

A SHELTER FROM THE STORMS

In December, sadly, five unsheltered people passed away on our streets as temperatures began to plummet. January is the coldest month of the year in Utah, with an average daily temperature across the state of just 25 degrees Fahrenheit, with even lower temperatures at night.

With your support the Rescue Mission is striving to help people stay warm and safe this winter. It is our desire to be a Shelter from the Storms – Winter storms that rage outside and the storms of life that rage within a person’s heart and mind. Our Seek and Rescue Teams go out into homeless camps to encourage people to return to the Rescue Mission to enjoy our warming center/day room, nightly shelter, meals, and vital care so people are not living on our streets and freezing to death outside. Our ultimate goal is to encourage people to join our New Life Recovery program so they can leave their life on the streets behind them.

The New Life Program heals people from the storms of life that keep people in the bondage of addiction, mental illness, and hopelessness. A new life instills hope for a future, which is off the streets and has achievable life goals.



Day or night the Rescue Mission is open and available for people who need a Shelter from the Storms. We provide hot meals, warm blankets, listening ears, and caring hearts to help save lives. Of course, saving lives has two meanings for us and we seek to accomplish both. We seek to save people from freezing to death on our streets, and we seek to save lives for eternity as people embrace the truth of Jesus and build a lasting relationship with Him.

Please support our Shelter from the Storms Campaign this January. As costs go up, people who have never been homeless before are calling us to set appointments to stay (knowing the date they will be evicted from their apartment). Our costs to provide meals, shelter, a warm place to stay day or night, showers, restrooms, and individual counseling are rising too. We estimate It costs around \$15 to provide emergency services (meals, dayroom, and nightly shelter) for one person. Please help as many people as you can both in January and February!

Use the enclosed envelope, give securely online at **RescueSaltLake.org**, or call our donor relations line at **801.746.1006** for credit card giving by phone.

JANUARY 2023 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

RESCUER

JANUARY 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

ROBERT BALDING:  
God reunites a husband and wife

**Editor’s Note:** We are often asked for updates about the people whose stories we feature in the *Rescuer*. This month we share an update from Robert Balding, who first shared his testimony nearly three years ago, in May 2020. At that time, damage from an earthquake had forced Robert and his fellow New Life Program members into an old recreation center that Salt Lake County allowed the Rescue Mission to use while the Mission’s downtown shelter underwent repairs. It was also the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This month, Robert shares how God has continued to change his life since he graduated from the New Life Program.

It’s been a great three years since I made the hard decision to seek help for my addiction at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. Many of you probably don’t remember much of my story, but prior to 2017, I seemed to have it all: a great job in sales for a large corporation, a house in Draper, a beautiful wife, and friendly stepchildren, who I enjoyed. But my wife and I fell into addiction—my wife due to pain pills and me as I started using prescription drugs and alcohol to help me cope with increasingly stressful work. Our reliance on prescriptions eventually led to us to start using street drugs. Soon, our lives fell apart and we lost our home, jobs, kids, everything. I ended up arrested for drug-related crimes, an arrest that lead me to seek help at the Rescue Mission.

At the Mission, I gained faith and sobriety and started working at a metal fabrication shop, typically making the under-cages for different vehicle manufacturers. I began at the very bottom but have quickly moved up and am currently transitioning from our Sales Department to the Chief Operations Officer (COO) role. It’s not a huge company, only about 30



Robert Balding and his wife are sober, back together, and able to enjoy doing things like snapping selfies at the end of summer waterfall hikes.

employees, but still my job growth has been a blessing to me.

I have stayed sober and connected to my local church, The Front in Bluffdale. Finding faith was a

Please see “Robert” on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

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- Social: **facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake** - **instagram.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake** - **Twitter/@rescuesaltlake**
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COMING IN FROM THE COLD

These past few weeks as winter storms rolled in, many of us, including myself, were up early to shovel our driveways and navigate snow covered roads to make it into work. People in my neighborhood were up early digging out or out for their morning run or walk with the dog. I live in a caring neighborhood and inevitably conversations start about how the homeless navigate such severe weather and how snow, wind and rain impact their lives.



When this happens my mind flashes back to conversations, I have had with friends I have either met at the Rescue Mission, or in homeless camps, who share their stories with me. One man, Don, shared how one winter night the wind was so strong it blew his shelter apart. Crawling out from underneath his shelter he tried to set it back up in the freezing rain that was not only drenching himself but his sleeping bag and his limited possessions. With the wind preventing him from setting his shelter backup he just started walking. He was walking away from everything he owned, eventually finding shelter by sitting in an open carport to get out of the rain. Once discovered, thankfully the homeowner allowed him to stay in the carport, out of the weather. Don eventually came to the Rescue Mission and had his life changed after graduating from our New Life Program.

Angelo and Dawn are a couple that refuses to use overnight shelters like the Rescue Mission. Angelo and Dawn would rather sleep outside in the cold together than have Angelo go to a men’s shelter and Dawn go to a women’s shelter. We have been able to build relationships with them though. They will come to the Rescue Mission in time for breakfast, stay all day in our day room for lunch, and into the evening for chapel and dinner. Then they would walk out the door to their camp, rather than being apart. Kurt tells me how he would find a safe place to sleep during the day (yes during the day) with his back against the wall so there was no way for a person to get to him from the sides. If a person was going to get to him they would have to come across his outstretched legs before they got to

his head and body. In this way, he could wake up and help protect himself before they hurt him. He would sleep during the day so he could walk around all night to stay warm and not freeze to death, fearing if he fell asleep at night he would never wake up. While I am praising God for the winter storms that are bringing so much needed moisture, I am worried about what the winter storms and bitter cold mean for our homeless friends. If I am grateful to step into my home to get warm after clearing my driveway, how much more grateful are our homeless friends to step into the cozy Rescue Mission, especially when they are being shut out of many other places in town. As we continue to build relationships with people like Don, Angelo, Dawn, and Kurt, we increase the chances our homeless friends will seek safe, warm shelter and begin a path to a new life. Thank you so much for enabling the Rescue Mission to be a Shelter from the Storms – Winter storms and the storms of life as well. Your support is making a difference and saving lives. God bless you, Chris D. Croswhite Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2023 TOTALS (THROUGH NOVEMBER)
Professions of faith	295
Meals	213,829
Family food boxes	1,510
Nights of shelter	60,958
Clothing	74,306
Hygiene Items	74,124
Day service	24,501
Jobs obtained	54
Housing obtained	51

ROBERT: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gradual process for me, until one day, everything I was learning at my church and at the Mission came together, like the pieces of a puzzle. I was at the Mission watching a DVD called “Jesus, the Game Changer” and God used what was said in the film to coalesce faith and truth into my heart and mind. One great thing about having a relationship with Jesus is that He helps you stay honest. The owner of the company I work for told me she wanted me to move to COO because I was always honest with her as a salesperson. It is easy to lie to your boss in a sales position and overstate what potential or actual sales you are making. Or it’s easy to over-promise to a customer who buys your product based on promises you knew your company couldn’t keep.

The owner of our company shared with me how she observed me be truthful, even when I had bad news. She saw how I would figure out ways to support our customers, even while bringing in new business. As a company we were able to increase our revenue by 40% this year.

While employment success has been great, my repaired marriage has been the sweetest impact of my new life. When I got sober, my wife continued living in addiction to heroin, often living on the streets. While we have no biological children together, she has kids from a previous relationship and losing custody and relationships with her kids crushed her and forced her deeper into addiction.

As I gained stability, I would occasionally reach out to her on social media and randomly, maybe once every month or two, she would answer me back. I came to the point where I wanted a divorce. I either needed her to gain sobriety, or I needed to move on with my life. I encouraged her to seek treatment and she did. It was a bumpy ride of ups and downs and I was able

“One great thing about having a relationship with Jesus is that He helps you stay honest.”

to experience the pain of seeing a loved one struggle with addiction – a pain I realized I had put so many of my loved ones through in the past.

When she graduated treatment, we got an apartment together (I had been living with my brother up to that point), but she kept going back to heroin. I ended up buying drug tests and asked her take them when I suspected her of using. Still, I knew the issue was the loss of relationship with her children, so I had compassion and just wanted to come up with a plan for us to be together. She tried using methadone treatment, but that numbed her out, like she wasn’t her real self. One day I was talking to one of my former counselors at the Rescue Mission about our situation and they shared about a treatment option called suboxone. The treatment works by blocking the nerve receptors in a person’s body that interact with narcotics like heroin and pain pills. As long as you take suboxone, even if you use heroin, you won’t feel any effects.

My wife started taking suboxone and has been able to stay sober. We have also reconnected with some of our children and stepchildren in meaningful ways. We even have grandchildren now, if you can believe that! She has a good job doing property management for some large corporations. Not only has the Rescue Mission helped me to stay clean and sober but now my wife as has a new life too. As I look to the future, my main goal is for me and my wife to remain clean and sober. Secondly, I would love to get into a house again. While I am grateful for our current apartment, I long for the days of owning a home again. Most of all, I want to share my gratitude to all of you who support the Rescue Mission. Your support saved my life, my marriage, and has given me the hope of eternal life. I cannot thank you enough for being there for me when I needed help the most.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR HOLIDAY OUTREACHES - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Thank you for supporting a great Thanksgiving and Christmas season for our homeless friends. So many donors and volunteers came together to make it special. For example, the volunteer holding a low-income couple’s baby (at right) so they could enjoy a parenting break for a peaceful Christmas meal together. Or our volunteer Santa and Mrs. Clause (also at right), who gave presents to homeless kids and adults. And while we love all our Holiday volunteers, we still need your help in January and February. If you can volunteer at the Rescue Mission, please email Dennis at [Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org).

