

PREPARING FOR AN INCREASING HOMELESS POPULATION DURING THE HOLIDAYS



Every January homeless service providers and various government agencies conduct a point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness. The Rescue Mission participates with these counts to help identify trends and how to best help our homeless friends. The results of Utah’s 2020 “Point in Time” homelessness count were recently released and showed some worrying trends.

The count showed homelessness had increased by 12% in Utah since last year. More concerning, is that the count was done well before the coronavirus pandemic had gripped the country and caused so much employment disruption.




The disruption among low-wage earners like fast food employees, hotel housekeepers, and sit-down restaurant workers has been severe, forcing many to the edge of homelessness. As the winter approaches, many anti-eviction and temporary unemployment programs have expired. We expect many people who have been on the edge of homelessness to lose their homes.

Where will these people go? Where will they sleep, obtain food and clothing, or simply take a shower?

The Rescue Mission is preparing to help with the increase in Utah homelessness. As always, we provide daily meals and family food boxes for the working poor, along with safe shelter, clothes, and God’s gospel message of hope from the Bible. But we need your help as the demand increases this winter.

WE ARE ALREADY PREPARING FOR THANKSGIVING AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON, OUR BUSIEST TIMES. Please consider giving today to help us stock up and stay ahead of the curve of increased homelessness that we are planning for this winter. You can give by using the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also call our donor relations office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card giving over the phone or visit [RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.rescuesaltlake.org) to donate online.

SEPTEMBER 2020 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermt. Baptist Youth	2 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC	3 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	4 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	5 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
6 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace	7 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	8 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	9 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	10 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	11 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	12 Chapel: Berean Bible Kitchen: Calvary Chapel
13 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	14 Chapel: Discovery Christian Kitchen: Discovery Christian	15 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Compassion Call	16 Chapel: Mission's Door Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	17 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	18 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	19 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
20 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	21 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	22 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	23 Chapel: First Methodist Kitchen: Salt Lake Christian	24 Chapel: Mission's Door Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	25 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	26 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Email to Schedule*
27 Chapel: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	28 Chapel: Living Waters Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Fresh Life Church			

RESCUER

SEPTEMBER
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



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

JUSTIN PEARSON: Discovering people who truly cared

I came to the Rescue Mission after spending time in jail and participating in other recovery programs. Given my incarceration and other recovery experiences, I had been sober for a few months, but when I walked into the Rescue Mission, I knew this place was different. I sensed that it could take me to the next level I needed for long-term sobriety.

Truth be told, I have struggled with drug and alcohol abuse since I was a teenager. In my rural California hometown, almost everyone drank or smoked pot or did some kind of drug, even the parents. My dad has been a life-long drinker, while still holding down jobs as a mechanic. My mother died of liver failure from prescription drug abuse just a few years ago.

When my mother went into a coma, and since I was her closest relative (my parents were never married), I had to travel to Bakersfield and make the decision to discontinue life support. Since that decision, there are still members of my mother’s family who refuse to speak with me. It was the day my mother passed that really pushed my already dead-end life spiraling to rock bottom. My father, who was here in Utah, suggested I come live with him, but all he did was work all day and drink all night until he fell asleep.

Alone, I turned to drugs and alcohol even more, often waiting until my father passed out so I could take his car and drive to downtown Salt Lake where I knew I could score prescription pain pills and other drugs.

It might seem strange, but on one of those nighttime



Justin Pearson was in and out of jail and homeless. Now he has a good job and is hopeful about his new life.

trips to Salt Lake from Payson (where my dad lived at the time) I feel like God changed my life. I had consumed more than half a gallon of cinnamon whiskey, but when my dad fell asleep, I decided to drive to Salt Lake. While driving on the freeway I passed out, clipped a semi-truck, and crashed into the guardrail. My body was hanging halfway inside and halfway outside the car held in barely by the seatbelt.

The first person who came upon the scene, I believe because God was looking out for me, was a registered nurse. I don’t know her name, who she is, or anything about her, but they told me she began expertly performing CPR and brought me back to life.

Please see “Justin” on Page 3

Connect
with us

Web: [RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.rescuesaltlake.org)
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FEELING ANXIOUS?
THERE IS A CURE-ALL

The level of anxiety we have as a society seems to keep ratcheting up.

Almost everyone I have talked to lately feels some level of ever-increasing anxiety. Personally, as my wife and kids go back to school and have more social interaction, thoughts flood my mind: Will they get sick? Will others take precautions seriously? Will social unrest and injustice continue to make us feel less and less safe? Will my friends and family keep their jobs? How will the coming winter impact the pandemic and homeless services? Will the political uncertainty of the coming election further divide us as a nation?

These are all questions that make us worry, they certainly have for me. They seem to be constantly rolling around my head, even as they regularly come up in conversations with others.

As you consider your own anxiety and our collectively increasing societal anxiety, I want you to consider the life of a homeless person.

The kind of anxiety we feel now, is the kind of anxiety they have been walking around with for years. They deal with people looking away from them on the streets and avoiding them. They wonder where or if they can get food. They worry if they will find safe shelter at night, or simply be able to use the bathroom. Our homeless friends face abuse from criminal elements on the streets who would assault or rob them. They have no roof, no home, no job, and often no hope. Now that will make anyone anxious.

As you and I feel anxiety about life and uncertainty, please know that the stress and anxiety our homeless friends experience can be crippling. That uneasy feeling that many of us have during this pandemic is constant and all-consuming for our homeless friends.

The good news is there is a great and complete solution for anxiety—for the homeless and for you and me. When we put our faith and trust in God, and the saving work of His Son Jesus, God leads us out of anxiety. He takes us by the hand and molds our hearts and minds into people who trust

that He is in control, that He knows what is going on and is looking out for us. God tells His people that He works all things for the good for them, giving confidence that no matter what happens in this temporary and broken world, there is an eternal home where there is no suffering, pain, or anxiety.

The heart change God creates in those who trust Him is the only way to truly defeat anxiety, both for our homeless friends and us all. God replaces anxiety with peace and joy, and we see Him do it regularly here at the Rescue Mission. Yes, our mission is humanitarian in many ways as we follow God's call to feed, shelter, and clothe the least fortunate in our society. But ultimately, we are anxiety removers, sharing God's Good News with our homeless friends and others, trusting that God will slowly but surely bring them to faith and out of anxiety. He shifts our focus from the challenges before us to the hope and expectancy that is before us.

We will never be totally free from worry this side of Heaven. I know I'm not and at times have sleepless nights when my mind simply will not turn off after the day's work. But in this anxiety, let's remind each other of the Gospel and ask God to mold and shape our hearts, mind and soul, and to do the same for our homeless friends. Pray that they would trust in God and be less anxious.

Thank you for supporting our ministry and allowing us to reach anxious people with a message of peace and hope.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Remember, using smile.amazon.com and smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire are easy ways to support the Rescue Mission and our homeless friends when shopping online. While free to you, these services donate a percentage of your purchase to the Rescue Mission, when you designate the Mission as your charity of choice. Sign up today and help the homeless while shopping!

JUSTIN:
Continued from Page 1

I was hospitalized for three months and during that time I was prescribed a lot of pain killers. Those drugs were needed since I was in so much pain, but it wasn't good for a drug addict to spend three months using pain killers. When I was released from the hospital, I still had a lot of medical problems and was addicted to my medications. I ended up having a bowel obstruction and was bleeding internally from complications.

It was hard to hold down a job and I eventually lived homeless in downtown Salt Lake, just panhandling for money so I could purchase drugs to numb the pain or stay in a cheap hotel. I was in turmoil, I was ashamed of what I had become, but, at the same time I did not want to quit using drugs.

I was in a pattern of getting arrested, ending up in jail and then being released to a recovery program. But I always had a bad attitude and would get kicked out and sent back to jail. Mostly my bad attitude centered around money. I felt like all the recovery programs they offered me only cared about money. They didn't care about me, only if I could get on Medicaid so they could charge the government for my recovery expenses. Other programs require you to work for their companies to cover the cost of the program.

I couldn't have a real relationship with my counselors because I felt they saw me as a way to get paid, not as a real person. But my attitude changed when I joined the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission.

I had been to the Mission several times before, but when I came in for breakfast in November, 2019 after just being release from jail, it felt different. Someone told me about the recovery program and suggested I try it. There were no conversations about whether my insurance could be verified or if my Medicaid was good. They didn't ask me for a single dime. All they said was, "maybe this is a place that could help you."

Since I have been here, I have met a lot of good people. I started volunteering in the Work Therapy Program and felt like I had a purpose, that I belonged.

Through the counseling, work therapy, and relationship building I have experienced at the Mission, I feel like a new person. I have learned about God, and now believe that God has been looking out for me my entire life. Still, I have a lot more to learn. I attend a house church through Missio Dei and admit that I am still working on building my faith in the God of the Bible. So please pray that God would continue to build a heart of faith in me.

A few months ago, I was able to transition to the employment phase of the New Life Program. God blessed me with a job at a metal fabrication company that makes parts for medical devices, among other things. It's a growing company that creates top-notch equipment. I get paid well and am learning real skills, such as how to run press break and CNC machinery. I'm working hard, but now feel like I have skills that will keep me employed for life.

As I look forward to graduating from the New Life Program in a couple months. I want to try to keep things as simple as possible. My job is in Bluffdale, so I would like to move a little closer. Another member of the New Life Program also works at my same company, so we have discussed getting an apartment together. I would like to get my driver's license back and, who knows, maybe even start a family if I fall in love and the time and situation is right.

I thank all the supporters of the Rescue Mission for helping to create a place that I could trust. A place that didn't ask me if I had insurance or whether I could pay a therapy bill. This place accepted me for free. That was how I knew they cared about me, and how I know all of you care about me as well. Thank you for helping to change my life.

"All they said was, 'maybe this is a place that could help you.'"

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	July 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	17	301
Meals	15,020	105,604
Family Food Boxes	315	1,038
Nights of Shelter	3,785	32,467
Clothing	4,698	19,945
Showers/Hygiene Kits	14,090	55,743
Jobs Obtained	6	32
Housing Obtained	1	14