

YOU CAN POINT THE HOMELESS TO HELP



People often ask us what they can or should do when they encounter a homeless person or panhandler on the street. It can be challenging to know the right course. One great way to help is by volunteering through the Rescue Mission. Contact our volunteer coordinator Dennis Dickerson at dennis@rescuesaltlake.org to volunteer.

But we know that many of us will encounter the homeless in everyday life. So for those every-day life situations, we have a few ideas that might help you lead a homeless person to the right help that can get them off the streets.

1. Be prepared.

There's a good chance you are going to run into someone in need of help. Be ready! You might keep a couple of small "survival kits" in bags in your car with a few items such as a thrift store ball cap, water bottle, sunscreen, moist towelettes, or other small items.

2. Talk with the person.

Say hello. Show them your heart. Asking if they have a place to stay the night or a plan for the future can be a great way to engage in a quick

conversation while at a stop light.



3. Point them to the Mission.

Guide them toward a solution by giving the person one of our Help Cards, which can be downloaded and printed at rescuesaltlake.org/help-cards. Tell them you support the Mission, and it could be a place their needs can be met. You can also put a Help Card in the survival kit or hygiene kit you keep in your car to give to a homeless person who asks for help.

4. Pray.

This is most important - only God can change hearts! Don't forget to pray for those on the streets and for those battling addiction or dealing with mental health issues. Pray that their physical and emotional needs are met, and their spiritual hunger is satisfied. Pray that they have an honest desire to change their life, realizing there is hope, forgiveness, and second chances. And please pray for our staff team and volunteers at the Mission as we seek those who need help and engage them with solutions.

AUGUST 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

RESCUER

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

DANIEL WISDOM: Coming "home" to find the help he needed

Editor's Note: Daniel Wisdom first shared his testimony in the Rescuer six years ago. This month, we bring you an update on the ups and downs Daniel has faced since that time, and how God used Daniel's "home" to rescue him from pandemic-related isolation.

When I graduated from the Rescue Mission's New Life Program in 2016 I did well for several years. I made good money as a delivery driver for an auto parts store and then eventually moved into the sales side of our company, selling parts to mechanics and mechanic shops in the Salt Lake Valley.

I stayed sober and stayed connected to my local church here in Salt Lake, Missio Dei. I struggled in my recovery a couple times during that span, but I was able to quickly stop and get back into recovery, using the tools and strategies I had learned at the Rescue Mission.

Then the pandemic hit, and a couple of factors snowballed, turning my life upside down. First, my church (I think at the time it was a legal requirement) stopped having in-person church services. The in-person interactions and relationships I had at church had been, up to that point, a key part of my lasting recovery and accountability. Without in-person community, I grew isolated.

Around the same time, I realized that the one issue I had not gotten over or worked through in my counseling at the Mission was my relationship with my father. While my mom has always been there for me and raised me, my dad left us when I was two years old. I dealt with and overcame many past pains during my counseling at the Rescue Mission, but I realized I was still angry towards my dad.



A year ago, Daniel Wisdom was in a depression of alcohol addiction and isolation. Today he has a changed life and is attending college.

As I grew more isolated and as anger began to fester in me, I started drinking again. About this same time, my father, who had no contact with me my whole life, reached out to me on social media and communicated that he wanted to have a relationship.

Please see "Daniel" on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

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USING EDUCATION TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS



It should go without saying that it honors God when we learn about Him and all facets of His creation – from salvation through Jesus, to the importance of government, to the way computers and websites work, to the biology of human beings.

God's word encourages us to learn and celebrates those who do. For example, the king's chief court officials in Babylon chose Daniel and other exiles to serve the king because, in part they showed "aptitude for every kind of learning." Daniel 1:3-4. In Proverbs 18:5 God

tells us, "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

To that end, we have been working to build more educational opportunities for the men and women we serve at the Rescue Mission. As we work with those who come to us for help, we often find that they are undereducated. Knowing that God desires us to seek learning and knowledge (and that education will help those we work with contribute to God's common grace to all people through work opportunities), we are focused on helping people find educational opportunities.

One recent example is Daniel Wisdom who shares his testimony in this month's Rescuer. Part of God working in Daniel's life was to help him have the confidence that he could learn and write well. After Daniel gained that confidence, he decided to pursue higher education. We were able to help Daniel connect with an online Christian university in Colorado where Daniel is currently enrolled and pursuing a bachelor's degree.

In addition to Daniel we currently have a half dozen students on our New Life Recovery Program who are pursuing their GEDs. Obtaining a GED will open additional educational opportunities and help them stay out of homelessness. One metric I recently saw from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness indicated that younger people who do not have a GED or high school diploma are 346% more likely to experience homelessness than those who do have the equivalent of high school graduation status.

Beyond high school, we have helped several New Life Program members become certified Peer

Support Specialists through classes and training from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. Because of their life experience they are uniquely positioned to help others still suffering with addiction and the certification and training gives them extra tools, expertise, and certification authority to help other people. I am happy to say having peer support specialists here at the Mission is strengthening our recovery program and allowing us to be a better conduit for God to change lives through this ministry. A couple of our graduates who have become Peer Support Specialists have obtained employment with other homeless service providers continuing to "restore lives and end homelessness" as a career. It is incredible to see the multiplier affect of our graduates changing other people's lives.

I want to say a special thank you to Cassie Warner, our recovery program director, who has lead the charge in making sure those we serve know the importance of education and understand the steps they can take to pursue educational opportunities.

And I want to say a special thanks to all of you, our faithful supporters. None of the ways we are improving our ministry would be possible without your support. So thank you! Without you and God's enabling we wouldn't see life-changing miracles here at the Mission.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 TOTALS (THROUGH JUNE)
Professions of faith	166
Meals	109,728
Family food boxes	764
Nights of shelter	33,037
Clothing	38,533
Hygiene Items	36,930
Day service	13,405
Jobs obtained	44
Housing obtained	32

DANIEL: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While some may view my father's action as a good thing, his contact pushed me further into depression. To me, my father was supposed to have had a role in my life. Someone who should have provided for me, supported me, and helped me to grow into a man. Yet he did none of those things. Then, for most of my life I have been trying to come to terms with my father actively choosing to not be part of my life. And then, when my father contacted me out of the blue, it turned my world upside down and made me question a lot of things.

The isolation and lasting pain triggered a devastating relapse. At bottom, I remember being on the phone with my brother. I was suicidal and almost black-out drunk. My roommate had a pistol and I knew where it was. My brother was able to get the paramedics to come to my house and then my girlfriend at the time came over and drove me to the hospital, where I was treated for alcohol poisoning and then sent to a detoxification center.

At the detox center, I started praying about what God wanted me to do. The detox center arranged to send me to a recovery center in South Salt Lake. But as I prayed and journaled, I felt that God wanted me to return to the Rescue Mission. I went to the South Salt Lake recovery center for a few days, but after getting what I felt was clear direction from God, I left and walked about 45 city blocks to the Rescue Mission in the middle of July, 2021.

When I stepped into the Mission it felt like home. They always accept you where you are at. They welcome you in with open arms. There is no judgment or suggestion that you have failed when you come back for more help. Instead, there is encouragement, as long as you really want to be in recovery and build healthy relationships.

Being in recovery for the second time at the Mission was different than the first time. The first time I went through the entire Genesis Process curriculum. This time, the counselors wanted me to solely focus on the forgiveness process, related to my father.

Part of that counseling was learning about victimhood. I learned that when people identify themselves as a victim, it is very hard for them to be "creators" – people who create things and bless other

people through their ideas and innovations. I began praying that God would make me a creator, instead of a victim.

When I was at the point in my counseling where I could move up to the employment phase, my counselor asked me to write an essay, explaining why I was ready to move up. I had been in special education classes in high school and could never read very well, but I accepted the challenge. The essay I ended up writing was beyond my expectations of what I could do, and I shared it with many people who are close to me and part of my recovery team.

"My life has radically changed since coming home."

Writing that essay gave me the confidence that God had changed me. I felt less like a victim and more like a creator. I found an online college, Colorado Christian University, and enrolled. I am in my first semester, where I am taking classes that teach you how to do academic writing. I have received perfect scores for all my assignments in that class so far. I look forward to earning my bachelor's degree and seeing how God will use my education to allow me to help others.

Along with pursuing an education, I have been hired as the driver and assistant house manager at the Rescue Mission. I have an apartment at the Mission so I can be on site to do pickups and deliveries and help our house manager oversee the Mission's downtown Salt Lake shelter.

A year ago I was suicidal and stuck in severe alcohol abuse. Because of your support and God's help, I was able to come "home" and receive the tools I needed to get unstuck, for a second time. My life has radically changed since coming home. I continue to have great support at my home church and through recovery meetings I attend at another local church. Please pray that God would give me direction on how I should pursue, or not pursue, a relationship with my father, as I remain uncertain about the right path to take. I thank you all for your support of the Rescue Mission, the one home that God has used to save me when I have been at the lowest points in my life.