

YOU CAN HELP THE HOMELESS SURVIVE THIS BLISTERING SUMMER



It's hot! And many of our homeless friends do not have access to enough clean water, if any at all. Without fluids, dehydration sets in and many of our homeless friends get sun poisoning, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

To help, we've launched **Operation Hydration** early this year. It is our mission to supply cool, clean water to the homeless. We are purchasing water bottles and have water coolers in our kitchen and foyer. Additionally, we're opening our chapel (chilled by our swamp coolers) as a respite from the summer swelter. Besides cool air and water, our homeless friends receive hats, sunscreen, reusable water bottles, and lip balm, cool showers, clean clothes along with kind words and love.

But we need you to keep this effort going this summer. Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer** - Every Wednesday we travel to area homeless camps. We share Care Kits with those living in camps and invite them to come to the Rescue Mission where they can enjoy Operation Hydration and find help to obtain the care they need as well as faith in Christ, sobriety, employment, and self-sustained housing.
- Collect supplies** - We need reusable water bottles, hats, sunscreen, lip balm, socks, and lightweight, long-sleeve shirts. Buy or collect these supplies and donate them to the Mission so we can put them in our Care Kits and supply them during Operation Hydration. Or better yet assemble the kits yourself and come join us to hand them out to our homeless friends.
- Give** - We have a \$10,000 matching gift to help fund our hydration outreaches this summer. Please consider giving a generous donation that will help support our efforts and reach our match. Every donation you make will double and hopefully create \$20,000 to help the homeless this summer. You can donate by using the enclosed envelope, give online at RescueSaltLake.org, or call 801-746-1006 to make a secure credit card donation over the phone.

Help our homeless friends this summer! Your support can help save a life from being lost to extreme heat and introduce a homeless person to Jesus!

JULY 2021 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

| 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: Fresh Life | 29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 31 RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* |

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

RESCUER

JULY 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JASON RAYFIELD: Finding grace, forgiveness, and a new life

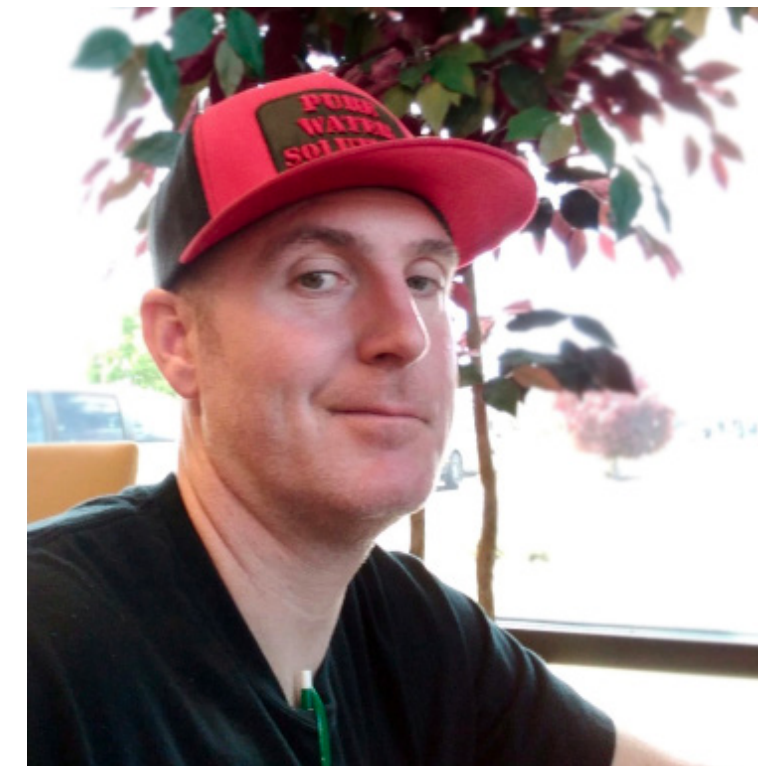
Editor's Note: On occasion we like to share stories of people who graduated from the New Life Program several years ago and catch up on how God is working in their lives. This month we share the story of Jason Rayfield, who graduated more than two years ago, way back before the pandemic.

The story of how God changed my life at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake is a bit different from many of the life change stories you read in the Rescuer newsletter. For me, my problem was not addiction to drugs or alcohol, but rather a crippling depression that left me in a deeply broken state.

About six years ago I went through a devastating divorce. My wife and I had recently had a young daughter together, but our marriage had fallen apart. Since our daughter was still a toddler, I let my wife have full custody and moved in with my parents in Windsor, Missouri. There I spent three years languishing. I didn't work and spent each day isolated at my parent's house feeling angry about my divorce and grieving the separation from my daughter. I felt like God hated me and that is why all these bad things were happening.

Finally, after three years, something moved me to make a change. Suffice to say the small town of Windsor, Missouri is not the job capitol of the U.S., but I had heard Salt Lake City had a booming economy. There seemed to be plentiful jobs there, a low crime rate, and good public transit. It appeared to be the perfect place to begin a new life.

I arrived in Salt Lake by bus with little money, a backpack



Jason Rayfield recovered from deep depression and found new life. Now he has a great job as a service technician for Pure Water Solutions.

of clothes and a few small possessions like my guitar, which I am never far from. I spent one night at the old public housing shelter downtown and quickly realized it was not the place for me. I learned about the Rescue Mission and spent a few nights there.

Please see "Jason" on page 3.

Connect
with us

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

Social: [facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake](https://www.facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake) - [Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)

Email: info@RescueSaltLake.org

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THE NEED TO HELP THE HOMELESS THIS SUMMER IS REAL

As I write this, many parts of Utah have seen day after day of record-breaking temperatures. At the Mission, we call it Triple Digit Danger (extremely high temperatures),

which are creating life-threatening situations for our homeless friends.

And as we all bake this summer, many people have asked me about how Utah's record heat is impacting the homeless community and what the Rescue Mission is doing to help. One thing I want everyone to know is that the need is real. It is humbling to see men and women

crawl under parked cars downtown to find some shade. It's humbling to talk with people whose lips are blistered and peeling as they express their appreciation for a bottle of cold water.

To help with this serious situation, we developed a three-pronged strategy early in June to help our homeless friends during this extreme summer weather.

First, we launched our **Operation Hydration** program earlier than usual, to deal with the record-breaking early heat. Operation Hydration includes opening our swamp-cooler conditioned Day Room/Cooling Station, while having chilled bottles of water, hats, sunblock, lip balm, cool showers, refillable water bottles, and more to help our homeless friends beat the heat. Through this campaign, we provide our friends with items to help them stay safe and hydrated as we share the love of Jesus.

Second, we have created Wednesday **Seek & Rescue** teams and outreaches. These teams of volunteers join our internal crews here at the Rescue Mission to deliver Care Kits—cold water bottles, hats, long sleeve clothing, sunscreen, and other care items—to our homeless friends who are living in camps around the Salt Lake Valley.

While at the camps, we invite our homeless friends to visit the Mission and experience Operation Hydration. We share how the Mission has a Cooling Station with chilled swamp cooler air. We share how we have cold water bottles and many other amenities that the streets and camps don't offer.

We also share how the Mission's New Life Program offers a pathway off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. We show love to the homeless where they are at, and then invite them in.

Third, we are working to secure funding and donations to support our expanded efforts. I am blessed to report that generous Mission donors have pledged \$10,000 towards a **Matching Gift Challenge** to support Operation Hydration and our Seek & Rescue teams. With this match in hand, we are asking other Mission supporters to contribute towards the match so we can have \$20,000 to provide for the homeless. You can read more about how you can volunteer, support, and give to these outreaches in this edition of the Rescuer.

Thank you so much for supporting our efforts to help the homeless and share the Gospel message of Jesus with them. Please know that we would not be here without your support and God's enabling presence.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

We need donations to support our summer outreach! We are asking supporters to put together Care Kits (or donate needed items so we can put Care Kits together here at the Mission) that we can share with our homeless friends. Here are some critically needed items:

Reusable water bottles
Hats
Sunscreen
Lip balm
Socks
Lightweight, long-sleeve shirts

Please consider donating today!

JASON: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As I spoke with the men on the New Life Program, I realized that, even though I wasn't in addiction, the program could help me reconnect with God and overcome my deeply rooted anger towards God, myself and my ex-wife. I realized I needed to deal with those issues before I would be in a place where I could successfully hold down a job and take care of myself.

I joined the program and as I worked through the counseling, I came to see how the pain of my past often motivated me to do hurtful things to other people. I saw that my past had come to shape my current character. But as I verbalized past pains and realized how they were impacting my actions, I felt God working to heal and change me.

I came to see that up to that point, I didn't really know how to accept God's grace in my life and because of my inability to realize God's grace towards me, I had no real ability to forgive other people. As I accepted that I am forgiven by the grace of God through my faith in Jesus, I felt a new focus that made me feel that I could move forward in my life. I didn't have to fear what was around the corner because I saw that unmerited favor from God was around every corner. I didn't have to hate other people anymore.

Today, it has been about two years since I graduated from the Rescue Mission. I have a great job as a service technician for a water machine company that provides water and ice machines to businesses for lunch and breakrooms. We have a good business and my job is to respond to service calls when machines breakdown and fix them. It's been awesome learning this trade and becoming an expert on how to fix these complex

machines. It's rewarding to work hard and be paid well. I have a nice basement apartment that I rent from a great Peruvian family in Taylorsville. Last Christmas they invited me to celebrate a Peruvian Christmas with them and it was awesome. I attend a couple different churches around the valley and spend daily time with God through devotionals like "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers.

One thing I would love prayer for is my relationship with my daughter, who is nine years old now. I have not really connected with her since the divorce. However, I recently publicly published my phone number on Facebook (which has been interesting to say the least)

so that if she ever sees me on there, she can see my number and call me. I am just waiting until she is old enough to want to reach out to me. I pay all my child support and want her to know I am here when she is ready.

My hope is that one day she and I can worship God together and have healing in our relationship and that maybe her mom and I could co-parent to some degree. But I don't want to be pushy and make either my daughter or her mom feel pressured and make the situation worse.

So, I am being patient yet available, and praying that God would work it out in His perfect timing.

Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. I truly believe God led me here when I was at my lowest point and used this ministry to save my life. I know the Mission wouldn't be here without your support, so I thank you for being a part of God's work in my life!

"I didn't have to fear what was around the corner because I saw that unmerited favor from God was around every corner."

Our Stats

how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

| | May 2021 | YTD 2021 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Professions of Faith | 11 | 22 |
| Meals | 13,190 | 67,682 |
| Family Food Boxes | 224 | 983 |
| Nights of Shelter | 4,038 | 19,178 |
| Clothing | 5,335 | 32,848 |
| Hygiene items | 4,496 | 26,460 |
| Day Service | 2,018 | 8,807 |
| Jobs Obtained | 8 | 21 |
| Housing Obtained | 3 | 20 |