

THE TOUGHEST SUMMER

The 2020 COVID summer was hard for its own reasons, but here at the Rescue Mission we are calling 2021, the Toughest Summer yet.

As we work to help the homeless and listen to the talk on the streets, we truly believe this has been the roughest summer we can remember. First, the heat. It's been so hot. It's hard to make enough ice for all our needs and we run to the store to purchase more. It's even harder to keep the swamp coolers working, and keep everyone from overheating.

People who depend on scrounging food out of garbage cans find the food spoiling quickly. If they are camping, it's hard to keep everything cold enough to not spoil. People sweat; saturated with dirt and odor. It can be unbearable. Many of our homeless friend's fear coming into shelter because of COVID and fear of the vaccination.


Knowing the danger of the heat, we have made special efforts to go out into homeless camps and to those living on the streets with cold water and other life-saving supplies such as hats and sunscreen.

We have dubbed these outreaches, "Seek and Rescue" and have enjoyed close collaboration with churches and volunteer groups on our efforts. While out at camps and on the streets, we share about our New Life Program, in hopes that some may want to come to the Mission and leave the streets behind.

We want to thank you for your support during the Toughest Summer we have ever been through. We know it is not over as we stare down the August and early September heat. Please continue to help and support our summer outreaches as you are able. We remain committed to ensuring that everyone stays safe during this dry, hot weather.



AUGUST 2021 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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 DVAugs@RescueSaltLake.org to schedule your volunteer request.

RESCUER

AUGUST
2021

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JAMES BASKETT: Off the streets, out of jail, and into a new life

For most of my life, I have struggled with drug addiction. It ruined my marriage and hurt my relationships with my daughters. But when I came to Utah in 2014 my addiction grew worse until I eventually hit rock bottom and sought help at the Rescue Mission.

I arrived in Utah in 2014 to try to reconnect with my daughters. I had been living mostly in Alaska where I was born and raised, the son of a diesel mechanic who went town-to-town working on logging trucks.

I soon realized, however, that my daughters were not ready to forgive my years of absenteeism and wanted nothing to do with me. Alone in a new place, I turned to meth and other drugs more and more.

I was regularly arrested for drug possession. When I would be released from jail, I would often ignore my probation officer and eventually be returned to jail. The cycle of being in and out of jail, having little to no employment or money, and living on the streets, lasted for six years.

My legal problems came to a head when I faced two years in prison if I violated probation one more time. Desperate to avoid prison and knowing I would likely fail my next drug test, I came to the Rescue Mission and asked if they could help me.

I told the house manager, Don Nicholson, that my life was unmanageable and that I would go to prison if I didn't get help. Don told me he would give me a chance on the New Life Recovery Program. But first, Don said, I would need permission from my probation officer. I told my probation officer that I didn't think I could pass a drug test, but that I needed help, not prison. I told her that I thought the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission could help me.

I thank God that my probation officer allowed me to try the



James Baskett has a job, is off probation, obtained his driver's license, and has moved off the streets.

New Life Program. At the Mission I was able to stabilize my belief in Jesus. Believing helped me to allow God to direct my life. Before, I was trying to be the one in control. I say that giving up control is the hardest easy thing to do in

Please see "James" on page 3

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with us

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ENABLING VS. HELPING

There is a thin line between enabling people and helping people, especially when it comes to homeless services. While I see many well-intentioned efforts, many of them cross the border into enabling.

Here's the key difference:

- Enabling is doing something for a person who can and should be doing it for themselves. Enabling inadvertently supports addictive behavior and the addiction.
- Helping is supporting and equipping choices and behavior that results in a person being God-dependent yet self-sufficient.



Family, friends, other good intentioned people, public agencies, and homeless service providers alike often enable addicted people because they do not know the best way to help. Enabling acts as a net or a cushion for the addicted person, preventing them from experiencing and facing the

consequences of the substance abuse. Enabling creates “no consequences” or at best “limited consequence” for addictive behavior. It incentivizes the addiction and takes away the desire for recovery and willingness to seek treatment and a better life.

Enabling becomes a cycle of disrespect where the addicted person loses respect for the enablers and the enablers lose respect for the person they are trying to help, because they see no progress. Still, many enablers are not willing or able to stop enabling because they mistakenly believe that enabling is an act of love.

In fact, removing the enablement is an act of love. God teaches in Hebrews 12:6 that “He disciplines those He loves.” It’s important to note that love comes first, God loves us and strives to teach us, bidding us to listen and store up his teaching within us (Proverbs 2:1-5). Only after we neglect God, does He allow the consequences of our bad choices create the pain and sorrow needed

to turn us back to Him. Pain and sorrow are often a grace to us because they are needed to produce change in our lives. This change leads us into the arms of a loving God and helps us reach our highest God-given potential.

When people are motivated to change, hope begins. Even the simple idea that life could be better is hope. And simple hopes grow into larger hopes that, with God’s enabling, change lives.

At the Rescue Mission, we want to be here when the pain, drudgery, and despair of life on the streets creates the desire for change. Or the inverse when love, joy, hope, or respect creates the desire to change.

When those who are experiencing pain walk through our doors with a tiny spark of hope in their hearts, we meet them with love, compassion, and a proven plan to help people off the streets. We grow hope, which grows more change, which leads to God transforming broken lives.

We also go out onto the streets with our Seek and Rescue outreaches to share God’s love with those living on the streets. We build love, trust, and respect with our homeless friends who are camping in hopes that these bridges we built will make them want to ask us for help.

Our goal is to meet the person at the point they desire to change and are willing to act on their desire. We strive to support and equip people who have made this decision so they can be God dependent and self-sufficient.

Thank you for your partnership in making transformation happen in people’s lives. With your support we are helping addicted people out of the depths and darkness of homelessness, into the light of God love, recovery, employment, and a home of their own.

May God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

Thank You!

We wanted to share a special thank you to Sizzling Platter, Sam’s Club, and Waste Less Solutions for gift-in-kind donations during the tough summer months. They are helping to feed the poor and allowing people to get help off the streets. These types of in-kind partnerships keep our costs as low as possible to ensure we can help as many people as possible!

JAMES: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the world: It’s simple to allow God to be in control, but surprisingly it takes a lot from you to allow it.

Having a great home church like Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake helped as well. It has been awesome to listen to Pastor Terry share God’s word each week in a way that I can understand. He mixes in history and archaeology to help you to know the Biblical accounts are true.

As my connection to God has grown, I developed an open heart towards others and began to walk a path I had never walked in my life. That path was one of compassion for other people. Before I felt like people should be helping me, not the other way around. As I grew in faith, I realized I should be the one helping others.

The Rescue Mission put me in charge of our dorm, and I managed our clothing distributions. It was a blessing to help people get the clothes they needed and make them happy. Later, I worked on our front desk and was the first person many of our homeless friends saw when they walked in the door. It felt good to help people find the food, shelter, and other necessities they needed.

Most of all, everything I was doing at the Mission gave me a sense of purpose. I had not worked a steady job in six years, and my work therapy at the Mission helped me get back into the swing of having real responsibilities and important work to do. I am also happy to report that while on the New Life Program I completed all conditions of my probation and no longer have any legal issues that I need to deal with.

When it was time for me to move to the employment phase of the New Life Program, I was apprehensive. I had no recent work experience and am missing several teeth from my years of drug abuse and street life. It took me four months, but I finally found a part time job at minimum wage, picking up garbage downtown.

After doing well at that job, I upgraded to a better job with the same company, cleaning public bathrooms.

The pay and hours were a little better, even if the work was not ideal. While I was working, I prepared to get my driver’s license. I passed both the written and driving test and got my license.

Once I had my license, my employer approached me about becoming a shuttle driver, transporting homeless men and women to homeless resource centers around the valley. I accepted the job and will be starting in August, making \$11 an hour.

I am excited that my work will continue to help me help people struggling with homelessness, all while providing for myself. This month I graduated from the New Life Program and moved into Freedom House, which is a transitional housing unit the Rescue Mission has for many of its graduates who are making the jump back into “real” life. At the Freedom House I will have much of the structure I have appreciated at the Rescue Mission but will have more freedom as well.

I look forward to going fishing and hiking with the friends I have made at the Mission. While I was on the New Life Program, I was gifted a car. It’s an older car, but I was so blessed to receive it. I plan to completely rip out the interior and redo the whole inside. It will be a fun project that will keep me busy. I have been talking to and spending a little time with one of my daughters, the other is still hesitant because of the hurt I have caused. Please pray God heals our relationships. Eventually, I hope to save up enough money to return to Southeast Alaska. That is my home and I still have connections there and feel like there are good work opportunities for me.

So those are my plans for now. Mostly though I want to stay open to God’s leading. I can’t believe how He has changed my life since I came to the Rescue Mission. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission. I don’t know where I would be without your support!

Our Stats
how your gift helps

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	June 2021	YTD 2021
Professions of Faith	17	39
Meals	18,828	86,510
Family Food Boxes	498	1,481
Nights of Shelter	5,124	24,302
Clothing	3,454	36,302
Hygiene items	4,539	30,999
Day Service	2,005	10,812
Jobs Obtained	1	22
Housing Obtained	3	23