

MORE THAN MEALS  
MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

Generous friends of the Rescue Mission, who share your compassion for our struggling neighbors have offered to kick off our annual **More Than Meals Matching Challenge by providing a \$50,000 matching gift!**

From mid-April to the end of May, every gift you give will be combined with the same amount from the challenge, providing twice as much care for our hurting neighbors. That means:

Any amount you give will double in impact, up to the amount of the challenge gift.

This 2-for-1 opportunity comes at a critical time for our community. As inflation continues to climb, our most vulnerable neighbors suffer most. The Rescue Mission can help when other safety nets fall away, yet our costs are climbing as well. Your support—matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000—will not only provide meals but comprehensive, life-changing resources, including:

- Safe shelter, warm clothing, and other basic needs
  - Rehabilitation services, accountability, job training, and life skills
  - Meals, fellowship, encouragement, and transformation
  - Employment, housing, and self-sufficiency
- At the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, we love to supply food to hungry people. But with your support in April and May we can provide much more: a pathway off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. Please give today by using the enclosed envelope, donating online at **RescueSaltLake.org**, or over-the-phone via credit card by calling our Donor Relations Office at **801.746.1006**.



APRIL 2023 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

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

RESCUER

APRIL  
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

KAYRA DARLING:  
A women finds a new life off the streets

A little over a year ago, I was destitute, addicted, and four miles from the Tijuana, Mexico border without hope. Providentially, God provided a way for me to return to Utah (where I grew up) and find a new life at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake’s Women’s Center.

I have felt the scars of many wounds throughout my life and was abused by various people. As I matured, I grew skeptical that the people I thought were my parents were actually my true biological parents.

I took a DNA test, and the results did not match the historical lineage my parents shared with me. I realized my family had no pictures of me prior to age four, and when I asked for my childhood medical records, they couldn’t provide them. I asked my parents to take a DNA test to prove we were related but they refused.

As I grew more suspicious of a biological connection to my family, I grew emotionally apart from them. I started using diet pills at age 11 and later began using alcohol in excess. Eventually, I became estranged from my parents.



Kayra Darling was homeless and hopeless until she found help at the Rescue Mission. Now she is a successful hair stylist.

The one thing I seemed successful at was cutting hair and doing makeup. In a way, I was an artist in that regard and thrived in that kind of work. Even when I would come to the hair salon intoxicated, I was still able to make my clients look good. In my 30s, I met a music producer who was working in the movie industry. Given my prowess at hair and makeup and his skills as a producer, we moved to California and started working in movie and television production.

What I didn’t know when I moved to California with him, was that he was a meth addict. Soon we were both abusing meth as we tried to stay afloat in our jobs. We lived like this for years, but couldn’t keep it

together and a little over a year ago, I found myself alone, homeless, and destitute near San Diego, just a few miles from the Mexican border.

Desperate, I found an organization that would pay for

Please see “Kayra” on page 3.

CONNECT WITH US

Web: **RescueSaltLake.org**  
Social: **facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - instagram.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake - Twitter/@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**



SEEING GOD WORK  
THROUGH THIS MINISTRY

*When you have the privilege overseeing three homeless shelters, rehabilitation programs and two transitional housing units, you get to see God work in some pretty incredible ways.*



This month, I want to share two recent amazing things I saw God do through our ministry.

The first happened on Good Friday, as we hoped to have our annual Easter Banquet and Easter Egg Hunt for our homeless and low-income friends at Pioneer Park. It had snowed during the week and Friday morning was our “go, no-go time” for keeping our event in Pioneer Park or shifting the

event indoors and canceling the egg hunt. Dennis Dickerson, who helps facilitate volunteers (among wearing many other hats here at the Mission) walked to Pioneer Park at sunrise, and several inches of snow still covered the grass.

Dennis felt God’s call in that moment. He was reminded that Jesus did the hard thing on Good Friday for us. He felt a strong desire to provide the homeless and low-income kids who would come to our Easter Banquet with outdoor carnival games and an Easter egg hunt. So Dennis, with God’s inspirational hand, did the hard thing. He got a shovel and in the dim morning light started scooping snow off the grass areas of Pioneer Park.

It was taxing work and two hours into the effort, at 8:30 a.m., Dennis realized he needed help. So he came back to the Mission and gave an impassioned plea to some of the homeless men in our day room after breakfast. Dennis shared that on Good Friday, Jesus did what was hard by going to the cross. He told the men to follow Jesus’s example and do what is hard – clearing snow off of grass – to help homeless kids celebrate Easter. Eight homeless men stood and followed Dennis to the park and started shoveling. After three hours of hard work with the sun shining down and temperatures rising, they had cleared the area for the Easter Banquet and Egg Hunt.

It was neat to see God put such a passion in Dennis to accomplish something that blessed hundreds of our homeless and low-income friends and their children. And it was equally amazing to see so many of our homeless friends step up and help Dennis do some back-breaking work – all of which leads me to the second remarkable thing I have seen God doing in our homeless community.

Often people think of our homeless community as lazy. Yet in a time of need, many stood up to help. God is breaking down barriers that have plagued our homeless friends in the past. Today, as I write this note, over 50% of the men that are staying in our shelter are employed. They are working, just underemployed and not yet able to get into housing, as high rents and inflation hit them hard.

But the amount of work I see the homeless doing these days encourages me. One of the key tenants of our ministry has always been to discourage laziness and encourage working. We believe God created people for meaningful work. Even before the fall, God gave Adam jobs, like to tend and care for the garden, which in turn gave him the food he needed. When people (who are able to work, but refuse to for various reasons) don’t work it hurts them spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically since they are acting counter to how God created them.

And while it has been tremendous to see God creating many workers in our homeless community, please join me in praying that He would provide a solution to the ever-growing-cost-of-housing situation we face in our community. Pray that our homeless friends would keep working and that the work they do would provide them enough money to afford housing.

Thank you so much for your support that enables us to impact so many lives for Jesus and join me in praising God for the work he is doing!

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2023 TOTALS (THROUGH FEBRUARY)
Professions of faith	77
Meals	47,973
Family food boxes	401
Nights of shelter	11,406
Clothing	12,691
Hygiene Items	14,783
Day service	4,814
Jobs obtained	8
Housing obtained	4

KAYRA: CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 1

me to return to Utah, where I felt I had more roots and could get back on the right track. But when I arrived in Utah, nothing was different. I was still estranged from my family, addicted, and homeless. With nowhere else to turn, I sought help at the Rescue Mission’s Women’s Center.

The staff at the Rescue Mission told me they would help me, but only if I was serious about changing my life through the New Life Recovery Program. I agreed, and since that day, God has truly changed me.

Through the addiction recovery classes and one-on-one sessions, I received on the New Life Program I have found emotional and spiritual healing from several abusive relationships I had in the past. I have done my best, with God’s help, to put the rift with my parents behind me. I have been able to let anger or regret go and trust that God will reveal anything He wants me to know about my past that I don’t already know.

Today I am sober and have a great job – doing the work I am best at, cutting hair. It’s enjoyable to make people look good and see them feel happy when they leave our salon. When people sit down in my chair, I talk openly with them about my past struggles with homelessness, addiction and how God has helped me. People seem to appreciate my honesty and recently I was able to pray with one client who started crying when he told me about a friend of his who had overdosed and died.

I am also blessed to be able to do hair and makeup for the women who come to the Rescue Mission’s Women’s Center for help. While I’m cutting their

hair, I share my story with them. My story includes never having any children, despite being pregnant six times. I would have loved to have had children, but it was not God’s plan for my life and He has helped me overcome that hurt as well and be able to talk about it with other women, who have suffered similar pains.

Besides, the support I have at the Rescue Mission, my church body has truly encouraged me. I attend Capitol Church in Salt Lake and enjoy the worship, teaching, and fellowship I share with the people there. I would love to join the worship team one day, but my current work schedule does not allow for me to practice with the team during the week.

*“Today I am sober  
and have a great job -  
doing the work I am best  
at..”*

It’s great to have a future and hopes and dreams again. It’s refreshing to be able to pay bills on time, get my car registered, and save money for a home of my own. My current plan is when I graduate from the New Life Program I will move to Hope House, which is a transitional housing unit the Rescue Mission runs for women who are coming out of homelessness.

I will stay there for several months and grow further in employment and stabilization and then hopefully move out into an apartment or house with a few of the ladies I have met on the New Life Program. I am excited to see what God has planned for me in the future and want to thank you, all the supporters of the Rescue Mission. Without your support of this place, I don’t know where I would have found the help I needed when I was homeless and hopeless. Your support helped save my life and brought me to faith in Jesus Christ! I am forever grateful.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR EASTER OUTREACH!

It was an awesome Easter weekend at the Rescue Mission. Thanks to the help of a small army of volunteers we were able to go to Pioneer Park downtown and hold our annual Easter Banquet and Egg Hunt our homeless friends.

Besides toys and eggs for the kids, there was a great barbecue with chicken, corn, pasta salad, baked beans, and more. We served nearly a thousand meals and gave several thousand of clothing and hygiene items away to needy people and made sure everyone received what they needed. Of course, all of this outreach was buffeted by Gospel messages and prayer (check out the pictures at right to see a homeless woman getting her nails done and other fun times that we had).

We thank everyone who prayed, gave financially, and volunteered to make this Easter Banquet happen!

