in his path and then comes across

the dragon-like Apollyon, who is certain to defeat him. Finally, Christian must cross the River of Death and make a steep, almost impossible, climb before he can reach the Celestial City.

Every time all seems lost, someone, or something, comes along to give him aid and guide him to the Celestial City. Christian had a certain level of determination but whenever that determination failed, Christian was bolstered by friends, strangers, and spiritual beings who helped his determination increase.

I often think how much the journey of Christian mirrors the lives of the men and women we serve at the Rescue Mission. These men and women are mired in a "City of Destruction" called addiction. Like Christian, they need determination to make the journey out of the City of Destruction. Also, like Christian, they can't do it on their own. They

need God's help and the help of God's people when their determination grows weak or they encounter a struggle that seems too difficult to overcome.

As God's representatives here at the Rescue Mission, we try to be those helpers who increase determination when the men and women on our New Life Program begin to lose hope. Likewise you, the supporters of the Rescue Mission, also help by giving, praying, and mentoring. Like Hopeful, who helped Christian make the final difficult climb to the Celestial City, we all come alongside the men and women on our recovery program. Together, we help them see that God has provided His strength and His people to give them determination when challenges seem too difficult.

The men and women on our New Life Program are engaged in a great and difficult journey, just like Bunyan's Christian. Please know that your support and the God-enabled aid it brings, is increasing the determination of our New Life Program members to make it off the streets and into faith, hope, and new life. Thank you for being a supporter and helping to make the difficult journey away from the City of Destruction and into God's Celestial City possible for many of our homeless friends.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	December 2019	2019 Total
Faith:	23	364
Meals:	21,046	219,008
Family Food Box:	186	1,935
Shelter:	7,140	61,166
Clothing:	13,152	65,623
Hygiene Items:	8,007	18,940
Day Service:	1,718	20,379
Jobs:	2	49
Housing:	1	44

OUR STATS

how your gift helps

JOSH: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Over the last five years I have couch-surfed, slept on the streets, or camped out by the Jordan River. Probably the strangest place I ever slept was under a bus stop bench. I remember it being so cold and just thinking that the bench would at least give me some shelter at night.

Not surprisingly, I was in and out of jail during this time, getting arrested for possession of drugs and other drug-related crimes. When I was released from jail on January 5, 2019 for yet another drug charge, my father

"HE SAID HE WAS SOBER, HAD A JOB, AND EVEN HIS OWN CAR. I ASKED HIM HOW HE DID IT. HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE RESCUE MISSION AND HOW THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM HAD CHANGED HIS LIFE."

picked me up. He hadn't completely abandoned me, but he wasn't going to support my addiction either. He gave me a winter coat, a change of clothes, and dropped me off downtown where he knew I could find a place to stay, if I really wanted to try and get off the streets.

I was down and out, at my lowest point. It was January so I knew I couldn't stay outside, but I also knew I needed to stay sober.

As I was considering what to do, I saw a guy nearby who I knew from the streets. It was a person I used to do drugs with, but he looked great. He seemed totally different from when I had known him. I stopped and talked to him. He said he was sober, had a job, and even his own car. I asked him how he did it. He told me about the Rescue Mission and how the New Life Program had changed his life. As he spoke, I knew the New Life Program was what I needed.

I walked to the Rescue Mission and asked for help. I realized right away that the Mission was the best place for me. First, they threw me straight into a work therapy job. Work therapy is where people who are on the New Life Program help run the Rescue Mission's day-to-day operations and help serve the homeless people who come to the Mission for help. For work therapy, we might cook meals, do laundry, distribute clothes, receive donations, or check people into beds at night. Work therapy gave me a purpose and kept my mind busy so I wasn't idle and thinking about drugs all the time. Since

we are serving other people, work therapy also gave me a sense that my life could impact others. The work caused me to be less self-focused and selfish.

The New Life Program also helped me reconnect with God. As part of the program I went to church each week. I found a great church in Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake and discovered teaching that spoke to me in a language I could understand and felt real. I also connected with a community discipler, named Mark Burgess, who taught me more about God and His word and was a good friend to me.

I moved to the employment phase of the New Life Program last October and now have a good job making \$18 an hour for a construction site equipment supplier. I am doing so well that I was able to recommend another person from the New Life Program for a job, and my company hired him on my recommendation. It feels fantastic to be trusted again.

God has been so good to me and I am so grateful He led me to the Rescue Mission. My goals moving forward are pretty simple. I want God to help me be stable and substance-free and to be close to my family. My father and I now have a great relationship and I would go over to his house regularly to watch football during this past season.

"MY FATHER AND I NOW HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP AND I WOULD GO OVER TO HIS HOUSE REGULARLY TO WATCH FOOTBALL DURING THIS PAST SEASON"

However, my ex-wife and daughters remain resentful towards me. They have every reason to feel this way and I know that all I can do is focus on my relationship with God and trust His power to change me. One day, I hope that I can have a good relationship with my ex-wife and daughters again. So please pray that God would continue to help me and bless more of my family relationships moving forward. He has already done so much, and I know He is always there to help when I turn to Him. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. Your support helped saved me, because without it, I would still be on the streets, using meth.