

THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME HOLIDAY SEASON!

Wow! We want to thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission during the Holiday Season. We have some great news to report.

First, you helped us meet our \$15,000 matching grant challenge. We know times are hard for many, please know this support will help the poorest members of our community this winter. Thank you!

Second, your support helped us have an incredible and safe Christmas outreach to our homeless friends. We partnered with Operation Care International on December 19 to hold our Christmas Banquet for the Homeless and then gave out 800 pairs of new socks and boots (along with foot washings) to those who came to our door. Our efforts here in Salt Lake were mirrored in 75 countries and 22 states as part of Operation Care International's birthday party for Jesus. And, in addition to clean feet wrapped in warm socks and boots, our homeless friends were able to enjoy a curbside Christmas meal of glazed ham with all the trimmings.

In one interaction, a homeless woman who has lived a life of neglect and disrespect on the streets, told one of

our foot washers that she had never had her feet washed before. The volunteer told her that he had never washed someone's feet before. The volunteer on his knees in a humble position before her looked up and shared "This will be the first time for both of us" and proceeded to untie her tattered shoes.

When the volunteer finished, they both stood up and spontaneously hugged each other and started weeping together. It was an awesome display of the power of love and compassion that impacted both their lives and everyone who saw it.

Another blessing happened in the lead-up to our banquet. The New Life Program man who leads our kitchen came to the Mission staff in a panic. We did not have enough hams to meet the number of meals we

Please see "Christmas" on page 3.



A volunteer prays with a homeless man after a foot washing.

RESCUER

JANUARY
2021

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

STEPHANIE HERRERA: A wife and mother finds a new life

It was just when the COVID-19 pandemic became a real thing in the U.S.—March, 2020.

I was all by myself in a cheap motel, not knowing what to do. My husband and I had been using meth and heroin on a regular basis for about three years. In 2017 we lost, in close succession, both my parents and his father. It was at that point that we turned from using drugs recreationally, to using them just get through our daily grief.

We were struggling to hold down our jobs and keep the place where we were living. And just as our money and job situations grew tenuous due to our drug use, we were both arrested for shoplifting and arguing with a security guard at a local grocery store.

The judge released me pending a court date, but my husband's judge wasn't as lenient, and he remained incarcerated. Even though I was released from jail, I had lost my job and our housing.

Our children, who are all young adults, had left Utah to live with other family members in Idaho and Nevada since they had had enough of our drug use. I was all alone. The only thing I had that was worth anything was a ring, so I pawned it. I used the money for drugs and a few nights stay at a cheap motel. On the fourth night at the hotel, I called my husband in jail. I told him I had nowhere to go. I had called around to some "help lines" looking for places that might give me a place to stay, but hadn't found anything.

For the first time that I could remember, my husband told me that I needed to pray and ask God for help. My husband usually doesn't talk like that and it impressed on me that the only option I really had was to plead with God.

So, I sat alone in that hotel room and asked God to do a miracle. The next morning, I got a call from a woman at the Rescue Mission's Women's Facility. She had gotten my contact information from one of those help lines and she listened to my story. She told me that if I wanted help and a pathway out of addiction and into new life, I could join their New Life Program.

Please see "Stephanie" on page 3.



Stephanie Herrera has a good job and is saving money so she and her husband can get back into housing and reconnect with their children.

JANUARY 2021 - OUR CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

Connect
with us

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RESTARTING EACH EVENING

It's common for us to think of "restarting" at the beginning of a new year. And who doesn't want a restart after the challenges of 2020?



But if you think about how God designed our world, He really has set us up to restart each evening, not just every January. And such nightly restarting is what we are all about here at the Rescue Mission. God's first chosen people, the Jews, thought of the day differently than we do today. Their day began at sundown, not sunup. For example, their Sabbath day (our Saturday) began when the sun went down on Friday night, not when it came up Saturday morning. For them, the new day started with an evening meal (sustenance), refreshing social time with other people (usually their family), and then a night's sleep.

The evening day, then, began with food, fellowship, and rest. These necessities were needed at the start of the day, so that when people woke, then would be refreshed and encouraged to face the day's challenges and opportunities. At the end of the day, a person could again be "restarted" with evening food, fellowship, and rest.

This restarting or refreshing is God's gift of lovingkindness to people and shows us His desire to prepare us for what is to come. The food, fellowship, and rest that we receive at the start of each "evening day" gives us the restart we need to address that which will greet us at sunrise. Furthermore, God tells us that His grace and mercies are "new every morning." Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV). Not only is the first thing God gives us at the start of a new day is food, fellowship and rest, but when we awake: His mercy, grace and lovingkindness are renewed at the dawn of our daylight hours and workday.

God-ordained restarts are something we model with our ministry here at the Rescue Mission. Each evening we have a nightly chapel service, dinner, and then make sure everyone has a safe place to sleep and refresh. This way people are ready to face the new day. Whether it's someone who is in our recovery program and is challenged with a day of studying God's word, talking truthfully with their counselor, and participating in work therapy at the mission; Or someone who lost their job and is going out to look for work at a time when not much work is available, our ministry sets them up to experience God's grace and mercy for the daily restart.

Our desire for everyone who comes to our door each evening seeking help, is that they would have a restart. That they would enter our door as if it were the beginning of a new day. A day that starts with fellowship in God's word and with His people, an evening meal, and rest. Throughout this year we will tell people that there is no need to wait for January to restart. Rather, today is the day of salvation and change.

Thank you for supporting our ministry of daily restarts. There are so many people, just like Stephanie Herrera who shares her testimony this month, who will need restarts throughout this year. Your support helps ensure we are here when people need a God-enabled restart.

God bless you,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

A young boy washes a homeless man's feet during our Christmas outreach.



Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	November 2020	YTD 2020
Professions of Faith	3	323
Meals	11,576	163,885
Family Food Boxes	176	2,247
Nights of Shelter	3,753	47,245
Clothing	5,768	36,801
Hygiene items	3,946	64,716
Day Service	1,418	15,436
Jobs Obtained	5	56
Housing Obtained	5	34

STEPHANIE: CONTINUED
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I felt the invitation was an answer to my prayer. I jumped at the opportunity and am glad to say that decision has changed my life. At the Rescue Mission I learned that God had forgiveness for me when I trusted in Jesus. I learned how Jesus had given his life for the wrong things I have done.

Before coming to the Mission, I wore my past shames around my neck like an anchor. Back then, I was afraid to have a relationship with my son and stepdaughters because I had neglected and mistreated them so many times before. I didn't trust myself to be a good mother or a good friend to anyone and it made me isolate and turn to drugs all the more. But when I experienced God's forgiveness, it allowed me to forgive myself and removed the anchor from my neck. I felt free to have relationships with people again.

I have been sober for almost a year now and a couple months ago was able to begin the employment phase of the New Life Program. Despite the job market, God blessed me with a job at a medical supply company and I am now starting to save money for housing.

Another blessing is that my husband, who has since been released from jail, has joined the men's program at the Rescue Mission. It's amazing to see his transformation. He is a guy who was in a gang at age 13 and is tattooed from head to toe. But now he talks differently, he acts differently, and he feels different. I can't believe the great relationship we have together as a sober couple who both know Jesus.

We are going to church together at New Creation Church in Sandy. It is a great church body and we are welcomed and at home there. We have new desires and hope our lives can reach other people for Jesus and help them to have faith in Him.

Our children are happy with us too. We have three children who we call our own, but none together. My husband's two children are from another relationship and my son is from another relationship, but we feel like we are one family. Before, when I was still using, I would try to tell my children

how I would change or how things would be different someday. Now, I don't need to tell them anything. Instead, they can see the change that has happened. I don't need to convince them. My son has told me two times in recent weeks that he is proud of me. Those are the first two times he has ever told me that he is proud of me.

My husband has recently moved to the job phase of the New Life Program on the men's side. Please pray that he will find work. He is a good worker and has had successful jobs in the asphalt business in the past, so I think God will provide for him.

As I look to the future it seems brighter than ever. One of my goals is to get my driver's license and then purchase a car. My husband and I would like to go visit our children and will need a car for those visits. We are also looking to rebuild our credit and get into a house again. The judge on my case has said that if I continue to do well, she will drop my charge from a felony to a misdemeanor, which should allow me to qualify for even better jobs than the one I have now.

I love customer service, solving people's problems and taking care of them. So, I would love to get back into that kind of work, but it is hard for people to take a chance on someone with a felony in their background, so please pray for me about this. I can't thank you—the supporters of the Rescue Mission—enough. Without your support and God's enabling, this Mission would not be here, and I would never have found the help I needed.

Thank you for providing a place where desperate people like me can find a changed life. Your support has meant the world to me.

Christmas: Continued from Back Page

expected to serve during our Christmas curbside banquet. Our staff told the kitchen leader to trust God and pray that He would provide. Within the hour, one of our of key community partners, Hillside Tire and Service, showed up at our door with a generous donation of hams. The program member ran back into the staff office exuberantly saying "someone is outside donating hams"!

A third special part of December was that we were able to continue the outreach we started in November to the homeless camps spread around the Salt Lake Valley. For our Christmas outreach on December 19, we delivered over 600 meals to members of the homeless community who aren't coming into shelters for fear of contracting coronavirus (among other reasons).

As a ministry, we don't support homeless camping. However, our goal in blessing these homeless campers with fresh, hot prepared meals is to build relationships with them, in hopes that when they are ready to leave the streets, they will seek our help at the Rescue Mission.