

CREATING A HOME-LIKE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE HOMELESS



Our homeless friends often tell us what they miss about having a home. They tell us that it's not only about the physical space, but the ability to build friendships and reconnect with family. The old adage rings true that "home is where the heart is."

A huge part of recovery and getting off the streets is developing healthy relationships. The homeless community, especially those living on the streets, often build bonds of friendship that are unhealthy. It is our goal, then, to help our friends build healthy and positive relationships, instead of ones that tear each other down.

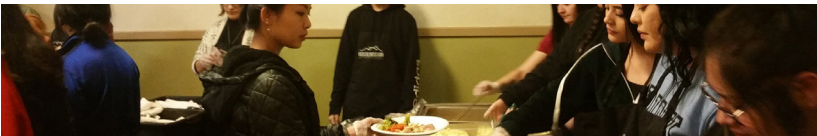
Our staff and members of our New Life Program make special efforts to welcome the homeless and share about the ways we can help them find faith in God, get into recovery, as well as build healthy relationships with local churches and others. As Jack Fotofili (who shares his testimony in this month's *Rescuer*) told us, "There was definitely more love from the Rescue Mission. As soon as I met all the counselors, they

were more sincere with it, they weren't there just to collect a paycheck. You could feel the love for the programmers. That's one of the main reasons I stayed: To know someone cares."

Building community can be hard, because our friends who are homeless or formerly homeless find it hard to relate with those who do not understand the homeless lifestyle and mentality. The Mission, then, becomes a home where our homeless friends make healthy friendships that feel like family. Those relationships help people feel better and they realize there are other things besides drugs, alcohol, and isolation that can comfort them and bring happiness.

As people change, we work, where appropriate, to help them reconnect with their own families and restore family bonds that were once broken. It can be a long journey, but it doesn't usually happen without a place to call home. Your support helps us provide a loving home for those without one, so hearts and lives can be renewed by a loving God.

JANUARY 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

RESCUER

JANUARY
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JACK FOTOFILI: Finding help at the one place that was open

When I stepped off the bus from Kansas City here in Salt Lake it was a Sunday. I had been sober for several months while in a treatment center there.

But when it was time for me to leave that center, I still had a strong desire to turn to alcohol. It helped that the liquor stores were not open in Salt Lake on Sunday, but I knew if I didn't get help quick, I would fall back into my addiction.

I searched for recovery programs and learned that there was only one open on Sunday – the Rescue Mission. The Mission was a short distance from the bus station so I made my way over and asked for help. They graciously let me join the New Life Program and I see now that it was God's hand leading me here – the place I needed for lasting help.

Still, it was not been easy for me. While God had brought me to the Mission, I still suffered through my own self-inflicted setbacks. When I was about halfway done with the Rescue Mission's New Life Program I left because I thought I would be OK on my own.

I had been sober for a while and figured I had sobriety down. Instead of finishing my commitment I opted for self-reliance. At first I was fine. I got a job, bought a truck, and was staying with my brother, who needed help because he had just had heart surgery.

But the pains of life (I lost my mom, my dad, two brothers, and a sister over a 12-year span from 2005-2017) still hurt and the longer I was away from the Mission, the more it seemed like alcohol could help.



Jack Fotofili has a good job at a home improvement store and is working to get his license back now that he found sobriety at the Rescue Mission.

Soon I was drinking every day and even at work. I was arrested for one DUI, and then another. Broken and defeated I came back to the Rescue Mission and asked for a second chance. I am thankful they let me back.

Please see "Jack" on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

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PRAYING FOR A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Your support helped us provide life-changing services for the homeless during 2021. With Thanksgiving and Christmas banquets at two locations as well as Seek-and-Rescue outreaches to homeless camps, your support was especially critical as we blessed our homeless friends and others who needed help.



While we make every effort to bless the homeless over the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s holidays, the homeless experience is not always the same as spending time with close family and friends. In my 15 years working at the Rescue Mission I have seen how Christmas and other holidays impact many of our homeless friends. For most of us, the holidays are full of good times and celebrations. But for the homeless, these festive seasons serve as reminders about what they have lost.

Their family and friends may have passed away. Or their family and friends may have been abusive. Or our homeless friends, in their brokenness, may have hurt others, causing a rift in relationships.

As the homeless watch families shopping or enjoying fun activities, they often experience loss at what they are missing from their own lives. They feel greater loneliness and feel like the world is passing them by unnoticed.

Now, that might seem sad, and it is. But I see God using these difficult times to change lives. It often takes emotion pain to cause change in a person’s life. While pain is hard, I believe God uses it to draw us to Him. When people are desperate and have nowhere else to go, they will look up and ask God for help.

So as the new year is here and people talk about resolutions and making changes for the better, I am hoping God will use the difficulties our homeless friends felt over the holidays—and during the cold winter months. I am praying that a combination of holiday heartache, and the desire for a life-change that comes with a New Year, will be the catalyst God uses to bring people out of addiction and homelessness. Please join me in praying that our homeless friends will have a reboot and desire to address the root causes of their addiction and find faith in God. Again, I want to thank you for your support. Please also read on back page to see how God is using your support of the Rescue Mission to create a home for people who have no home. God bless you, Chris D. Croswhite Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	YTD through November
Professions of faith	134
Meals	178,264
Family food boxes	981
Nights of shelter	47,368
Clothing	58,498
Hygiene Items	55,765
Day service	20,673
Jobs obtained	43
Housing obtained	44

JACK: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This time, I am trying to actually use what my counselors are teaching me. In the past, I felt like I was always trying to control people. My life revolved around me trying to get people to do what I wanted them to do. At the same time, and this seems like a contradiction, I also felt controlled by others and was unable to say no to things I knew I couldn’t or shouldn’t do. Now, I feel free to say no and can set boundaries with people. Instead of trying to control people, I understand that God is in control of my life and everything in this world. He is the only one who is in control and accepting that fact has freed my mind and soul. I feel free to admit that I don’t know everything. Instead of butting heads with people, I now see there are people who often know better than me. I can listen to them and take their good advice. While these things might seem like common sense for a lot of people, these realizations have been big for me. I have also loved the connections I have at Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake where I go to church. Additionally, I go to the streaming service at Fresh Life Church (they stream a weekly message Levi Lusko and I enjoy his messages). I have entered the employment phase of the New

“It’s important to have a place that is open 365 days a year, 24/7.”

Life Program and working at a home improvement store. I am excited to be working again. I want to do good work and move up in the company, which has good opportunities for me. I am also trying to solve my legal issues surrounding the DUIs I received. Once those are resolved, I can work to get my license back. Being able to drive again will open more opportunities for me at my new job. Most importantly, I want to stay connected to the people who can help me. I believe God desires that I go to my daily Alcoholics Anonymous group, listen to the right people, and stay connected to my local church body. He has brought me along so far and has given me great connection to His people who help me. Thank you for your support of the Rescue Mission. It’s important to have a place that is open 365 days a year, 24/7. There are people out there like me who desperately need help to stay sober and having a place that is always open was the key thing God used to help change my life.

YOUR SUPPORT FED THOUSANDS LAST SEASON



Thank you for your support of our holiday outreaches. From Thanksgiving to New Year’s your generosity enabled us to serve thousands of meals to our homeless and hurting friends. We were also able to give out thousands of warm clothing items, includes boots, socks, hats, coats, and more. Plus we were able to share the love of Jesus with those who need it most: poor, broken, and struggling individuals and families in our community. We’ve included a few pictures above of people enjoying hot, delicious food during our Christmas Banquet outreach. Thank you!