

RISE, RENEW, AND REJOICE THIS EASTER!



As Spring begins to peek around the corner, we will be encouraging our homeless friends to Rise, Renew, and Rejoice at our annual Easter Banquet at Pioneer Park downtown (Saturday, April 8, the day before Easter Sunday).

At our Easter Banquet, we will have our annual egg hunt for kids, where hundreds of homeless and low-income kids will enjoy the egg hunt, face painting carnival games, and kids' crafts. Our homeless friends will appreciate live music, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, fingernail painting, help writing letters home, crisis counseling, and more.

Our homeless friends can also join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. And most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter - Jesus' resurrection!

With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be. To support this event, you can pray, volunteer, and donate.

Make giveaways for kids. Some of the best giveaways are plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please). We can use Easter baskets along with stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games. To help with eggs and baskets email Don Nicholson, Don@RescueSaltLake.org.

Easter Prep. We need volunteers to come to the Mission a day or two before the event to help with meal preparation. Contact Dennis at Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org to volunteer!

Pray and give. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change lives of our homeless friends and donate today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will Rise, Renew, and Rejoice in the love of Jesus, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at RescueSaltLake.org.

MARCH 2023 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  | | | 1 Chapel: SMCC Kitchen: SMCC | 2 Chapel: Mountain City Church Kitchen: Antioch Community Church | 3 Chapel: Mt Oly Presbyterian Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 4 Chapel: Heritage Baptist Kitchen: So. Valley Comm. Church |
| 5 Chapel: Gospel Grace Kitchen: Gospel Grace | 6 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 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: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 13 Chapel: Discovery Christian Church Kitchen: Discovery Christian Church | 14 Chapel: New Creation Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church | 15 Chapel: Sandy Ridge 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: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 20 Chapel: Bennion Christian Center Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 21 Chapel: The Door Church 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: Grace Community Bible Kitchen: Lifeline Community Church | 27 Chapel: Risen Life Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 28 Chapel: Canyons Church Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 29 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 30 Chapel: RMSL Kitchen: Email to Schedule* | 31 Chapel: Utah Partners. for Christ Kitchen: Email to Schedule* |  |

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

RESCUER

MARCH
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

STEVE MITCHELL: A homeless father finds sobriety and employment

My story doesn't start like many that you might have read in the Rescuer before. I grew up in a good home. My parents have been married for 63 years and their lives (and mine growing up in California) centered around church activities and helping other people.

My story, then, is not of a dysfunctional family, but of a person (me) who has an alcohol addiction. One of the big problems at the early stage of my addiction was that I was a successful alcoholic. I could drink in excess and still go to work, make money, and be successful. For 25 years I was an effective sales rep, selling large truck parts within the trucking industry.

I had a house, was married for 23 years (I did go through one divorce and remarried again) and had three children. I lived what might seem like a normal life upon cursory inspection.

But when I divorced again in 2017, my life took a turn. I started drinking more and within two weeks was arrested for DUI. I lost my job and home in the fall of 2017. I realized I needed serious help. I had driven past the Rescue Mission many times during my commute and was desperate enough to seek shelter there.

While at the Mission I would stay in shelter, get a job, save up money, and then move out. Only, once I moved, I would start drinking again. So, I would come back, stay for a week or so, get sober, get some work, and then move out again. The cycle continued.

I found I could stay sober when I was staying at the Rescue Mission, but once I left, it was only a matter of time before I would start drinking again. When the pandemic hit, I had to quarantine at a hotel, which the



Steve Mitchell lost everything to alcoholism. Now God is making him into a new man.

health department had set up as a quarantine facility for homeless people who tested positive.

While in quarantine, I met a friend and we decided we would get away during the pandemic. We agreed to hike a good section of the Pacific Crest Trail together, up from California and then cut over to Lincoln City,

Please see "Steve" on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

Web: RescueSaltLake.org

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WHILE PUBLIC FUNDING CAN HELP, IT IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR THE GOSPEL

With the 2023 general legislative session wrapped up, you might have read news articles, as I did, about the funding the legislature has put into homeless and low-income services both this year and last.



Here is some of the spending listed in media reports and the legislature's website.

- > \$55 million one-time from American Rescue Plan federal funds for households making less than 30% area median income that will serve those who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.
- > \$5 million ongoing from the General Fund for Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Restricted Account for cities to mitigate impacts from having a homeless shelter;
- > \$5.8 million one-time from the General Fund to assist in repaying a loan for a homeless shelter;
- > \$1 million one-time from American Rescue Plan federal funds to provide overflow shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- > \$322,200 ongoing from the General Fund for Office of Homeless Services staffing;
- > \$6 million one-time from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families federal funds for temporary housing assistance for formerly incarcerated individuals with families;
- > \$12 million for dedicated funding for homeless services; and
- > \$3 million for domestic violence shelters.

Depending on who you ask, that's either a significant investment, or not enough to fight Utah's homeless problem, which, according most recent point-in-time homeless count, continues to increase. Regardless of where you fall on the amounts spent, I want you, our faithful supporters, to know that none of this money comes to the Rescue Mission.

We remain completely privately funded by donations from you and our loyal ministry partners. We operate this way so we can maintain our faith-based mission and be free to share the Gospel with

those who come through our doors. If we were tied to government money, we could lose the freedom we enjoy to teach the truth of God's Word and have local Christian churches come to our building each night to share a Chapel service and pray with our homeless friends. We would also have to start and stop programs based upon approved funding from government officials. By remaining privately funded we can create programs based on the current needs of our homeless community and what best serves them, like our Seek and Rescue Outreaches to homeless camps (which we started during the pandemic).

I do very much appreciate all the connections the Rescue Mission enjoys with our hard-working public officials. Gov. Spencer Cox (and before him Governors Gary Herbert and Jon Huntsman) and his family are regular volunteers at our annual Thanksgiving Banquet for the homeless. Likewise, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson really helped us out when our building was damaged by an earthquake a few years back.

But most of all I appreciate you and your support that allows us to have a place that the homeless can go to get the spiritual help they need for a new life. Along with allowing us meet emergency needs like food, shelter, and clothing, your support allows us to share the love in Jesus in word and in deed, 365 days a year. The heart of the Rescue Mission continues to be our New Life Recovery Program that helps our homeless and hurting friends address the issues in their life that are causing their life difficulties. In so doing, with can help them become self-sufficient, instead of permanently dependent on a government subsidy.

We continue to depend on God and your support to help us restore broken lives through His healing power and uplifting grace! Thank you!

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

STEVE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Oregon on the coast. We figured that 400-mile trek would consume the whole pandemic summer.

When we were released from quarantine, we took the money we had saved from working and each strapped 60-pound packs on our backs with tents and supplies and bought bus tickets. We got as far as Idaho before we stopped and started camping out and drinking. I could tell by the amount we were drinking that we were not going to make it to the trail. I told my friend he should head back to Salt Lake City and seek help.

I continued camping in Idaho until I woke up with a serious problem. I had shortness of breath, and then my legs began swelling up. I was able to hike back to a place where I could catch a bus back to Salt Lake and returned to the Rescue Mission near the first of June in 2021. I was able to see a doctor at the Fourth Street Clinic, which works closely with those who get help at the Rescue Mission.

I learned I had congestive heart failure. My doctors told me that one of my heart valves, which should have been doing 50% of my heart work, was functioning at 17%. The Mission let me stay there but again I got a job, saved up some money and left.

By October 2021, I was drinking again and could feel the effects of my heart damage. I had made a good friendship with one of the men on the New Life Program and I would call and talk to him often. On December 22, 2021 I was speaking with him and he could tell I was not doing well.

Afraid that I was going to die, He asked the staff at the Mission to go to the hotel I was at and rescue me. They found the hotel I was at and were able to enter my room. I was nearly dead. They brought me to the hospital where the staff revived me.

The next thing I remember it was December 27, five days later. I was released and came back to the Mission the next day. When I entered the Mission, the Program Director told me I had one choice. I could either join the New Life Program and get the help I needed to change my life, or I could find a different place to live. It was the tough love I needed, and I joined the program. "I don't want to die," I said.

Since joining the New Life Program my life has been nothing but good. I go to church each Sunday at Calvary Chapel and have been able to stay sober. I have worked through the counseling and attended Bible studies that have helped me introspectively look at and consider the reasons I turn to alcohol for satisfaction, instead of turning to God.

As I have grown in faith and sobriety, I have been able

to share my life story several times at the Mission. Additionally, I have reconnected with my children. One son lives here in Salt Lake, and I talk with him daily. My daughter lives in Nevada. She has two children (my grandchildren) but she has dealt with serious addiction, just like me. By sharing my story with her, she has entered recovery and has been sober now for four months and has custody of her children. I get to talk to her almost every day and facetime with my grandchildren. My other son is currently incarcerated, so I speak with him less often, but please pray that I could be an influence for him to have a changed life as well.

I entered the employment phase of the New Life Program a few months ago. I have a job as a cook at a local restaurant. It's a good job for now. We do a lot of in-person and online orders, so it keeps me busy. I am saving up money and my plan is that when I graduate from the New Life Program, I will go spend the summer with my parents, who retired in Arkansas. I do not know how many years they have left, so I want to connect with them while I can. At my last doctor's appointment, I learned that my heart valve, which had been functioning at 17% is now at 40%. I feel like God is healing me. I have completed all the steps to get my driver's license back but want to make sure I don't rush into driving or buy a car until I am ready.

I thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. This place and the staff here have truly saved my life and I have seen the same life-changing miracles that happened in my life happen and, in many others, as well, including my daughter. Please pray that God would provide clear direction for my life. I am 59 years old now and feel like I have so much more work to do and life to live. God bless you!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

| OUR STATS | 2023 TOTALS |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Professions of faith | 43 |
| Meals | 24,458 |
| Family food boxes | 196 |
| Nights of shelter | 6,055 |
| Clothing | 6,437 |
| Hygiene Items | 7,279 |
| Day service | 2,375 |
| Jobs obtained | 5 |
| Housing obtained | 2 |