

# TURNING HUNGER INTO HOPE THIS EASTER

Believe it or not, we are already starting to create the menu and gather supplies for our Easter outreaches. With supply chain issues abounding all over the place, we are starting early to make sure we have enough food, clothing, and other key items to share with our homeless friends this Easter. Along with our annual Easter Banquet and Easter egg hunt we will be giving out thousands of meals through family food boxes and doing outreach to our homeless friends living on the streets and in camps.

Our theme this year is “Turning Hunger to Hope.” Our strategy is that if we can provide hot, tasty meals to people it will be the catalyst for them to trust us and listen to our Easter message that Jesus can change their lives. By providing meals and meeting our homeless friends’ physical needs, we hope that our homeless friends will experience God’s love and trust us to help them get off the streets and into faith, housing, and employment. We have staff



counselors and volunteers who will be talking with our homeless friends during the banquet, and in fact everyday on how they can leave their life on the streets.

Please support us today by giving online at [RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org), using the enclosed envelop, or by calling 801.746.1006 for secure credit card giving over the phone. Please also consider becoming a Monthly Miracle Maker by supporting us monthly. It’s easy. Simply check the reoccurring donation tab on our website, give us a call, or drop us a note.

## FEBRUARY 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

# RESCUER

FEBRUARY  
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



[RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org)

## KYLE CARSON: God leads a broken man to help he needed

*It was one year ago – the end of February 2021 – when I made a decision that would change my life. Looking back, I see it was God who made the decision for me, but at the time it felt like a big step I was taking for myself.*

I lived in a small town in Montana where most of my family and friends were nearby. But I was in a dysfunctional relationship and had been drinking daily for almost five years. I had a job, and a place to stay, and the normal possessions most people had, but I felt trapped and alone in my addiction.

So I took my paycheck, cashed it, and left everything behind telling no one of my plans. I went to the bus station and found that Salt Lake City was the farthest city I could afford to travel to.

I bought a ticket and many hours later I exited the bus in downtown Salt Lake City with only a few dollars in my pocket. I had never been to a city the size of Salt Lake and it was shocking to walk out onto the streets. I used the last bit of my money to buy drinks at a few of the downtown bars and then passed out in below zero weather on a street near the Gateway mall.

The next day, cold and exhausted, I spoke to some people on the streets and they told me I could get help at the Rescue Mission. I entered the Mission and because it was so cold outside they let me take respite inside the chapel for the day. As I sat there, I reflected on what I had done. I was alone in a big, unfamiliar city. I had no money and was surrounded



Kyle Carson had nothing when he arrived in Salt Lake City, but God led him to the Rescue Mission where he gained more than he could ever imagine.

by homeless strangers. Still, I had nothing to go back to in Montana and no real way to contact anybody there. It seemed like there was no hope in any direction.

Please see “Kyle” on page 3.

## CONNECT WITH US

**Web:** [RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org)  
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FINDING LOVE  
THROUGH BETRAYAL

February is a time when we consider loving relationships. And while loving friendships and even romantic relationships are often good, those who are the closest to us often can inflict the most emotional harm on our hearts.



Take Jesus as an example. The single person who hurt him the most might have been Judas, one of Jesus’ 12 closest confidants. Yet Jesus knew that just because one close friend betrayed him, it didn’t mean he should abandon all friendships or relationships. Indeed, Jesus relied on the close relationship he had with God and his other disciples and friends to get him through the hardest time of his life. Then, he relied on those connections to build and grow his ministry after his resurrection.

Jesus didn’t become a loner, turned off to society because of one massive betrayal.

At the Rescue Mission we try to help our homeless friends understand Jesus’ model of surviving abuse from even the closest of family and friends. Many of our homeless friends have been deeply abused and betrayed by people with whom they once had loving relationships and friendships.

Our homeless friends often use the experience of abuse as a reason to not trust anyone. They figure that if someone who they thought cared deeply about them and loved them could inflict such grave abuse, then imagine what a stranger or lesser friend might do?

This thought process makes the homeless fear relationships with people. Thus, they become isolated, even forgoing hygiene and appearances so others will actively avoid them. Or they build superficial relationships not letting anyone get close to them, and if someone starts to get close to them they create a reason to hurt the other person first, or run away from the friendship.

Our job, then, is to help the homeless get beyond betrayal, just like Jesus got past it. To do that, our homeless friends often have to give up their right to be proven correct and have justice this side of heaven. They might never get that apology they deserve (just like Jesus never got His) and learn to be OK with it.

When our friends learn to forgive then they can start to believe that not everyone with whom they have a close relationship will abuse and betray them. Just because one, or even several people, were abusive, it doesn’t mean everyone will be.

Learning to develop close, loving relationships is a key to emotionally healing and getting off the streets. Believing that God will put people into our lives who will build us up and encourage us is a key part of faith. Without loving relationships, it is difficult, and maybe even impossible, for our homeless friends to overcome addiction and leave the streets.

So, as we are reminded about loving relationships this month, please join me in praying for our homeless friends. Let’s pray that they would turn to the most important loving relationship available, the potential one they can have with God through His Son Jesus. And then, once that loving relationship is established, pray that God would create positive loving relationships in their lives that will help them get sober, get off the streets, and get into employment and housing.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission – we could not do it alone.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

KYLE: CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 1

It was in that moment that I resolved to end my life. I was able to secure a little more alcohol and some Tylenol and that evening I drank the alcohol and took a handful of Tylenol pills. As I started feeling sick, people at the Mission found out what I had done and called 911. The paramedics were able to save me and the next day I went to the morning Bible study at the Mission. Later I attended the afternoon recovery meeting.

The study and recovery meeting impacted my heart and I asked to join the New Life Program. I started doing work therapy by helping to run the Mission’s kitchen. It was good to have something to do and I had experience working in kitchens in prior jobs. Soon I began meeting with a counselor. It wasn’t always easy, since there were past abuses and difficult issues I had to work through in my counseling sessions.

I began reconnecting with my mom and then my dad, only to have my father, who had many health issues, pass away in November. It was hard to lose him, but it steadied me to learn to deal with grief and regret in a healthy, sober, and God-trusting way, instead of trying to numb pain with alcohol.

It’s been amazing to have connections with my family again and despite the hard times in our past, we are healing and bonding again (albeit over long-distance connections). I think my family was shaken up over the way I left and it was good for them to learn that I was OK and in a recovery program.

As part of the New Life Program I have been able to connect with a great, local church, The Adventure Church in Draper. I love going there. I feel supported and loved like a family member. It’s good to be encouraged to grow in my faith and love for God, His people, and His word.

I have entered the employment phase of the New Life Program and I began an internship with one of the counselors here. I update documentation and notes, help lead group recovery classes, and give support to the other counselors. In working through this internship, I believe God is leading me to a career as a counselor. I have begun to apply for some entry-

level jobs at other recovery centers and homeless service providers in the downtown area. I am praying that God will lead me to the right job where I can continue to gain experience and develop an ability to help people who are in desperate situations like I was a year ago. I am asking God to lead me to the right job. I plan to save up money for an apartment and stay here in Salt Lake, a place I was once afraid of, but have now grown to love and appreciate.

Not a day that goes by that I don’t think about how I left Montana. I know it was not a coincidence that I had just enough money to get to Salt Lake.

*“I see it was God watching over me the whole time and bringing me to faith in Him.”*

It’s also not a coincidence that I was directed to the Rescue Mission, nor that my life was spared when I attempted suicide. I see it was God watching over me the whole time and bringing me to faith in Him.

I am thankful to God for what He has done in my life. I am also thankful to all of you – the generous supporters of the Rescue Mission. Your support has made all the difference in my life and transformed me from a person who wanted to end his life, into a person who is excited to live for God and serve others.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	TOTALS FOR 2021
Professions of faith	165
Meals	207,465
Family food boxes	3,282
Nights of shelter	53,203
Clothing	69,065
Hygiene Items	61,443
Day service	23,102
Jobs obtained	47
Housing obtained	46