

AS WINTER SHELTERS CLOSE, WE NEED YOUR DOUBLED DONATION MORE THAN EVER

The temporary winter homeless shelters have officially closed and that means the Rescue Mission is full and having to turn people away. As one of the few shelters downtown, we are completely full each night and our New Life Recovery Program is filled as well.

And while many people support the Rescue Mission because of the great food assistance we offer, providing safe shelter and a recovery program is a huge part of our ministry. Right now, with other shelters closing their doors until next winter, we are facing huge demand for safe shelter.

This demand is one reason generous friends of the Rescue Mission, who share your compassion for our struggling neighbors, have provided a **\$50,000 matching gift challenge called “More Than Meals.”** Through 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.



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 as more and more people pack our building seeking shelter.

With your support we can continue to meet this great need. 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**.



MAY 2023 CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

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

*Email Natalie at **N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org** to schedule your volunteer request.

RESCUER

MAY 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

JOHN CURRAN:
A formerly homeless father can smile again

I grew up using drugs for most of my volatile life. There were times when I was in prison and times when I did well and was employed. But when my mother passed away a few years ago, grief overtook me and I fell deep into addiction, lost my job as an over-the-road truck driver, and tumbled into homelessness.

Sometimes I would live on the streets. Other times I would couch surf at friends’ apartments. During a prolonged couch surfing period I was employed and actually saved up some money to buy a car. As you might expect, having someone living rent free on your couch for a month gets tiring and once I bought my car, my friend told me it was time to leave.

At that moment I had nowhere to go, and, feeling abandoned by my friend and still overcome with grief about my mom, I decided to take my own life. Throughout my drug misuse and abuse I have used meth or alcohol, but not heroin. Still, I believed that using an excessive amount of heroin would be a quick and painless way to die, so I purchase a large quantity, got in my car, and drove out to what I thought was the middle of nowhere – an industrial area far west of Salt Lake City near the airport.

I parked my car and injected what I expected to be a fatal dose of heroin.

The next thing I remember, I woke up in a hospital, still alive. In that moment I realized God was watching out for me since there is no way I should have been alive without divine intervention. To this day, I don’t know how I ended up at the hospital. I have never read the police report. I know I was charged with a DUI and, somehow, lived. I figure God sent someone



John Curran shows off his new pearly whites. Since coming to the Mission he has sobriety, a new job, faith in Jesus, and yes, a brand-new smile.

there (at just the right moment) to find me and call the paramedics.

I spent a week in the hospital but when they released me, I was still in my same predicament: anxious,

Please see “John” 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**

MORE THAN MEALS: HOW THE NEW LIFE PROGRAM CHANGES LIVES

At the Rescue Mission, our ministry is about More than Meals.

As the friends of the Mission who pledged \$50,000 towards our More than Meals matching gift challenge know, the offer of food is a way we encourage people to come to our door for help. In fact, if you read John Curran’s life story this month, you’ll see that it was the allure of a hot breakfast that first brought him to the Rescue Mission.



But once people like John are here, we can offer them so much more: safe shelter, clothing, bathroom facilities, and respite from the streets. We also offer love, compassion, and the Gospel through daily Bible studies and evening chapel services

But most of all the “more” that we offer is our New Life Program – our life changing program designed to help people like John get off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. This month, I want to share more about our New Life Program so that you, our faithful supporters, can better understand how your gift supports this unique program that is proven to help end homelessness. You truly support much More than Meals.

First, our New Life Program puts men and women into work therapy jobs, where they help run the Mission. They might cook meals, do laundry, answer phones, sort clothing donations, and clean bathrooms. We believe God created people to be involved with meaningful activity, and work. Getting our homeless friends back into a work mindset is key to their long-term success.

Second, our New Life Program participants, once they achieve a few weeks of stability on our program, can earn their way into one of our shared rooms, separate from our homeless dorm and overflow shelter. Having a more private room starts the process of mental separation from the general homeless population. Having a room helps people to no longer think of themselves as a homeless person anymore.

Third, our program men and women are assigned an individual recovery counselor for one-on-one sessions through our Genesis Process curriculum: a Bible-based tool that has helped so many of

our homeless friends understand how to forgive, overcome past hurts, and realize the love of God in order to overcome addiction.

Fourth, program men and women choose a local church to connect with. Connection with a church body, along with a recovery support team, and weekly recovery meetings such as AA or similar programs are key to sustained success.

Fifth, our team helps our New Life Program men and women work through legal issues, find employment (once a participant has completed the counseling and recovery portions of the program – typically 6-7 months), and learn how to save money for housing and other bills.

Sixth, we help our program men and women move on from the Mission by giving them access our transitional housing opportunities or by helping them find housing of their own. With money saved from working, a support base, and months of sobriety, they are set up for productivity and success.

Thank you for supporting our ministry, which is so much More than Meals. Your support is truly changing lives by allowing us to run a life-changing recovery program, based on faith in Jesus Christ.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2023 TOTALS (THROUGH MARCH)
Professions of faith	121
Meals	71,984
Family food boxes	593
Nights of shelter	17,507
Clothing	18,455
Hygiene Items	23,693
Day service	7,350
Jobs obtained	10
Housing obtained	9

JOHN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

depressed, and homeless. I was hungry and had no money or place to go, so I asked a homeless man on the street where I could get food. It was an early Saturday morning in August, 2022 and he told me the Rescue Mission served a hot breakfast at 7 a.m.

That warm August morning, I walked into the Rescue Mission for food to fill my empty stomach. While eating, I learned that the Mission had a New Life Program that could help people get sober and get off the streets. I felt good being at the Mission. It seemed like the love of God was there and since I was convinced it was God who had spared my life, I wanted to know more about Him.

Two days later I joined the New Life Program, and my life has radically changed since. The staff at the Mission showed me Christ-like love, which was different from other relationships I have had. I came to learn the truth about Jesus from the Bible and am not ashamed to call myself a born-again Christian. I was baptized at a local Christian church and have a real relationship with God now.

He has truly changed me, ever since saving my life on the day I wanted to end it. I have not used drugs or alcohol for nearly a year now and have worked through many issues in my one-on-one sessions. . For the first time in my life, I feel like a stable-minded person. I don’t feel like the same person I used to be. When I think about my past life, it feels like I am looking back at a movie, almost like it didn’t happen.

My depression and anxiety are mitigated by the love and grace I have experienced from God. I have learned the importance of daily prayer and scripture reading as tools to keep me connected to God. I have a good church family at the Adventure Church in Draper and know that keeping connected to a good

local church will be key for me.

God has healed my relationship with my 15-year-old daughter and we talk on the phone three or four times a week. She lives with her mom, and it is great that she has welcomed me back into her life.

I recently joined the employment phase of the New Life Program and got a job at a youth shelter, which provides shelter for young homeless people ages 15-22. I feel called to help the homeless and addicted now that God has changed my life and am excited to be supporting homeless youth in our community. As a young person, I often felt abandoned and alone and believe my life experience can help young people who are struggling.

As I work, I will continue in the New Life Program and save money. I am still on probation for my DUI but just need to save up some money to pay off my fine and my probation will end. I am also saving up money so when I graduate from the New Life Program I can afford a place of my own.

Finally, I hope you notice the smile in my picture. When I came to the Mission I had severe tooth pain and a broken smile from years of neglecting my teeth. Through contacts at the Mission, I was able to secure new teeth through the University of Utah. Having a full smile has given me further confidence and joy as I move into the next phase of my life.

I am so thankful for everything you, the supporters of the Rescue Mission, have sacrificed to support the Rescue Mission. I know God used that offer of a hot breakfast to lead me here and that your support supplies not only food, but all the great services and life-changing support I have received since coming through the Mission’s doors. Your gracious support has truly changed my life and I can’t thank you enough.

OUR LOCATIONS

Rescue Mission Homeless Service Center (Downtown Salt Lake)
Men’s shelter, men’s recovery program, and corporate office

Rescue Mission Women’s Center
Women’s recovery program and shelter (domestic & homeless)

Hope House
Transitional home for women graduating the New Life Program

Ogden Rescue Mission
Recovery Program and shelter for men and women

Freedom House
Transitional home for men graduating the New Life Program