

TURNING HUNGER INTO HOPE THIS EASTER



As Spring hits, the sun shines and people itch to eat lunch in a park. This year, our Easter Banquet for our homeless friends is Saturday, April 16, the day before Easter Sunday.

At our Easter Banquet, we will have our annual egg hunt for kids. Hundreds of homeless and low-income kids will be coming for the egg hunt, face painting, and carnival games. Our homeless friends will enjoy live music, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, and crisis counseling.

The homeless will also have the opportunity to join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. But most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus’s resurrection!



With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be. To support this event, you can pray, volunteer, and donate.

Giveaways for kids. Some of the best giveaways are plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please). We need Easter baskets along with stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games.

Volunteers. We need people to play worship music, help serve food, run carnival games, and distribute clothing. Contact Dennis at Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org to volunteer!

Prayers and support. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change lives of our homeless friends and donate today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will see the love of Jesus, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at RescueSaltLake.org.

MARCH 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chapel: Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Interm. 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*
27 Chapel: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Grace Community Bible	28 Chapel: Living Waters Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*	30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Fresh Life Church	31 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule*		

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

RESCUER

MARCH 2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JADEN HERBERT: A son finds sobriety and employment

Two years ago it was the height of the pandemic and I was spiraling towards rock bottom. I was nineteen years old and my life already seemed hopeless.

My roommate and I put on masks, hoodies, and strapped on backpacks. We walked to the convenience store across the street from our apartment and filled our packs with as much food as we could. Then, we bolted out without paying. We were out of money, out of food and hungry, and I remember thinking to myself, "I am having to steal from a gas station just to eat."

I had spent the previous three years slowly getting to the point where I was shoplifting food out of hunger. I started partying in high school with friends but when they would go home and sleep after the party, I was always looking for more.

My drug abuse grew and grew. One time I overdosed and spent 10 days in the hospital before being release to a rehab center. But that didn't stop me. I continued using drugs and it got to the point where neither my mom nor my dad (who divorced when I was young) would let me live with them.

I couched surfed at friends' homes but their parents never wanted me to stay too long. I was able to work at call centers even while I struggled with addiction and eventually a coworker and me got an apartment together.

The problem was we were both abusing drugs. I



Jaden Herbert, only 20 years old, is off the streets and into sobriety, employment, and is finding restored relationships with his family.

would go to work each day and then come home and drink or use drugs every night. Regularly, the police came to our apartment, but it was late 2020 and the height of the pandemic. The police at that time had a policy where they wouldn't enter a house unless they

Please see "Jaden" on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

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

Email: 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

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

Spring is always a hopeful time of renewal and new life and there's no better way to mark this season than by celebrating Easter.



The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of everything we do here at the Rescue Mission. Because Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, we can share that all people who trust and believe in Him can have eternal life in Heaven with Jesus.

This is the message we bring to our homeless friends on a daily

basis. While their lives often seem hopeless, we share that hope is not lost. We share that there was a time when all of Jesus' followers, and maybe even Jesus himself, felt hopeless. Preparing to go to the cross and then suffering crucifixion (either watching it or in Jesus' case bearing it) probably seemed like the most hopeless experience imaginable.

Our homeless friends face hopeless experiences each day. They are scared of being assaulted on the streets. They wonder if they will find a safe place to sleep. They wonder if they can secure food to eat. They wonder if a local business will allow them to use the bathroom. They experience abandonment when people turn their face way instead of making eye contact. All this while often suffering deep emotional pain that has left them so depressed that they use drugs or alcohol to numb the daily suffering.

While I believe nothing can compare to what Jesus went through for us on the cross, being homeless is a special kind of ongoing, continuous suffering that should stir the compassionate part of our hearts to want to help. Thankfully we have a compassionate God that stirs His people to reach out to our suffering homeless friends.

A big part of compassion is sharing that there is hope in the midst of pain after pain has subsided. Because Jesus lives today, He offers help to those who turn to Him. He is in a great position to offer help, because he went through the ultimate of human suffering. This allows Jesus to understand

and personally relate to each life that experiences pain, including each homeless life. (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Every Easter God stirs the Rescue Mission to hold an Easter Banquet for the homeless in Pioneer Park. And each Easter God stirs about a hundred volunteers and supporters to help. From organizing egg hunts, to running carnival games, to serving food, to playing music, and sharing God's love during crisis counseling, God uses our volunteers and supporters to help the homeless feel the hope that Easter brings.

Finding a new life in Jesus is the only true way a person's life can be changed and I believe it is a critical step for those who want to leave the streets and have a new life. As we prepare to bless people and share the message of Jesus' resurrection this Easter, please pray for us, support us, and volunteer alongside us (check out our Easter article in this month's Rescuer for volunteer and donation opportunities).

While Easter is still a month away, we have a lot of preparation to do and it is exciting to look forward to this life-changing event. Please join us in looking forward to Easter and ask God that He will use this reminder of His power and grace to focus all of our hearts on Him.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 TOTALS (THROUGH JANUARY)
Professions of faith	165
Meals	19,234
Family food boxes	128
Nights of shelter	5,620
Clothing	4,844
Hygiene Items	6,455
Day service	2,850
Jobs obtained	10
Housing obtained	3

JADEN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

could tell a felony was being committed or someone was in imminent danger. So, they would tell us to keep it down and leave.

But everyday parties took a toll on our budget and eventually we had no money for food, which led us to eat stolen gas station peanut butter for weeks straight.

Desperate, I texted my dad and begged him to help me. My dad took me in but I couldn't stay sober and eventually decided to go back to the rehab center I had been to as a teenager. At rehab I quickly contracted COVID and was sent to quarantine in a downtown hotel that had been set aside for the homeless and people in recovery programs who tested positive for COVID.

The hotel, it turned out, had many people living there who were using drugs and I quickly joined them. Providentially, however, there were a few who were sober. One man there who wasn't using drugs was a man on the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission. He told me about the program and how it was helping him to stay sober and how the Rescue Mission was staying in contact with him while in quarantine.

Even as I continued using drugs at the hotel, I kept thinking about what the man had told me, and about the Rescue Mission's program. When my two weeks of quarantine were up, I had a decision to make. I could go back to the rehab center I started at, or I could pivot and walk over to the Rescue Mission. I chose to walk to the Rescue Mission.

When I entered the Rescue Mission and asked to join the New Life Program I had been high on meth for a week straight all while being sick with COVID at the same time. I crashed out for the night and remember waking up and going to church. I looked around and thought, "I have been using meth for seven straight days and now I am sitting here in church." It was a surreal experience.

But the faith of the staff and other programmers at the Mission impacted me. I began to understand that the counselors and staff members were not like the people I met at the other rehab centers. They were

not there just for a paycheck. I could see that they were working as service to God and their love for God made them care more and work harder to help me. They loved me and cared for me more than other people I had known who tried to help me.

It was not easy to commit to the counseling sessions, introspective homework, bible studies, and other aspects of the New Life Program. It was hard work, but I saw God's providence in leading me to this specific program and I committed to see it through. While it was hard, I appreciated the work therapy at the Mission and how it prepared me for the employment phase of the Mission.

Today, I am happy to report I have a great relationship with my father again. He remarried and has twin, five-year-old daughters and it is fun to be a functional big brother to them. I go to their house

once every other week and it's great to have connections with all of them. I am still working on repairing my relationship with my mom, so please pray that our relationship could be healed as well.

I have a good job at a Maverick Country Store. It's not a job I want for my whole life, but it is a good spot for me now. Honestly, compared to the work I did at the Mission, my job at Maverick is not too hard and gives me a chance to relax a little and save some money. Once I have enough money saved up, I plan to move out of the Mission with two other members of the New Life Program with whom I have developed friendships.

I also want to figure out a long-term career (I am only 20 years old) and go to college to make that career into a reality. Beyond saving for an apartment, I also am saving for a car so I can have more mobility and increase my employment and educational opportunities.

I have been sober for over a year and truly believe I have real future. If it were not for your generosity and how you supports the New Life Program, I know that I would either be dead, in prison, or homeless right now. You have truly made a difference in my life and I cannot thank you enough for your support of people like me who need the kind of help that can only be found at the Rescue Mission.

"The faith of the staff and other programmers at the Mission impacted me."