

BECOME A MONTHLY MIRACLE MAKER!

Over the years, the Rescue Mission has been blessed by God and His people. Your support has enabled us to grow from a single location in downtown Salt Lake to our current five locations from Murray to Ogden, including transitional housing units for men and women graduating our programs.

It's been awesome to see the miracles God has done by using your support to restore broken lives and lift people off the streets. One of our favorites is when a graduate buys their own home.

Today we want to ask those of you who give occasional donations to consider joining our monthly support team called Monthly Miracle Makers. These monthly givers are supporters who donate regularly each month. Consistent monthly donations better helps us provide the foundation for men, women, and children to leave the streets and experience new lives of faith, sobriety, employment, and housing.

It's easy to start. You can visit [RescueSaltLake.org/ways-to-donate](https://RescueSaltLake.org/ways-to-donate) and scroll down to the "Donate Monthly" section. You can call our finance office at **801-706-1006** and they can help you set up recurring donations through credit card or account transfer. You can also set up recurring monthly donations though your bank. If you mail in donations by check, you can note in the memo line that you will be a Monthly Miracle Maker moving forward.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Monthly Miracle Maker today! Your commitment will make a big difference in the amount of stable support we can provide to help our homeless friends off the streets.



MARCH 2021 - OUR CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

\*Email [DVaugns@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:DVaugns@RescueSaltLake.org) to schedule your volunteer request.

RESCUER

MARCH 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

KURTIS RAY:  
Learning to trust and finding transformation

For the first time in my life, I have found a home where I have lasting relationships with people.

I have spent most of my life traveling around the United States. I went through some difficult things when I was a child growing up in the Oregon foster care system and didn't finish much school. Because of my upbringing I didn't trust people and never really developed into someone who could succeed at a "normal" job.

Instead I was a traveling "hippie" never staying in most places longer than a few months while spending time in most every state in the U.S. I am good at making jewelry so I would sell jewelry on the streets to make money and hitchhike to get around.

But now I feel like I have found a home here in Salt Lake, thanks to the Rescue Mission.

I came to the Rescue Mission shortly after arriving in Salt Lake City in 2019. Like I always do when I would travel to a new city, I was living homeless. But I soon had a medical issue and was taken to the hospital. At the hospital I learned I had a serious illness that would likely take my life if left untreated.

I was angry at God for this diagnosis. For most of my life I have been angry towards God. I've been angry about my upbringing. I have been angry about the mean and evil things I have seen and experienced while living on the streets. And now I was angry about my diagnosis. I



Kurtis Ray is learning to trust people and trust God after a lifetime of struggles, dissapointment, and chronic homelessness.

wondered how God could let all these bad things happen to me.

I decided to reject the treatment the hospital doctors offered me. Instead, I told God that if He really exists, He would have to prove it to me by healing me. The hospital told me they would not release me unless I had a place to stay. They gave me some numbers to call and when I called the Rescue Mission, they said I could stay there.

When I first began staying at the Rescue Mission, I kept to

Please see "Kurtis" on page 3

Connect  
with us

Web: [RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org)  
Social: [facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake](https://facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake) - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)  
Email: [info@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:info@RescueSaltLake.org)  
Phone: Main - 801.355.1302/Donor Relations - 801.746.1006  
Mail: PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1227  
Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101



IT IS GOOD TO SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT

Throughout the gospel accounts, as Jesus tells the people who have come to see Him, “if you have eyes to see, see.” There is some paradox when Jesus asks people who are looking at Him to actually see Him: who He is, what His is doing, and what He is about to do.

Today Jesus’ question still rings true. Do we see who Jesus is, and what He is doing, and how He is doing it? I recently shared a story during one of our **Minute at the Mission** Facebook Live broadcasts on Friday mornings, where the Rescue Mission was running out of coffee and the men on the recovery program and our homeless friends were fervently praying for coffee.



As the men were inside praying for coffee, a local coffee company was outside dropping off two pallets of coffee on our loading dock. A coincidence? Or eyes to see?

This past December, the program man who oversees our kitchen was worried about having ham for our Christmas Banquet. Stressed he came into the staff offices asking what could be done. Within minutes, we noticed our good friends at Hillside Tire and Service were outside unloading hams for Christmas meals.

Early last summer our staff at the Rescue Mission Women’s Center returned a phone call to a women who was hurting and needed help named Michelle. Michelle insists she never called us and left a message, but she ended up finding help and a changed life by joining our New Life Program after that call. But if Michelle didn’t call, who did?

Several years ago, during an intake interview, Dan shared his family history of cancer. The interviewer suggested that Dan go to the Fourth Street Clinic for a cancer screening. You guessed it; Dan had cancer. Our good friends at Fourth Street coordinated Dan’s treatment while he continued his recovery program and stayed at the Rescue Mission. The treatment was supposed to leave Dan unable to have children. Today Dan is clean and sober, married, owns his own home, and has children of his own. I still remember talking Dan through this process and praying for him. He asked for a room right off the chapel so he could listen to the services during his treatment.

Jesus asks us to have eyes to see so we can see the miracles He is doing through the Rescue Mission and your support. For a person with no money, no food, no shelter, and no hope, a gift of a hot meal and safe shelter is a miracle. The opportunity to be loved, accepted, and cared for (like Kurtis, who shares his story in this month’s *Rescuer*) is a miracle.

At times, Jesus wants us to see miracles He does Himself. Other times He uses His people, you and I, who follow His prompting and give a cup of cold water to a thirsty person or to give a few loafs and fishes from which He feeds multitudes. That is why we so often say Hope Begins with a Meal. In fact, a miracle may begin with a meal.

The Rescue Mission is formalizing our monthly donor program called Monthly Miracle Makers. This is a special group of people who partner with us on a monthly basis to restore broken lives and end homelessness. If you are a regular donor to the Rescue Mission, please know you already are making miracles happen in people’s lives. If you are a new donor or give occasionally, please consider becoming a Monthly Miracle Maker today! I truly believe God uses your support to show us the things He is doing in the world and give us the eyes to see it.

Thank you for changing lives at the Rescue Mission,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

“But blessed are your eyes,  
for they see, and your ears,  
for they hear.”  
Matthew 13:16

KURTIS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

myself. Then I started making small friendships with the staff and the members of the New Life Program. About a month later I made the decision that I would start treatment for my disease. I was still angry at God and thought I would prove God wrong by doing treatment. I would show Him that He couldn’t take my life so soon.

But the treatment kept me around Salt Lake, and I stayed at the Rescue Mission as a guest. In March 2020 a large earthquake damaged the Mission and, given my anxiety, I left and started camping in the foothills.

A few days later I got a call on my cell phone from a staff member at the Mission. They had moved the Mission temporarily to an old, unused recreation center in Salt Lake County. They invited me to come out and stay there.

God used that phone call to put me on the path I am on today. I agreed to join the New Life Program and became part of the team that went to the Mission each day last summer to try to get everything ready to reopen post-earthquake. I was put in charge of running the clothing pantry and getting it prepared to reopen.

I have some OCD tendencies, so it was a perfect job for me. I reorganized all the clothes and developed a system. I explained to our clothing pantry workers that God had led people to donate their clothes to us. It was our responsibility to make sure those clothes got to the right people. When we hand a homeless friend a pair of pants, and they don’t fit, the person will likely just throw them away. We needed an easy system to make sure people were getting the right sizes so they would use what we had to give.

Overseeing our clothing organization and distribution gave me a purpose I had never felt before. It was the first time anyone had really trusted me to be in charge of something. It was the first time people looked to me for guidance and to make decisions.

I felt that because the Mission had trusted me to run the clothing ministry, I could trust them too. I started making great friendships among the other men on the New Life Program and with the Mission’s staff. Everyone that I had trusted in the past had treated me poorly, but now I had real friends that I could count on.

My relationship with God also started to improve. I found I wasn’t so angry at Him. I started to feel like my faith in Him was not misplaced and that I have a real future. I have a good church family at The Potter’s House and the pastor there, Don Rivera, is a good friend. Through listening to Don and through the Bible studies and counseling I have had at the Mission, I understand that God wants what is best for us. He wants to love me. Sometimes it’s hard for me to see that but am learning to understand it is true.

The change for me has been learning to trust again, learning to love again, and learning that you don’t have to run away from everything in life. Because of the earthquake, pandemic, and learning to trust for the first time in my life, my program has gone slower than most, but that is OK. I am still working through my counseling here at the Mission and will be ready for the employment phase soon.

Please pray for me as I enter that phase of the New Life Program. I want to do something that will continue my ability to help people. The staff of the Mission and I have discussed doing an internship at the Mission so I could learn more about homeless ministry operations.

We will see what God has in store. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. This place has meant everything to me over the past 20 months. I don’t know where I would be without the trust and support the Mission has provided. I truly believe it has changed my life.

Our Stats  
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!		
	January 2021	YTD 2021
Professions of Faith	5	5
Meals	11,441	11,441
Family Food Boxes	125	125
Nights of Shelter	3,723	3,723
Clothing	4,618	4,618
Hygiene items	3,808	3,808
Day Service	1,498	1,498
Jobs Obtained	3	3
Housing Obtained	4	4