

## KEEP SUPPORTING OUR LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS



Did you know that our homeless friends can die in extreme weather, be it super cold or super hot? It's true, and as daily temperatures reach triple digits this summer, the Rescue Mission has plans to save lives and keep people safe.

Knowing the danger of the heat, we have special efforts planned. We have purchased thousands of refillable water bottles so our homeless friends can stay hydrated. Our "Operation Hydration" program also supplies hats, sunscreen, and non-perishable snack items to those who come through our doors in need of help. We want to turn this hot dry summer into a Summer of Hope. Our efforts supply hope for a new life, as we seek to fill our homeless friends with faith, sobriety, and positive futures.


Beyond serving those who come to us, we have teams going to homeless camps and to those living on the streets with these same life-saving supplies. We made similar, "Seek and Rescue" efforts last year and have enjoyed close collaboration with churches and volunteer groups. While interacting with our homeless friends, we share about our New Life Program, in hopes that some may want to

come to the Mission and leave the streets behind.

This year, we are also assisting our homeless friends in cleaning up their own camps. We will take our truck or trailer and trash bags to homeless camps so they can clean their camp area themselves. We then make a dump run to dispose of all the items. This is just another way the Rescue Mission, because of your partnership, is trying to build relationships with our homeless friends so we can permanently help them off the streets, as well as build a better community for us all.

Thank you in advance for your support of our Operation Hydration efforts during what we expect will be one of the hottest Utah summers ever. Please help with and support our summer outreaches as you are able. Our current needs list is on our website, [RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org). You can also get updates by following us on our Facebook page. With your support, we commit to doing our best to ensure we don't lose any of our homeless friends due to heat and dehydration this summer.

## JULY 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

# RESCUER

JULY  
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



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

## TREVOR SPEEGLE: New faith, new life, and a real career

When I came to the Rescue Mission last year, I was a broken man. Three years ago I lost my seven-month-old baby to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which is basically what the doctors tell you when your baby dies and there is no reason why.

The loss of our child was devastating to both my wife and me and because of the pain, our relationship ended soon after. I started drinking every day but when people in my life commented about how much I was drinking, I decided to start doing cocaine instead. I just needed something to numb the pain while still trying to keep my life together.

Near the end of 2020, I found a bag of powder that looked like cocaine. I used the powder like I would cocaine, but it turned out that the powder was heroin. My roommate found me barely alive and I spent 21 days in the hospital where they slowly revived me back to life.

Growing up, I had a stepfather who did not treat me well. I lived with my mom and stepfather because my biological father suffered from addiction and was not able to be a father at that time. His life changed, however, and my biological father has been sober for nearly a decade now. He lives in Utah and when he learned of my overdose he invited me to come and live with him.

My father put only one condition on me: I had to stay sober. When I arrived at my father's house I truly believed I could stay sober and I looked forward to having a new relationship with my dad. But quickly I started using drugs again. My dad soon learned the



Trevor Speegle has a new life and career after God led him to seek help at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

truth and told me I had to leave.

It was at that moment that I started living homeless and on the streets of Salt Lake. I discovered the front part of a semi-truck that someone seemed to have abandoned. As most semi-trucks do, it had a sleeper bed that allowed the driver to pull over and sleep if he

Please see "Trevor" on page 3.

## CONNECT WITH US

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

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

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JOIN US IN PRAYER AS WE FACE A 44% INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS

Some of you may have seen the 2022 homelessness report released last month by the Utah Department of Workforce Services' Office of Homeless Services.



While the report focuses on 2021 data, it amplifies what we have been seeing at the Rescue Mission in 2022. The bottom line is that homelessness is impacting more and more members of our community.

Joseph Jensen, data manager for the Office of Homeless Services, told local news outlets that

skyrocketing home prices and ever-increasing rents are fueling Utah's increase in homelessness. It's important to note that all of the 2021 data was developed prior to inflation taking a grip on our country. So in addition to rising housing costs, inflation has forced even more families and individuals into homelessness.

As an example, between our shelters in Ogden and Salt lake, we provided 19,178 nights of shelter through May 2021. Through May 2022, we have provided 27,617 nights of shelter, a 44% increase. Not only do these numbers reflect the recent reality, but people are calling the Rescue Mission asking for shelter starting on the specific date they know they will become homeless. Others are coming to us, letting us know they are living in their car, and asking for food and a place to shower.

I share this with you, our faithful supporters and partners, so that you are aware of the escalating need. I also want you to know that we have strategies in place to address these growing needs and that your support is critical to helping poor families and individuals escape homelessness. The first part of the strategy is prayer. Please keep us and people struggling in homelessness in your prayers.

We are working with individuals and families who are newly homeless to get them rapidly rehoused. As part of this effort, we connect with partner agencies to link people to housing opportunities. We also have in-house employment coordinators who connect people with jobs. Of course, for those who are homeless because of addiction, we have our New Life Recovery Program, which is a holistic,

God-dependent approach to life change.

But for those who are situationally homelessness simply due to economic factors, our Transitions Program provides quick access to employment and housing. As needs grow and economic situations change, our efforts are evolving to meet the numbers of people who come to our doors needing help.

During this time, we need your prayers and support as much as ever. In the face of this urgent situation, we are dependent on God and your support to meet the need. We continue to offer the levels of support our homeless friends need to get off the streets. Sometimes it is a quick connection to a housing or employment opportunity. Sometimes it is a life-transforming recovery program.

We offer all these services under the banner of sharing the love of Jesus. This means our services are compassionate but are also delivered with the understanding that this world is not our home. We serve with love knowing that having a relationship with Jesus, who has provided the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life, is what truly matters.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission during this time of tremendous need. We covet your prayers and gifts as you are able to give them.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 TOTALS (THROUGH MAY)
Professions of faith	148
Meals	91,713
Family food boxes	444
Nights of shelter	27,617
Clothing	33,630
Hygiene Items	29,853
Day service	11,167
Jobs obtained	38
Housing obtained	32

TREVOR: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

needed to. I slept there for many days and would do whatever I could to get food, alcohol, and drugs for the day.

Providentially, when I was at my lowest point, God arranged it so I came across a member of the Rescue Mission's New Life Program. I was walking the streets and this man saw me and showed me where the Rescue Mission was. He could tell I was in bad shape so he shared about the New Life Program and how it helps people get off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing.

At the point he found me, I was in a desperate situation and I knew something needed to change or I wasn't going to make it. When I joined the New Life Program God started to change my life. I didn't have a great life growing up and had suffered the loss of my child. Sometimes, when negative things happen to you, you say to yourself, "I guess God loves everybody, but He doesn't love me."

But as I went to Bible studies and engaged in counselling sessions I saw God in a different light. I could see how He had been there for me. I realized I had often blamed God for the bad decisions I had made. I said to myself, "It's like I am blaming Pepsi because I bought a bad batch of Coca-Cola." I realized I was the problem and God was the solution. When I understood that, I gave my life to Him.

Today I have a great relationship with my dad and visit him most weekends. My mother, who lives in the South, came to visit me for a week and was encouraged to see how well I was doing. I have a great church family at K2 The Church. Members of K2 regularly volunteer at the Mission and one of them offered to give me a ride to church each week. I love the Bible teaching and friendships I have made there.

A few months ago, I transitioned to the employment phase of the New Life Program. I was nervous

wondering if I could get a job. But the Mission's job placement coordinator connected me with a job opportunity at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute at the University of Utah.

Part of the New Life Program is Work Therapy, where you have a volunteer position helping to support the Mission. My job was running the front desk. I was the person homeless men and women saw when they first came through the Mission's door. Many of them were mentally ill and needed help solving problems and I would direct them to right person, either at the Rescue Mission or with a partner organization.

Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI) considered my Work Therapy experience at the Rescue Mission as job experience and hired me. Today I work the nightshift at HMHI. My job is similar to a medical nurse, except I work with patients who are admitted to the hospital for mental health reasons, instead of physical health reasons.

I never thought someone like me could have a job like this. I was resigned to the idea that people like me should be stuck in dead-end jobs their whole lives. At HMHI I have a future. I have legitimate healthcare and retirement benefits. I can attend the University of Utah at a 50% tuition discount. My goal is to enroll at the University of Utah and gain the education necessary to become a substance abuse counselor at HMHI.

I have a real career and future now. As I work at HMHI I am saving up money so I can eventually move out of the Rescue Mission and into my own place. Please pray for me as I work towards these goals. Also, I want to thank all of you who support the Rescue Mission. Without the Mission I don't believe I would be alive today. Your support and God's enabling power has truly saved and changed my life.

OUR LOCATIONS

Rescue Mission Homeless Service Center (Downtown Salt Lake)  
Men's shelter, men's recovery program, and corporate office

Rescue Mission Women's Center  
Women's recovery program and shelter (domestic & homeless)

Hope House  
Transitional home for women graduating the New Life Program

Ogden Rescue Mission  
Recovery Program and shelter for men and women

Freedom House  
Transitional home for men graduating the New Life Program