

THANKSGIVING WITH A TWIST



By the grace of God, we are still planning our two-days early, “street famous” Thanksgiving Banquet for our homeless friends. This year we are calling it *Thanksgiving with a Twist*. The good news, is that this event will still fully bless our homeless friends, and you can participate by volunteering.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) we will serve our banquet. Instead of inviting our homeless friends and the working poor into our chapel and dining hall, we will set up curbside/walkup pickup. We will be packing fully loaded Thanksgiving dinners into to-go containers and giving them out as hungry people come by to eat.

In addition, we have identified key locations where many unsheltered people are living outside. Some members of the homeless community have chosen to live outside in camps. So we will be traveling to these locations where significant numbers of our homeless friends are camped and deliver our boxed Thanksgiving meals. While at the camps, we will also be distributing warm clothes and information about our free programs that can help them get off the streets and into sobriety, housing, and employment.

We need volunteers who are able to help us package our to-go Thanksgiving meals and hand them out curbside. Then, we also need volunteers who can go out and deliver to-go meals at the key locations where many of our homeless friends are living. As you volunteer we will have trained staff and trained volunteers who will work alongside you, as we take every precaution to ensure everything is clean and safe.

For those who can’t help in person, we need donations of food, such as ham, turkeys, stuffing, and all the trimmings. We understand many people don’t want to make an extra trip to the store so monetary donations are also greatly appreciated as we ramp up to serve during this unique holiday season and even begin to prepare for Christmas.

Please consider giving or volunteering today! To volunteer, email Danielle at dvaughns@RescueSaltLake.org or contact us via our website: RescueSaltLake.org. To donate financially, send a check using the envelope included with this newsletter, call our Donor Relations Office at 801.746.1006 for over-the-phone giving via credit card, or visit RescueSaltLake.org to give online. Thank you for keeping our doors open 24/7 and helping people off our streets.

NOVEMBER 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: 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: Compassion Call	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*					

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

RESCUER

NOVEMBER
2020

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DESHAUN MITCHELL:
A place that helped me get back home

Editor’s Note: *Most editions of the Rescuer feature testimonies of our New Life Program members and their transformed lives. These stories detail how God works through the Rescue Mission to transform people suffering through addiction and pain into restored individuals, sober and able to leave life on the streets.*

This month, we wanted to feature a story from another part of our ministry that we don’t talk about as much. Our Transitions Program helps men and women who don’t have drug problems but have economic problems. These are the poor amongst us. People who may have lost their jobs or homes and don’t have a safety net of savings or family to fall back on. These people don’t need a year-long recovery program, but some temporary help to obtain employment and housing.

This month we share the story of Deshaun Mitchell, one recent success from our Transitions Program.

I grew up in New Jersey and despite being raised in a “Christian” home, there was a lot of turmoil in my house. I was the first member of my family to graduate college and after I graduated, I didn’t go back.

I felt that by graduating college I had made it out of the neighborhood turmoil I had been born into. I graduated with a communications degree and started working as a copywriter in New York, usually writing or editing copy for advertising and marketing firms.

In March 2020, when COVID hit, it was a struggle for my company to keep me on. There was so much uncertainty and in the summer of 2020, my company made the decision to let me go. At the time, my girlfriend, who is a talented, young pastry chef, was in Paris on a work-learn program.



Deshaun Mitchell lost his job due to COVID, but the Rescue Mission helped him stay off the streets.

Because of the travel restrictions between France and New York at the time, she was not able to return to the U.S. Alone and jobless, I made the decision to travel to Salt

Please see “Deshaun” on page 3

Connect
with us

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STAYING FOCUSED ON OUR KEY MINISTRIES

I am praising God that, with your support and God’s enabling, the Rescue Mission has been able to remain a 24/7 ministry straight through this COVID pandemic. As we have worked through the challenges of 2020, you have helped us remain a round-the-clock resource for the homeless, addicted, and working poor. That’s not to say we haven’t made adjustments at times to our normal ministry. For instance, we have altered our food pantry

times and processes for working poor families who need to pick up food boxes, both reducing hours and ensuring contactless processing. At times, instead of welcoming people into our dining hall, we have had to distribute meals via curb-side pickup. But throughout it all we have stayed open and provided services

to our homeless friends and the community. I appreciate our dedicated staff, who fully understand that through this pandemic they are serving God, as well as people. Just think of what it would have been like if homeless service providers had stopped functioning and nearly 2,000 men, women, and children were left on the streets with no food, shelter, or resources.

I believe God has been watching over, not only our ministry, but our homeless community across the nation. We are blessed that COVID has impacted the homeless community far less than what was anticipated in the U.S.

As we have navigated the pandemic, we have kept our focus on the primary objectives that God has called us to:

- We have continued our New Life Recovery Program, which provides those with addictions a pathway off the streets and into sobriety, employment, and housing.
- We have continued our Transitions Program, which helps the situationally homeless due to economic hardship quickly get back into housing (please read Deshaun Mitchell’s testimony in this month’s newsletter

- about how the Transition’s Program changed his life).
- We have continued to be a key emergency resource for the poorest of our community, providing daily food, shelter, and clothing for our friends who need help most.
 - We have not wavered from sharing the good news of Jesus and have watched the forgiveness, salvation, and changed lives that faith in Jesus brings to those who come through our door.

Unlike some organizations, the type of work we do does not allow for our staff to work-from-home. Instead, it is hands-on! I appreciate our staff’s willingness to dive in to this in-person work, even as we take the utmost precautions to stay safe with our personal interactions. It has been a blessing to see the work that God has allowed to continue here and see lives changed.

As we continue to work, and with the winter months ahead, we need your help. We are really low on coats, boots, winter clothes, turkeys, and supplies for our Thanksgiving Food Boxes.

Other shelters have stopped receiving gift-in-kind donations and many of our donors thought that we had as well. But we haven’t. Please donate your used winter clothes and items for our Thanksgiving Food Boxes. We have contactless drop off. Just come by our main downtown shelter at 463 S. 400 West. When you show up give us a call at 801-355-1302 and we will come out pick the items up out of your trunk or off the dock.

Thank you so much for supporting this great ministry that is helping the poorest among us get through this most difficult time. Remember our staff and the men and women we serve in your prayers and consider making a special donation for our holiday ministry. It will mean more than ever this year.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

DESHAUN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lake with a friend, where we had heard the job market was better and the cost-of-living more affordable. We arrived in Salt Lake and I found a quick job working for a company that had a contract to clean city parks and buildings. My friend and I got an apartment but soon my friend had a family emergency come up and had to leave for Florida. I was here in Utah alone and my single salary could not pay the rent.

I had a few weeks left on the existing lease. With my girlfriend still in Paris and not really having a good relationship with my family, I tried to find some temporary housing here in Utah. I searched the internet for housing resources and called several options.

Of all the places I called, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake was the only one that answered the phone. I told them my situation and they told me I could come to the downtown Salt Lake shelter and they would help me. When my lease ran out in the first week of September I walked to the Rescue Mission. It was the first time I had ever been to a homeless shelter.

In all honestly, the Mission was much more comfortable than I thought it would be. It was safe and all the men on the New Life Program were nice. There was a great comradery amongst the other men who live at the Mission. I didn’t expect everyone to be so friendly, but it was like a little brotherhood existed that I wasn’t expecting.

As a member of the Mission’s Transitions Program, I didn’t follow all the same protocols and rules that members of the New Life Program did. Still, I understood that we were all in the same boat, just trying to work to get back on our feet.

For me, I was able to keep my job cleaning city buildings and facilities. Being able to stay at the Mission for several weeks allowed me to save my paychecks up, instead of paying rent. The goal of the Transitions Program is to quickly save \$2,000 or more so you can have enough money to pay first and last month’s rent and a deposit on an apartment. They are seeking a quick transition back into housing, so you don’t get stuck in the mire of long-term homelessness.

Since those of us on the Transitions Program don’t have the drug and alcohol addictions that many of our homeless friends have, it really is just a matter of being able to work and save some money and get back into affordable housing.

In my case, the Transition’s Program has meant so much more than just housing. As I have stayed here, I have gone to the nightly chapel services and other Bible studies. It has only been since I came to the Rescue Mission that I have begun praying nightly to God. I feel like in the past I had a distant relationship from God, but now I have a close relationship with Him.

This relationship with God has changed my life and God has blessed me since I started drawing close to Him. For starters, my girlfriend was able to make it back from Paris and now has a job as a pastry chef in Manhattan. We have decided to get married (the date is November 23) and have secured an apartment in The Bronx.

With the money I have saved on the transitions program, I have money to help us get into the apartment. Additionally, God has blessed me with an editing job, working for a company that helps authors finish their books. There are a lot of people out there writing books but

need some writing or creative help to get the book finished and published. So, authors can hire the company I work for to come alongside them and help them finish their creative works.

With my new job and my bride’s pastry chef position, we hope to build a life together in The Bronx. I will be traveling back to New York in early November to start this new life with my soon-to-be wife.

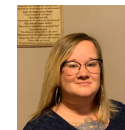
I don’t know how my story could’ve turn out this way without the help of the Rescue Mission. For me it was a Godsend. I know we shouldn’t expect two months of safe shelter, free utilities, clothes and food, but in my case, I needed it. I fought hard to graduate college and get away from the difficulties of my childhood, but the COVID-related economic downtown took a toll on me. I don’t think I would have been able to keep my job here in Salt Lake without a place to live and all the help the Rescue Mission gave me. I am so thankful God led me to Salt Lake and the Rescue Mission. I don’t know where I would be without this journey over the last few months. The newfound relationship I have with God has been especially invaluable.

I am excited to return home to New York and start a new life with my bride-to-be. Thank you so much for supporting the Mission and providing a place where people like me can find the help they need to get back on their feet.

“The newfound relationship I have with God has been especially invaluable.”

We are Thankful!

Note: Normally we share our statistics in this space, but for Thanksgiving we wanted to share some quotes from members of our New Life Program who are thankful for your support! Enjoy these uplifting quotes, and look for our updates stats in our December edition.



I am thankful to God for being in my life and loving me no matter what. I am also thankful I have a relationship with my family, especially my Son and Dad.
~ **Amy**



I am thankful for God showing me the way to forgiveness, for freedom, and waking up each morning with a sound and sober mind.
~ **Sarah**



My Thanksgiving happiness is to be back with my family and kids and we are a team again! ~ **Kirby**



I am thankful for the Rescue Mission and the staff for always being there to help heal my heart and soul. I am also thankful for my church community and mentors. ~ **Victoria**