

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND WINTER MINISTRY

We need your help.

Because of the COVID pandemic we have had to temporarily limit volunteers from coming to the Rescue Mission's downtown facility. However, you can still safely drop off donations to the Mission through our no-touch-drop-off system. And we need your donations!

As we prepare for our annual Thanksgiving season and Banquet for the homeless we are in desperate need to turkeys, hams, and other food. We want to make sure no one goes hungry this Thanksgiving. Especially when times might be extra tough because of the pandemic.

We also need clothes. Winter clothes are in short supply and any jackets, long-sleeve shirts, socks, boots and shoes, hats and other warm items would be greatly appreciated. One thing we are in desperate need of right now is Large, XL, and XXL sizes of men's underwear. As you can imagine - some items are best if new. Our cupboards are bare in both our food and clothing pantries. It's not


difficult to imagine, life is difficult without food or clean undergarments, so please help today if you can.

You can also give financially online at RescueSaltLake.org, via credit card over-the-phone by calling our donor relations office at 801-746-1006, or by using the envelope included in this newsletter.

We are preparing for a holiday and winter season that will be unlike any we have experienced. If this season is difficult for those who have homes, consider how much more difficult it will be for the homeless. As much as possible, we want to show God's love and grace to our homeless friends by providing a place of safety, warmth, and compassion during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please help us by donating towards our Thanksgiving Season and Banquet and our winter ministry. We need your help more than ever as we prepared to take care of Utah's most venerable population this pandemic winter.

OCTOBER 2020 - OUR CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE IS ON PAUSE. BUT WE THANK EVERYONE FOR VOLUNTEERING AND HOPE TO RESUME SOON!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	2 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	3 Chapel: Bible Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church
4 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace	5 Chapel: First Baptist West Valley Kitchen: First Baptist West Valley	6 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermt. Baptist Youth	7 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC	8 Chapel: Millcreek Baptist Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	9 Chapel: Hilltop United Methodist Kitchen: Hilltop United Methodist	10 Chapel: Berean Bible Kitchen: Calvary Chapel
11 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	12 Chapel: Discovery Christian Church Kitchen: Discovery Christian Church	13 Chapel: Unity Baptist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	14 Chapel: Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	15 Chapel: New Begins. Christian Fellowship Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	16 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	17 Chapel: Southside Church of Christ Kitchen: Southside Church of Christ
18 Chapel: Abundant Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	19 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	20 Chapel: K2 - The Church Kitchen: Compassion Call	21 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	22 Chapel: Missions Door Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	23 Chapel: Midvalley Bible Kitchen: Mudita Yoga	24 Chapel: EV Free Church of Salt Lake Kitchen: Email to Schedule*
25 Chapel: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Grace Community Bible	26 Chapel: Living Waters Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	27 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	28 Chapel: First Methodist Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church	29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	30 Chapel: Utah Partner. for Christ Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	31 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*

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

RESCUER

OCTOBER
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DON HILL: A life transformed to serve and help

Editor's Note: Every so often, the Rescuer provides updates about the people who have previously shared their testimonies in the Rescuer. Don Hill first shared his testimony way back in 2008. Twelve years later, we want to share an update on Don's life in service of Jesus.

About 18 months ago, the Rescue Mission's executive director, Chris Croswhite, called me with an intriguing proposition. The Rescue Mission of Salt Lake was in talks to acquire the Ogden Rescue Mission and, if the project went through, he needed someone to take over as program director of the Ogden facility. I felt like Chris' request was in God's timing, since I had been praying about what God had next for me.

By way of background, I grew up living a mostly rural life in northeastern California. In the late 90s and early 2000s, when meth ruled the drug scene, I became involved in the drug culture here in Utah. But I eventually grew tired of using meth and became depressed as I saw it ruin my friends' lives. Saddened, I quit the drug culture and became homeless. In the mid-2000s, I actually spent 16 months of my life living in a miserable stupor behind a dumpster in Magna, Utah.

I believe God intervened in my life when, while I was living behind that dumpster, a blood clot traveled to my heart and I sought medical help at the Fourth Street Clinic, just a half block from the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. After seeking that medical help, I didn't go back to the dumpster, but crossed the road and asked to join the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission.

God taught me so many things through the Rescue Mission's program. I grew in faith and in relationship with God and His people. I became the Rescue Mission's volunteer house manager in 2008 and then was hired as the paid house

Please see "Don" on page 3.



Once homeless himself, God has changed Don Hill's life and now he gives back as the Program Director for the Ogden Rescue Mission.

Connect
with us

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TAKING EXTRA PRECAUTIONS WITH GOD'S GRACE

On the day I am writing this, Utah saw its largest number of COVID cases on record.

It's not surprising, then, that the Rescue Mission has also seen its first ever case of COVID.

I wanted to share how our first case is impacting our ministry, the precautions we are taking, and how you can help. We became aware of our first case after one of our staff members started feeling ill. The staff member was tested and the test came back positive. We immediately notified the County Health Department and at our request they came in and tested everyone at the Rescue



Mission including: staff, students, and our homeless friends. One of our ministry partners, the Fourth Street Clinic, set up a series of tests over multiple weeks to ensure the Rescue Mission was free of COVID.

During the series, everyone staying at Mission is tested during each series and then if someone tests positive they are quarantined. Additionally, we are now testing and moving to quarantine any person who shows symptoms and doing random testing at our downtown facility to help ensure people who are not symptomatic are tested too. I am happy to report that each person associated with the Rescue Mission who has tested positive is doing well and are beginning to return to us.

As I talk with directors of rescue mission across our country, we are being blessed in Salt Lake County. Our County leadership has provided a place where the homeless who test positive can quarantine and get the care they need during their recovery. I am thankful that no other members of our staff have tested positive and that our other two service centers: the Rescue Mission Women's Center and the Ogden Rescue Mission, have remained COVID free

As we are going through the testing and maintaining the rigorous cleaning and screening standards we have in place, we hope to be COVID free soon. In the meantime, we are sorry that we have had to suspend volunteer services, just to keep everyone safe. We hope to bring our beloved

volunteers back as soon as possible.

Because we are limiting volunteers, we need your support more than ever. We are still open and providing daily food, shelter, and clothing to our homeless friends. You can partner with us by praying that God would protect the Mission from COVID and by giving. You can give financially or donate items we need for the upcoming holiday season (see our list of needed items on the back page).

This is certainly an interesting time to be running a recovery program and homeless shelter, but this ministry is needed now more than ever. With fewer and fewer jobs available for service workers and others, we need to provide a place where those who can't afford rent or basic necessities can come to get food, shelter, and clothing. Before the pandemic hit Utah the annual Point-in-Time Count recorded a twelve percent increase in the number of homeless persons in Utah. This is before people experienced jobs losses and the increase of addiction, domestic violence, and foreclosures hit our low income neighbors. So please continue to pray and support us during this time.

The Staff Team and our Program Members need God's strength to stand strong and do the right thing every day. In my conversations with the Salt Lake County Health Department, we have been truly amazed that we have just experienced our first case/s since the pandemic began and by the relatively few numbers of positive tests we have had. I truly believe your prayers and God's covering grace has sustained us.

We hope to be able to welcome volunteers back soon, especially for our busy holiday season. Our Facebook page and our email updates are great ways to stay updated. Thank you for supporting us through this important time when we are serving the neediest members of our community.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

DON: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

manager in 2010.

I worked as house manager for five years, before I felt God's call to try a different ministry. Another brother-in-Christ approached me about starting a ranch for those struggling with addiction and homelessness in Stockton, Utah. The rural, farm-like dry desert reminded me of where I grew up and I accepted.

He had a large piece of land with a home that needed significant remodeling. I took nine months remodeling the home and then we leased it to a couple from a Salt Lake-area church who had a vision to help the homeless. I served as the house manager at the property and this church-based ministry would bring in homeless men who they thought would succeed at the house.

The ministry did not take off and after several months, the ministry had to fold. Afterwards, I started taking in older homeless men. These were men who had lived long lives of addiction and homelessness but now were ready to quit. There is a large sporting good distribution center out near Stockton where people can get jobs and I would take men in, try to set them up with these jobs, and help them transition out of homelessness.

But by 2018, I felt the need to move my widowed mother in with me at the Stockton house and I quit taking in more homeless men. I was praying to God about how I could serve Him, when Chris contacted me.

Since I started working as Program Director at the Ogden Rescue Mission in January, 2019, we have worked to augment the existing ministry. For men on our recovery program, we have started a daily, hour-long Bible study and now have a daily hour-long recovery meeting for those struggling with addiction. I help run the work therapy programs that instill purpose and work ethic in those who are trying to transition out of homelessness. We even help our program men find jobs when it is time

for them to seek outside employment.

It has been a blessing to come alongside the longtime workers at the Ogden Rescue Mission and help them to build up the recovery program. I believe our efforts at continuous improvement will honor God and bring more people out of homelessness and into new life, employment, and housing.

As I have worked at this job, I have felt pressure to succeed. Recently, God taught me to let go of the feeling that I had to solve everyone's problems. I was hospitalized with severe stress since I was worrying about making sure I did everything possible to help our homeless friends thrive. After taking a week off to decompress, God spoke to me and told me that I am not the one who is responsible for other people's success or failure. God is responsible for that, and He is sovereign.

This heart-level realization has brought me great peace and I have been able to get back to work, this time without so much stress. Please pray for me. I am by no means a perfect person and like all of you am navigating this COVID world as best as possible, while directing the ministry at Ogden Rescue Mission. I drive 75 miles each day to and from work (Stockton to Ogden). The stress of helping hurting people really can get to me sometimes, but the daily drive helps me let go of the stress of the day. Please pray for a safe commute and that God would bless my time at work and on the road.

Thank you so much for supporting our ministry and praying for it. As much as I feel like God has accomplished through me in the last dozen years, please remember that before I came to the Rescue Mission I was homeless and without hope. Your support has truly helped change my life and continues to change the lives of so many who come through our doors, both in Ogden and in Salt Lake.

"Your support has truly changed my life."

Our Stats

how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	August 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	26	327
Meals	18,285	123,901
Family Food Boxes	438	1,476
Nights of Shelter	3,751	36,218
Clothing	3,744	23,689
Hygien Items	5,512	51,257
Day Service	1,453	11,451
Jobs Obtained	5	36
Housing Obtained	1	14