

NO KITCHEN? NO PROBLEM?

When Monica Leger heard that a 5.7 magnitude earthquake had made the Rescue Mission's downtown Homeless Service Center and men's recovery program location uninhabitable, she got worried. Her brother was homeless and staying at the Mission. She quickly wanted to make sure he was alright and help where she could.

She brought 14 cases of water to the Marv Jensen Recreation Center, where Salt Lake County had offered for the 60 or so men who lived regularly at the Mission to stay on a temporary basis. Then, she found out that the rec center, which had closed to the public a few years back, had no kitchen.

"I knew that meals would have to be brought in, like prepared meals," she said.

So, Monica decided to try to help, as did so many others. The Rescue Mission has been truly blessed by all the meals that various community groups, restaurants, churches and individuals have supplied as the 35 men on the New Life Program, along with about 25 homeless guests, have lived at the rec center since the earthquake on March 18.

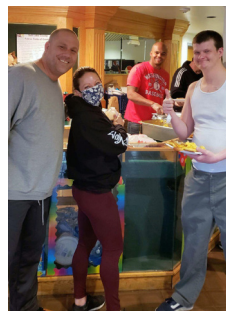
In Monica's case, she gathered up a group of friends who raised \$3,328. Then, she went around to local businesses and offered to pay \$5-a-meal if they would provide complete meals to the Rescue Mission men staying at the recreation center. It was a way to both support local businesses impacted by COVID-19, but also provide for the Mission's homeless friends and program members.

"I wasn't asking for free food, but I was asking for discounted food," she said. One local Sonic franchise did provide a completely free meal and the owner's daughters even wrote encouraging messages on each lunch for the men, Monica said. There were many others who took Monica up on her offer, including: Schmidt's Pastry Cottage, Fueled Fresh Kitchen, Salsa Leedos, and Firehouse Subs.

With all the money raised, Monica was able to purchase 13 complete meals for the men living at the rec center. She is encouraging other members of the community to help provide meals and support where they can.

"We need more people to be involved," she said.

The Rescue Mission would like to thank Monica, her friends, and all the great businesses, churches, and volunteers who have met the needs of the men living at the Marv Jensen Rec Center as we work to make the downtown Mission structurally safe again. We praise God for you!



Pictures from top to bottom: A local Sonic Drive-in franchise owner and her daughters provided burger bag lunches with encouraging hand-written notes; a masked Monica Leger drops off a donation of food. Monica's brother, to her left, is homeless and staying at the Rescue Mission; Meal boxes that Monica arranged from Fueled Fresh Kitchen.

RESCUER

MAY
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

ROBERT BALDING: Losing everything to gain true hope

Just a few years ago, I seemed to have it all: a great job in sales for a large corporation, a house in Draper, nice cars, a beautiful wife and friendly stepchildren who I enjoyed.

This month, as I mark one year of sobriety, I realize that God's definition of "having it all" is much different than what mine was. Really, I have discovered that having it all means having a relationship with God. And that is really all I need.

My life started unravelling in 2017. My wife was prescribed some pain killers and then became addicted. I had been taking a prescription for Adderall, to help with concentration problems I had been having. But we found that pain killers and Adderall were expensive. So, my wife moved to heroin because it was cheaper and I started using meth, which has similar effects to Adderall. When we started using street drugs our lives fell apart. I lost my job, her children were moved to her ex-husband's home, and we lost our home.

Shortly after losing our home my wife and I separated and I had nowhere to go. I was arrested for drugs and for trying to scheme to get money for drugs. When I was in jail, I talked to some of the other inmates about getting sober. They said that if I really wanted to stop using drugs, I should go to the Rescue Mission. When I was released from jail to work with Drug Court, they allowed me to enter the Mission's New Life Program while I finished my Drug Court requirements.

I was so relieved. For the first time in a long time, I felt my anxiety dissipate. I didn't have to worry about where I would stay, or where I would eat, or how to support myself. The Mission allowed me a place where I could focus on me.

I had never really met people or been to a place where



Robert Balding "had it all" but then became homeless. Now he has been sober for one year and has a good job as a sales rep for a local sheet metal supplier.

Please see "Robert" on page 3.

OUR LOCATIONS

Rescue Mission Homeless Service Center (Downtown Salt Lake)
Men's shelter, men's recovery program, and corporate office

Rescue Mission Women's Center
Women's recovery program and shelter (domestic & homeless)

Hope House
Transitional home for women graduating the New Life Program

Ogden Rescue Mission
Recovery Program and shelter for men and women

Freedom House
Transitional home for men graduating the New Life Program

Connect
with us

Web: [RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.RescueSaltLake.org)

Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - Twitter: [@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)

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SAVING LIVES, CHANGING LIVES:
NOW AND FOREVER

I am consistently asked how the Mission is doing as we live through the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with the aftershocks of the earthquake that displaced us from our downtown Homeless Service Center and home of our Men's Program on March 18.



My reply? We are still here, working to change lives and save lives, both now and forever.

Many of our homeless friends who were staying with us when the earthquake hit, came over with us to the Marv Jensen Recreation Center, which Salt Lake County made available on a temporary basis. These homeless friends have had to stick with us, since COVID-19 restrictions, and the quarantine of other homeless service providers, prohibited them from going to another shelter. But as they have stayed with us, many of them have felt love and compassion from God and our generous ministry partners. They have heard and seen the Good News of Jesus' love and forgiveness. As they have seen God work, several have had the strength and courage to join the New Life Program. I trust that through the New Life Program God will change their lives here on Earth, but also change their lives for eternity by bringing them to faith in Him.

As you can see in this month's newsletter, many people, churches, and businesses, including Kerri Luther and Monica Leger, have helped us in this work of changing and saving lives, both now and forever. We are blessed that so many people are coming to our aid in this time where we are housing

and feeding 60 men without mattresses or a kitchen.

We are working hard to make our downtown men's shelter livable again. We have had a structural engineer's report completed and Makers Line has begun making the needed repairs. We are hoping repairs can be completed by mid to late May, so we can get back to our downtown Salt Lake location and continue to serve our homeless friends.

We miss our chapel providers, community mentors, and volunteers, and look forward to when social distancing restrictions will allow our chapel providers and volunteers to again perform nightly worship services for our homeless friends. We miss the encouragement and Biblical perspectives of all our church partners who participate in our nightly services. Our four other facilities remain up and running. We are so thankful that these facilities were not damaged and are operating at or near capacity.

God bless you and thank for supporting our efforts to repair our building, deal with the Covid-19 crisis and together, and with God's help, change lives and save lives, both now and forever.

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	March 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	31	277
Meals	15,124	60,899
Family Food Boxes	91	457
Nights of Shelter	5,346	18,903
Clothing	2,268	8,207
Day Service/Hygiene	7,741	29,708
Jobs Obtained	3	7
Housing Obtained	3	7

ROBERT: CONTINUED
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they wanted to help you without having any money on the line. I grew up in a culture that seemed to place a big emphasis on money and I bought into the idea that the only reason I had friends or other relationships was because of money. After losing everything, being in a free program, where money was not part of any relationship I had, really changed my perspective.

Because of my previous focus on money, I used to credit everything in my life to myself. But as I learned more about God, I began to see how He had led me to the Rescue Mission and I noticed all the ways He had taken care of me. As I began to give credit to God for the changes that He was doing in me, it made me realize I didn't need money to survive. I didn't need drugs to survive. All I really needed was God. He would take care of me.

Today I go to a good church called Missio Dei and started attending a Bible study there. The relationships I have there are different from the relationships I had at the church I grew up in where there was a kind of hierarchy that made the relationships seem not genuine.

I have also been blessed with a great relationship with my community discipler. He is an awesome person and we can talk about our addictions and sins. I don't feel like I have to hide my sins from him, but we can talk about real-life issues and seek God's help.

"All I really needed was God. He would take care of me."

A few months ago, I was able to move to the employment phase of the New Life Program. Despite the economic slowdown, my brother, who owns a sheet metal supply company was able to hire me as a western sales representative. I will be saving up money for another two or three months and then will need to decide where to move when I graduate from the New Life Program and Drug Court. Some of my family members have offered to let me live with them and there are opportunities for sober living homes through Drug Court. I also could go to the Rescue Mission's transitional house, Freedom House. So, I have some important decisions to make. If you remember, please pray for the options I have. I want God to lead me to the right place.

Another thing I need prayer for is my wife. We are still married and talk but so far, she has not been interested in living a sober lifestyle. She is still doing drugs and doesn't seem to want to stop. Please pray that my wife would desire a new life of sobriety, maybe even seeking help at the Rescue Mission's Women's Center.

Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. I know there is no other place that could've helped me get sober and learn about the true living God. Thank you for making sure there is a place where people without hope can go to get the help they need.

Please support our May matching gift challenge

A few years ago, Kerri Luther with RealtyPath, worked tirelessly to help the Rescue Mission to find a home in Murray that met all of our requirements to become Hope House, the Mission's transitional housing unit for women.

That purchase sparked a deeper relationship that led to Kerri, who owns Impact Homes, an interior design company, to begin sponsoring the Rescue Mission and increase our IMPACT to help men and women off the streets. This year, Impact Homes (visit them at impacthomes.us) has once again donated \$10,000 for the May match. Additionally, other generous donors have given another \$5,000 for a total match of \$15,000.



"I love the fact that it makes a bigger impact by having it be a matching gift," Kerri said.

To gain the \$15,000, the Mission is asking its supporters to give a generous gift in May. Any gift given in the month of May will be counted towards the match. If the Rescue Mission can raise \$15,000, it will be doubled! Every dollar turns into two! This opportunity means Rescue Mission donors can double their impact, having their gift go twice as far to help homeless and hurting men, women, and children off our streets.

Kerri encouraged people to match her gift, to help hurting people off our streets.

"I love hearing the stories of changed lives and appreciate that this is a ministry that everyone in the Valley groups together on to support," she said. "It's not just an individual thing, it's all of us."