

HOW YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES
EMERGENCY SHELTER

This month, we are sharing how your support provides safe emergency shelter and needs such as toilets, showers, and clothing to our homeless friends. Every night the Rescue Mission offers emergency shelter to the men and women who come to us. Our facilities are 24/7, 365 days a year with a goal to get people off the streets, while still meeting immediate, personal needs.

Our shelter services really begin at 5:30 p.m., when nightly bed sign in begins. The hour of the day works well as our homeless friends who are working get off work and head back to the Mission. These are people who may be on our Transitions Program, working to save money for an apartment. Or they may be people who are working low-wage jobs and can't afford rent. Many others are not working yet and simply walking off the streets, needing a place to stay as the winter sun goes down.

We have bag storage, and for those who have stayed with us longer than seven days, they check in with a staff member to see how they are progressing on their plan to get off the streets, a plan we can help them build and work towards.

Our showers and clothing rooms are open and



people can prepare for the night. Check-in ends at 6:30, but we make exceptions for those who can't check in by 6:30 (e.g., their work shift ends at 10 p.m.). Throughout this process we have face-to-face touch points with our guests and build relationships that lead to life change through faith and sobriety.

At 7 p.m., all our guests attend an evening chapel service put on by a local church, and then have dinner. After dinner there are more opportunities for showers and once our main dorm is full, our team works quickly to lay out sleeping pads, bedding, and pillows on the overflow floor of our chapel, since we always have more guests than we have beds in our dorm.

At 9:15 p.m. it's lights out and we provide night security, while allowing for those in emergency need to get out of the dark cold and take shelter.

Without your support, we could not help so many—your support helped us provide 67,028 nights of shelter in 2022. Thank you so much and please continue to support this life-changing ministry that allows our homeless friends to find the Shelter from both the Storms that rage outside and the storms that impact their lives.

FEBRUARY 2023 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

RESCUER

FEBRUARY
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

VENUS MADDOX:
Finding joy in God, sobriety, and work

It's been a long, hard road, but the heart change I needed happened when God lead me to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake last winter.

I remember the day, January 14, 2022 when I prayed to God here at the Rescue Mission's Women's Center and asked him to change my life through a true relationship with His son Jesus. Since I made that request of God, He has delivered in major ways and restored my life. I was even baptized at my church on New Year's Eve 2022.

At times in my life I have struggled with suicidal thoughts and self-harm. I was adopted at age eight after my mother struggled with mental health issues. My adopted mother told me things about my childhood and birth mother that I later came to find out were not true. I don't know why my adoptive mother told me these things, but they caused me to believe that abuses had happened to me during my childhood that actually never happened.

When I became pregnant at age 20, I was scared. I thought I could be abusive towards my son, since I believed I had once been abused myself. This fear overcame me and caused me to believe I wasn't a fit mother.

I told Child Protective Services they should take my baby away from me. In reality, I would have never harmed him, but I felt trapped and confused. I believed that I was not worthy to be a mother. That I didn't deserve a son.

My adoptive mom took custody of my son, and



Venus Maddox struggled with addiction and homelessness until she found help at the Mission.

my life took a turn for the worse. Losing my son forced me into a deep depression and I lost contact with my family and fell into addiction, crime, and

Please see "Venus" on page 3.

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STORIES OF HOW THE MISSION HELPS DURING OUR FREEZING WINTERS

You probably don't need me to tell you that the streets are rough and at times

dangerous. It's worse in the winter when our homeless friends are dealing not only with life on the streets but the bitter cold as well. At the Rescue Mission, we want to be a welcoming and warm place for people to come inside and have safe shelter (See our Shelter from the Storm Emergency Shelter story in the month's Rescuer to learn more about how we help).



This month I want to share some real-life stories from the Mission all pertaining to shelter and how grateful we are for you enabling the Rescue Mission to provide shelter for our homeless friends every night of the year.

This past December five of our homeless friends passed away on the streets from weather-related issues. In January one of our regular friends, Dave (name changed), did not show up for nightly bed sign in. A few days later he returned, and our staff noticed he was limping, but Dave said he was OK.

Later, however, Dave had an unusual body odor even after he had showered, and his limping had grown worse. Our staff graciously asked to see Dave's feet. He revealed frost bite where his skin was turning black and beginning to flake off. Dave shared how his shoes and socks had been drenched and he did not have a way to dry them out while he had stayed away from the Rescue Mission.

Dave did not want to go to a medial clinic, but our staff insisted. This past week we learned that Dave lost his toes and first half of both feet. Today he is in a rehab facility as he continues to heal an learn to walk again. I wonder how many more people would have passed away, or lost finders, toes, and feet if it was not for your generous help in offering warm shelter, day room, socks, and shoes to our hurting friends?

Every morning I touch base with our staff for a "morning report." During one report I learned how a person was banging on the front door around 2 a.m. Seeing no one through our door window the staff member did not open the door, which we keep locked at night. But the banging continued. Our

night security then realized the banging was at the bottom of the door.

Our security staff opened the door to find a battered man laying at the stoop. Helping the man up, our staff member learned how the man had been attacked while in a sleeping bag on the streets. Some unknown people, maybe drunk college kids or other homeless people, started kicking him while he slept. Not being able to get up or defend himself because he was inside a sleeping bag, he rolled up to protect himself until the unknown persons stopped. The man, severely beaten, made is way to the Mission and crawled up our steps to ask for help.

We are thankful at his time of need God led him to our door. I wonder how many assaults and other crimes have been prevented because people have sought shelter and had their needs met in the loving and caring environment you provide at the Rescue Mission.

Another snowy day, a man sitting on our foyer floor asked for two plastic bags. Giving him the bags, our staff watched as he put the bags over the new socks we had just supplied him. The man then slipped his shoes back on, saying he would be OK if his feet did not get wet.

It is hard to imagine what life on the streets is really like and how miserable and dangerous it can be without basic needs like shelter, food, hygiene, and appropriate clothing. Please know that in addition to life stories like the one Venus Maddox shares in this month's Rescuer, every day you are proving life-saving services by providing the basics of life and an opportunity for us to build relationships with people to save and even change lives—thank you so much for all you do.

God bless you,
Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director



VENUS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

homelessness. I was in and out of jail and had no real direction in life other than finding ways to get money for meth.

One day, about four years ago I was searching the internet for my family, trying to see if I might be able to reach them. On the third page of the Google list was an obituary for my son. My adoptive mother apparently had a seizure while driving with him in the car and slammed into the back of a truck.

I was devastated and at that moment, I lost all hope. I started injecting meth and even attempted suicide by running my car into a tree. I started having sex for money and was constantly being arrested for drug possession, assaults, and other crimes. When I wasn't in jail I was living on the streets or whatever place I could find.

Yet, in the back of my mind, I always thought about the Rescue Mission. I knew what I really needed was God in my life. So one day when I went before a judge following yet another arrest. I asked the judge to let me out of jail, if I would commit to go to the Rescue Mission's Women's Center and join their New Life Recovery Program.

I was surprised that the judge agreed.

Since that day God has transformed me. I have been sober for almost 15 months. Learning through the Bible studies here at the Mission has not only given me faith but given me true hope that my young son is also in a better place, with God. I relate to King David, who, when he lost his young son, believed he might see him again in Heaven and said, "I shall go to him." (2 Samuel 12:16-23).

One neat thing is that I get to volunteer in the nursery at my home church. It is a blessing to be able to help with the ministry of taking care of the 0-23 month-year-olds, to not only bless those young kids, but also bless the parents by giving them the ability to have a parenting break so they can worship God.

When I entered into the employment phase of the New Life Program, I was able to get a job as an exam room technician at one of the most recognized veterinary clinics in the Salt Lake Valley. I love my job. I am able to calm pets down as they await their exams or other procedures. It's relaxing to cuddle everything from rats to huge dogs. I pray for the animal and the owners and love being a calming influence.

I am thankful my employer took a chance on me, despite my background. My probation officer says I am doing so well, my probation end date has moved up to July, 2023 (I was originally scheduled to be on probation for three years). As I work, I am saving up money to pay off all my fines and fees I owe by July so I can be completely off probation.

I am also saving money so that when I graduate from the New Life Program, I can move into Hope House, which is the Rescue Mission's transitional housing unit for women. I feel like I need the continued structure and support of Hope House to continue to develop stability after graduating from the recovery program.

Another cool thing is that I have been able to restore my relationships with my birth mother and my brother. My mother lives in Mississippi now so I talk with her over the phone often and my brother, who once would have nothing to do with me, even came to visit me here at the Women's Center.

I am so grateful to God, His son Jesus, and the Rescue Mission for providing a place where I could experience a changed life. My utmost thanks also goes out to you, the faithful supporters of the Rescue Mission, as well. I know without your support this Mission would not be here and I would probably be dead. I have tried to take my own life twice, but now I enjoy living and look forward to the future. This change is all due to your support and God's enabling power. Thank you so much!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2023 TOTALS
Professions of faith	319
Meals	237,182
Family food boxes	1,697
Nights of shelter	67,028
Clothing	89,356
Hygiene Items	81,982
Day service	26,791
Jobs obtained	59
Housing obtained	53