

WE'RE HAPPY TO BE HOME

The Rescue Mission's downtown Salt Lake headquarters is supported by 120-year-old wooden beams.

Turns out, those beams were a godsend during the March 18 earthquake that hit Salt Lake City because they were able to sway with the rolling earth. That said, portions of the outside masonry crumbled and an engineer's report determined that structural repairs were needed.

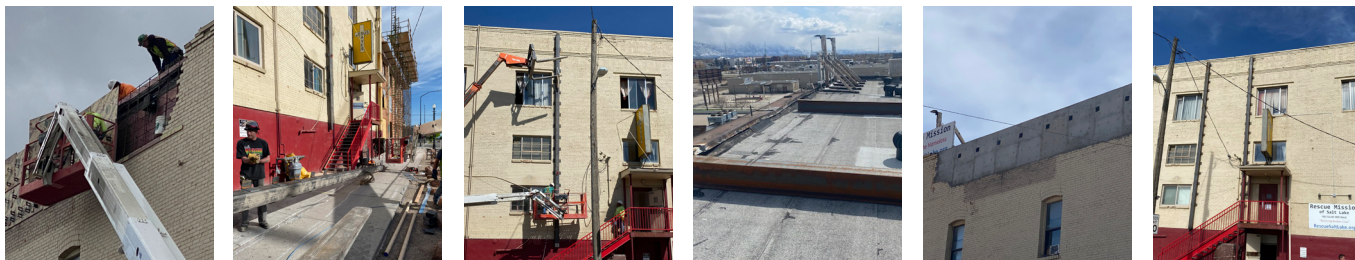
We praise God that Makers Line, Q Factor, and many of you (our generous Mission supporters and volunteers) provided the time, labor, equipment, and funds needed to make the Mission habitable again. We are happy to report that members of the New Life Program and some of our homeless friends were able to move back into the Mission on May 28, coming back home from the former Marv Jensen Recreation Center that city and county leaders had arranged as temporary housing while the repairs happened.

During those 72 days we were displaced, Makers Line and their subcontractors were working hard. They buttressed the roof intact while damaged bricks were removed, re-bar installed, and then forms put in place and concrete injected between the forms. They created a concrete wall in the middle of a masonry wall, both serving as a replacement and reinforcement to the east side of the building.

On the Mission's west side, they created an exoskeleton of "strongbacks" and connected the them to the wood support beams in the Mission as well as to floor joists to protect the front facade.

We cannot thank Makers Line, Q Factor, and our generous donors enough. God's working through His people has made the Mission habitable again. With our New Life Program members and key homeless guests back downtown, we are creating appropriate social distancing protocols and sprucing up the Rescue Mission so we can fully reopen all our services.

Thank you again to every who has made this reopening possible during these especially difficult situations we have encountered in the Spring of 2020!



Pictures from left to right: 1) The east wall of the Mission's downtown location crumbled after the main rafter supporting the roof jostled east to west during the March 18 earthquake. 2) that same moving rafter caused damage to the Mission's front-facing west side as well. Crews worked to install stabilizing beams. 3) Those beams went up the west front wall, tying in with supporting beams and floor joists. 4) During the process of strengthening our east and west walls there were concerns that the roof would weaken and fall. These steel beams were put in place to ensure the roof would not collapse. 5 & 6) the repaired and refortified east and west walls of the downtown Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, respectively.

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

RESCUER

JUNE
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

VICTORIA MOORE: Getting back on the road to recovery

When I successfully graduated from the New Life Program two years ago, I didn't know that the most difficult part of my road to recovery was in front of me.

Back then, I shared my testimony in the *Rescuer* newsletter (February 2018). I noted that I was moving into a townhouse with my two oldest children and shared that they were excited to decorate their rooms and figure out what kind of furniture we would have.

But that family dream slowly faded. My life grew so bad that last winter while I was in the hospital after a suicide attempt I reached out to the Rescue Mission for help. I was blessed when they told me they would take me in again.

I learned in those two years that I cannot stay sober alone. I need God's help every day and the help of God's people as well. It was that connection to God and His people that I neglected, even as my life gradually unraveled.

Initially, after my graduation in 2018, I did well. I was working as a housekeeper at a nursing home and made enough money to support my two kids and me. But I started hanging out with the wrong friends. I even allowed some of them to live at my townhouse at times. The people I associated with used meth and I tried it again one weekend, even as I promised it would be a one-time event. But soon I was using meth every weekend and then every day. I started calling in sick to work and then stopped showing up to work altogether. My mom found out I was using and went to court to get custody of my kids. She gained custody and wouldn't let me see them anymore.

After six months of not being able to see my kids, I showed up at my mom's house and demanded to see my children.

Please see "Victoria" on page 3.



Victoria Moore is back on track thanks to the truth, love, and support she has received at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

Connect
with us

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IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To the praise and glory of God, we're back.



After being displaced by the March 18 earthquake (yes, I realize that seems like a distant memory at this point!) and aftershocks that crumbled portions of our downtown Salt Lake City headquarters, we have moved our main operations back to downtown Salt Lake City.

We thank the leadership of Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall, and many others who allowed us to stay at the moth-balled Marv Jensen Recreation Center up until May 31. During the time we were displaced, our diligent contractors repaired our downtown headquarters so that we could once again offer centrally located services for our homeless friends.

Thanks to the repairs that have buttressed our building post-quake, we are again operating our daily food service (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and supporting our New Life Recovery Program, which helps homeless men and women get sober and move into faith, employment, and housing. As we continue to evaluate the coronavirus situation, we hope to welcome our volunteer chapel providers back for our nightly chapel services sometime soon.

We would also like to thank all the people, churches and businesses who helped to cater and provide meals at the rec center while we continued to serve the men on the recovery program and our homeless friends without having a kitchen.

Throughout the struggles of the earthquake and pandemic, I have seen God work. I have seen Him working to keep the Rescue Mission open and, while we have seen over 100 Utahns pass away. I have also been encouraged by God's Word, which

teaches us that for those who believe in Jesus to die is gain, because to die is to be with God in Heaven and see Jesus face-to-face. (See Philippians 1:21).

I am thankful to our great God that He has sustained our ministry during this difficult time. The Ogden Rescue Mission, Freedom House, Hope House, and our Women's Center continue to run at or near full capacity as we gradually bring our flagship downtown location, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, back online.

I want to personally thank all of you who contributed to our May match giving challenge. I can report that we met our match, securing needed funding to help provide for the Rescue Mission during the earthquake and pandemic thus far. Please continue to give as you are able. This summer is the first summer since the downtown public housing shelter closed, so we will be the only downtown respite for cool shelter during this hot, hot summer.

We need your continued help to provide physical relief for our homeless friends this summer, even as we know that the physical relief we offer is just a conduit to the spiritual Well of Life that our homeless friends find inside our doors.

Thank you for helping us meet the needs of the most vulnerable men and women in our community. Join me in praying for respite from pandemics, injustice, and earthquakes. Only God can truly give us peace, so let's ask Him to calm our hearts and the hearts of those we serve.

God bless you,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	April 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	1	278
Meals	10,636	62,275
Family Food Boxes	55	512
Nights of Shelter	3,519	22,422
Clothing	2,391	11,098
Day Service/Hygiene	2,587	27,942
Jobs Obtained	5	12
Housing Obtained	2	8

VICTORIA: CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

When she refused, we got into a physical altercation and I was charged with domestic violence and put on probation. Because of my assault, the court also issued a protective order, forcing me to stay away from my children and my mother.

I was back a rock bottom. Less than two years after I thought I had put my meth addiction behind me I was again addicted, depressed, and ashamed. I took a bunch of pills in a suicide attempt but luckily, emergency responders saved my life. I ended up in the hospital for two weeks.

From my hospital bed I reached out to BetteJean, who oversees the Rescue Mission's Hope House, a transitional home for addicted and abused women. BetteJean helped me get back to the Rescue Mission Women's Center, so I could return to recovery.

As I have worked through the Mission's recovery program a second time, I do believe God is teaching me new things. The hardest part about going back into a recovery program was feeling like a failure: Here I was, a once-proud graduate who went back to drugs and lost her kids again.

But though the Bible studies, recovery meetings, and counseling sessions I understand now that God is not trying to shame me. Instead, He cares for me. He is loving and trying to help. He is there 24/7 through my struggles and He is struggling right alongside me. I learned that God gives second chances; Moses, King David, Peter, the woman-He-told-to-go-and-sin-no-more are all examples of God's children who struggled with sin and failed many times.

It's been interesting working through the New Life Recovery Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. I can't attend my recovery classes, like Narcotics Anonymous, in-person right now. All those recovery-type meetings are online meetings now. So, we all log in and talk about our struggles with addiction. I feel like these online meetings aren't as impactful as the in-person meetings where you can talk to people and hear their stories face-to-face. I am so thankful we have face-to-face recovery meetings at the Rescue Mission Women's Center. Still, God has used this new virtual world to help me. Through the online church services at Capital Church and my virtual recovery meetings, God has helped me stay sober for seven months.

Several weeks ago, I moved to the employment phase of the New Life Program and despite the economic downturn, God blessed me with a job at the Veterans

Administration Hospital as a housekeeper, making up beds and cleaning rooms. I spend my days in a N95 mask and my crew works constantly to keep the hospital disinfected. My team does not work on the floor where coronavirus patients are kept, but we still follow tight protocol to keep patients and our staff safe. While I am very thankful for this job, it does make me nervous sometimes, so please pray that God will protect me and our other front-line workers across Utah and the world.

I am excited about my growth, but know I have more progress to make. Despite the protective order, my mother is now allowing me to see her and my kids. My mother and my probation judge have placed some strict requirements that I will need to meet to get off probation and regain custody of my children. I need to continue to stay sober, be employed, get my GED, and show some long-term stability. Part of that stability will be moving to the Hope House when I graduate from the New Life Program.

It will be a long time before I will be able to achieve the length of stability that could allow me to get my children back, but this is what I am working towards. Please pray that God will help me achieve it, even as I know that sobriety is a daily decision that I need His help to make. Please also pray that I would continue to turn to God every day and make good friends who are a positive influence. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and helping women like me, who are often desperate, have no other place to turn, and need second chances to succeed.



Victoria Moore looks forward to spending more time with her kids.