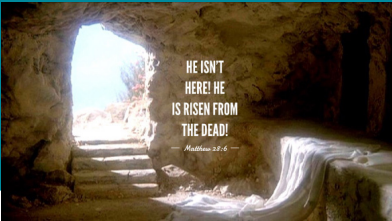


WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
FOR OUR EASTER BANQUET



While the winter holiday season brings so many people through our doors, there is no single day event that reaches more people than our Easter Banquet in Pioneer Park.

The weather will be turning warmer and people are itching for a great brunch in the park. This year, our Easter Banquet for the homeless is Saturday, April 11. Hundreds of homeless and low-income kids will be coming for the egg hunt, face painting, and carnival games. Our homeless friends will enjoy live music, while receiving free clothing, a great meal, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, and crisis counseling. They can also write letters home, have their nails painted, and join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. Most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus’s resurrection!

With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be. To support this event, you can pray, volunteer, and/or donate. We can use food, clothes, and giveaways for kids. Some of the best giveaways are plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please), Easter baskets along with small stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games.

Please consider donating today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will see the love of Christ, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. If you would like to volunteer at the Banquet, please contact our volunteer coordinator Danielle Vaughns at dvaughns@rescuesaltlake.org or 801.355.1302. To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, call our donor relations office at 801.746.1006 for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at RescueSaltLake.org.

MARCH 2020 - 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: Intermt. Baptist Youth	4 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC	5 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	6 Chapel: Mt. Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	7 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
8 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	9 Chapel: Discovery Christian Kitchen: Discovery Christian	10 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	11 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	12 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	13 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	14 Chapel: Berean Bible Kitchen: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake
15 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	16 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	17 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	18 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	19 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	20 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	21 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
22 Chapel: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Grace Community Bible	23 Chapel: Living Waters Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	24 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	25 Chapel: First Methodist Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	26 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	27 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	28 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Email to Schedule*
29 Chapel: Lifeline Community Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	31 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to				

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

RESCUER

MARCH
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JOHN STAUFF:
Finding God, sobriety, and a new life

Two years ago, at my most desperate point, I came to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake needing help.

I had come to Utah to work for a solar panel company, after spending my life in the west, mostly in California and Nevada. It was a Nevada company that had hired me to help work in a solar panel field that they were installing in Utah. I moved to Utah and followed my normal routine of working, but using drugs and alcohol while on the job. It was a pattern I had followed for my entire working life.

While I grew up in a Christian home, I rebelled and by 16 I was going to parties and using drugs and alcohol. Even though I was usually able to keep jobs and take care of myself, I used drugs or alcohol almost daily. Up to that point, I had been able to balance my drug and alcohol use with my job performance. But that changed in 2017 when the solar panel company I was working for decided to quit the Utah market. The company’s government funding for solar dried up and they abruptly told all their Utah employees that they were leaving Utah market and we no longer had jobs.

I was left with no employment in a state where I had few connections. Despite three decades of drug and alcohol abuse, I still had good relationships with my family back in Nevada, but I was too proud to ask my parents, or my two adult daughters, for help. Instead, I started living out of my car, wasting the remainder of my money on drugs and alcohol. When it was too cold to stay in my car, I started living at the downtown public shelter, which was still open at that time.

There I was often robbed and beaten. People would take what little money I had and I was even robbed for the



John Stauff is sober, has a great job, and is ready to deal with life without drugs and alcohol.

clothes off my back.

By January of 2018, I was desperate. I was out of money and was living a horrible life on the streets of Salt Lake.

Please see “John” on page 3

Connect
with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org
Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - Twitter/[@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)
Email: info@RescueSaltLake.org
Phone: Main – 801.355.1302/Donor Relations – 801.746.1006
Mail: PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1227
Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES SURE WE'RE NOT TEMPORARY

You may have seen or read in the news recently that Salt Lake City opened a temporary emergency shelter in Sugar House this winter.



With warming weather this temporary shelter will close next month and that will mean private shelters like the Rescue Mission will be all the more important to our homeless friends who need a safe place to stay, eat, shower, get clothing, and obtain housing and employment.

I want Rescue Mission supporters to know that whatever public resources may or may not exist the

Mission is dedicated to helping our homeless friends by providing emergency support and a pathway off the streets. As limitations are placed on public resources, we expect our help will be needed more than ever in the coming years for three main reasons.

First, the Wasatch Front is growing quickly. Not only are more people living here, but the area is becoming more densely populated. Looking at statistics from the National Alliance to end Homelessness, 72% of states with higher populations than Utah also have the same or a greater percentage of homeless people than Utah. Also, areas with more dense populations than Utah have greater percentages of homeless individuals.

These statistics lead me to believe that as Utah's population gets larger and becomes denser, the number of homeless individuals in our communities will rise.

Second, as more people move into the Wasatch Front, housing becomes scarcer and, therefore, more expensive. According to rentcafe.com, average rents in Salt Lake City are \$1,254 for an 833 sq ft. apartment, which many of the working poor making \$10/hr cannot afford. A lack of affordable housing, then, will also push more of the working poor into homelessness.

Third, the decision to decentralize publically funded homeless beds away from downtown Salt Lake and spread them throughout the Valley has decreased the total number of homeless beds in Salt Lake County. So, while we expect the homeless population to increase, we also see that the number of publically funded beds to accommodate the homeless decreased.

All this means we need your help more than ever! We are on the front lines providing emergency shelter, while always urging our homeless friends towards our New Life Program, where they can find a pathway off the streets and into faith, housing, employment, and sobriety. To those who are already supporting us, thank you! For those who haven't yet, please consider supporting the Rescue Mission today. We need your help to meet the growing need and to end homelessness in Utah!

God bless you,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	January 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	95	95
Meals	23,304	23,304
Family Food Boxes	194	194
Nights of Shelter	7,172	7,172
Clothing	3,858	3,858
Day Service/Hygiene	9,377	9,377
Jobs Obtained	2	2
Housing Obtained	1	1

JOHN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Then, I saw a guy I had worked with at the solar company. He told me about the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and how it had changed his life.

At rock bottom and with no other real options, I walked into the Rescue Mission and asked if they could help me. They took me in and God began to change my life.

I had never been to a real recovery program before. God started to use the New Life Program to bring me back to Him. I went to nightly chapel services, regular counseling sessions, and daily Bible studies. As I learned more about God and His son Jesus from the Bible, I came to realize that I had been trying to control my own life, instead of giving God control. I asked God to control my life and when I did, a weight lifted from my shoulders.

I felt less pressure and worry. It freed my soul to know that Jesus had taken away my sins and forgiven me for my past drug and alcohol abuse. I began to trust that God had the power to keep me sober. Trusting God was important to me, since I knew I didn't have any ability to keep myself sober.

As I have stayed sober, the biggest obstacle I have had to face is dealing with my emotions. I sometimes feel like a 15-year-old, in that I have a lot of difficult emotions that I deal with. For my entire life I have used drugs or alcohol to suppress my emotions. Now, I must experience life dealing with emotions, even feelings that make me uncomfortable such as fear, sadness, and loneliness.

The good news is that I know God is bigger than my scary emotions and can provide more joy and gladness than any negative feeling I might experience. God is the

true source of good emotions and the one who can help me overcome whatever negative feelings I experience. I realize now that I need God, not drugs and alcohol, to cope with difficult feelings or circumstances.

When I graduated to the employment phase of the New Life Program, God blessed me with a great job. I do deliveries for a company that supplies materials at construction sites. I pick up my supplies at our yard and then make deliveries and pick-ups across the Wasatch Front. It's a good job that pays well and allows me to support myself. My company even paid for me to attend a recent training in Washington State. It's good to know my company thinks I am doing a good job and wants to invest in my progress.

In April I hope to graduate the New Life Program and move into the Freedom House, the Rescue Mission's transitional housing unit for men. At Freedom House I will continue to have the structure and support I need. I will be able to stay connected to my home church, Calvary Chapel, as a transition out of homelessness and into a self-supporting lifestyle. I am so thankful for the support I have at Calvary. They even let me volunteer there one day a week doing small maintenance projects.

I've come a long way since I was homeless on the streets of Salt Lake, being robbed. Back then I was defeated and destitute. Now I am sober, have a great job, an awesome relationship with God and friends at church and the Rescue Mission, and a bright future. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission so people like me can be rescued from the pit of addiction and homelessness and be carried into new life!

"I need God, not drugs or alcohol, to cope with difficult feelings or circumstances."

Our Easter Banquet is April 11

Every year, at Easter, we have people join the recovery program, obtain jobs and housing, receive clothing for their new job, and break the cycle of poverty, addiction and homelessness—all because you cared and gave—please help today.

