

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR THANKSGIVING BANQUET

It's hard to believe but in two quick months, our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. As the day approaches, we are already gathering the supplies and support we will need to serve over 1,000 of our "street-famous" turkey dinners.

It takes a lot of resources to pull off the event. Besides hot Thanksgiving dinners, there will live, God-honoring music, free warm clothing, showers and hygiene items, along with: haircuts, flu shots, referrals to our recovery program, and housing opportunities. Our staff members and volunteers will be showing love to our homeless friends and, where needed, they will provide crisis care to the weary and downtrodden. Most importantly we will be sharing how much God loves them, how much we love them, and offer friendship and care.

Our goal is to create an experience so wonderful that our homeless friends will stay and join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets and into faith, employment, and permanent housing. When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life

Program then we can truly say that their restored hope began with a meal.

So please support our banquet by using the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone or visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate online. We are similarly in need of warm clothes, winter boots, and other items (visit our website for a more complete list). We do not want to turn anyone away this holiday season and want to make sure no one will go hungry. Please help today!



RESCUER

SEPTEMBER
2022

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JUSTIN PEARSON: Finding lasting employment and housing

Editor's Note: We are often asked about members of our New Life Program who are enjoying long-term success. This month we bring you the updated story of Justin Pearson who first shared about his changed life in the Rescuer two years ago.

When I graduated from the Rescue Mission's New Life Program in the fall of 2020, I went to live at the Terri Timmerman Freedom House, the Rescue Mission's in-between housing unit for people like me who are transitioning out of homelessness. I spent eleven great months at Freedom House where I learned to manage my finances by doing things like paying rent and other bills.

I was blessed because when I graduated, the Mission gifted me a 2003 Ford Taurus that a generous donor had given to the Mission. I had to get my driver's license before the Mission would give the car to me. I was able to pay to get my license reinstated and then had a dependable car that I could use to commute to my job in Bluffdale at a metal fabrication facility. The car ran well, but it needed some work, so I started teaching myself how to fix cars a little bit and got it running even better

Having a car when you are sober is so much different than having one when you are stuck in addiction. A few years before I became homeless, While driving on the freeway I passed out, clipped a semi-truck, and crashed into the guardrail. My body was hanging halfway inside and halfway outside the car held in barely by the seatbelt.

The first person who came upon the scene,




Justin Pearson has a great job, a car, and an apartment of his own.

providentially, was a registered nurse. I don't know her name, who she is, or anything about her, but they told me she began expertly performing CPR and brought

Please see "Justin" on page 3.

SEPTEMBER 2022 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

CONNECT WITH US

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

Social: facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - 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

MORE PEOPLE ARE LEAVING CAMPS AND ENTERING SHELTERS



A recent state report showed the number of people who are homeless in Salt Lake County and use emergency shelters increased between Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022. At the same time the number who were homeless and living outside (not in shelters) dramatically decreased. The 2022 report from the Homeless Services Division of Workforce Services noted that the homeless staying in shelters grew from 1,691 in 2021 to 1,814 in 2022. Conversely those living outside decreased from 623 to 281. And while our ministry really spans the entire Wasatch Front, the Salt Lake County numbers encouraged me. Realizing that the pandemic probably skewed the 2021 numbers a bit, I was still happy to see that the number of people staying in shelters is increasing and the number of people camping out is decreasing. As you may know, the Rescue Mission has been engaging in local “Seek and Rescue” missions where teams of staff and volunteers visit homeless camps and encourage those living outside to come to our shelter and join the recovery program. These numbers, then, encourage me that our efforts (and the efforts of many other community organizations) to get people out of camps and into shelters is working. When people ask me why it is better for a person who is homeless to stay in a shelter than outside, I have a lot to share. First, from a safety perspective it is much better to be in a secure, safe, and temperature-controlled environment, than out on the streets. Second, we have resources (food, showers, toilets, clothing, connections to healthcare, and more) that give people dignity and help them feel human again. Most importantly, we have daily Bible studies and nightly chapel services that encourage our homeless friends to take steps of faith and trust Jesus, who can truly provide the spiritual restoration they need. And after a relatively short time of stabilization in a shelter, we have the tools, including our New Life Recovery Program and Transitions Program, to help people achieve long-term sobriety, employment, and housing. Additionally, seeing people camping and loitering

on our streets frustrates many people. Most people want to live in a beautiful, clean city. They pay taxes to support garbage pickup and street cleaning. When taxpayers look at people who are homeless, camping on their city streets, they can feel a sense of anger, as run-down tents and garbage decrease their ability to enjoy the city they love. Instead of creating a sense of compassion, homeless camps often embitter people towards the homeless and make them less likely to help. Getting people into shelters, I believe, makes people less frustrated with our homeless community and therefore, more compassionate towards them in the long run. So, while I am happy to see more homeless people utilizing shelters, that also means places like the Rescue Mission’s downtown shelter are, and will be, busier than ever. We need you support now as we enter our busy holiday season and inflation and high housing costs continue to create more and more need. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our ministry. Please join me in praying that God will send more and more people to our doors seeking shelter and please give today if you are able!

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 TOTALS (THROUGH JUNE)
Professions of faith	196
Meals	128,773
Family food boxes	901
Nights of shelter	38,512
Clothing	43,433
Hygiene Items	43,711
Day service	15,706
Jobs obtained	45
Housing obtained	33

JUSTIN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me back to life. After that accident my life devolved into a spiral of alcohol/pain medication addiction, jail, and homelessness, which eventually led me to seek help at the Rescue Mission in November 2019. It was an interesting time to be at the Rescue Mission. The COVID pandemic was in full force and I was there when the 2020 earthquake damaged our building and forced us all to move to an old recreation center in South Jordan until the Rescue Mission could be repaired. While the circumstances were unusual, the help, love, support, and counseling I received at the Mission helped to change my life. It was an awesome blessing, then, that after I graduated, I could stay connected to the Mission at the Freedom House. The Mission’s transitional housing opportunities offer stability through affordable rents that allow people like me to live on their own (with some protective rules still in place). It’s a place where you have just enough structure, but also freedom to start doing things that “normal” people do, like tinkering around with cars. The experience of learning how to fix cars has been fun. After eleven months at Freedom House, I felt I was in a good enough place to try living on my own again. Today, I am renting a small apartment from a nice lady in West Valley, who lives in the adjacent house. It is a perfect little spot for me and I have everything I need. It’s been over a year now since I moved out of the Freedom House and my life continues to improve. I have been promoted to a laser operator at the metal fabrication shop I work out and am making a good living helping to run the tools that make the products we sell. I am fulfilled now more than I ever was when I was using drugs and alcohol. A cool thing happened about four months ago. I had been talking to my dad about sobriety for a while. He

has been a lifelong drinker and we both experienced my mother’s death related to addiction and liver failure. Whenever we talked, I would mention how the Rescue Mission might be able to help him, just like it had helped me. One day, he told me, “I am ready.” So, I went and picked him up and drove him to the Rescue Mission where he was able to join the New Life Program. He has been sober for several months now and is doing well. I won’t share too much of my dad’s story – maybe someday he’ll be able to share his own life changing story in the Rescuer. For me, it feels good to be in a place where I can help other people, especially my dad. I am enjoying going to concerts with my friends and stay connected to the Rescue Mission and people I met through the New Life Program who are succeeding and growing. I would love to meet someone and get married and maybe start a family, but I am not in a huge rush to do anything. Right now, I just feel grateful towards the Rescue Mission and all its supporters who helped create a place where I could experience a changed life. Thank you for all your support where people like me, and my dad, can go to find sobriety and a changed life.



Justin Pearson and Rob, an accountability partner from the Rescue Mission, enjoy a steak lunch and sobriety.

COME WORK WITH US!

It is a tough labor market but we’re trying to fill incredibly needed open positions to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We have positions on our Accounting Team, including Financial Controller, Assistant Controller, and Administrative Specialist that are so important to not only ensuring we can minister to our homeless friends, but also provide completely open accountability to our donors. These positions include competitive wages, health insurance, retirement benefits, and more. We need your help. Remember, the Rescue Mission is a Christian ministry, so please see our website and view our Statement of Faith. All employees of the Rescue Mission must be able to honestly agree with our Statement of Faith to be part of this ministry. We ask you: Would you think and pray about joining us in this critical work that God is doing to help people off our streets? Please contact our Executive Director Chris D. Croswhite at chris@rescuesaltlake.org.