

HELP ENSURE OPERATION HYDRATION BRINGS COLD WATER AND LIVING WATER TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

It's getting hot and many of our homeless friends will not have access to enough clean water this summer. Without fluids, dehydration sets in, and our homeless friends can suffer sun poisoning, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. To help, we've launched Operation Hydration early this year.

Our mission is to supply cool, clean water to our homeless community while sharing God's message of redemption. We are purchasing water bottles and have water coolers in our kitchen and foyer. Additionally, we're opening our swamp-cooler chilled chapel as a respite. Besides cool air and water, our homeless friends receive hats, sunscreen, reusable water bottles, lip balm, cool showers, clean clothes, along with kind words and love. Our Seek and Rescue Teams are going out to camps to offer help and invite people back to the Rescue Mission. But we need your help to keep this effort going through the summer, so here's how to help:

- 1. Volunteer** – Each week we travel to area homeless camps. We share Care Kits with those living in camps and invite them to come to the Rescue Mission where they can enjoy Operation Hydration and find help to obtain the care they need, as well as faith in Christ, sobriety, employment, and self-sustained housing.
- 2. Collect supplies** – We need reusable water bottles, hats, sunscreen, lip balm, socks, and lightweight, long-sleeve shirts. Buy or collect these supplies and donate them to the Mission so we can put them in our Care Kits. Or better yet, you can assemble the kits yourself and come join us to hand them out to our homeless friends.
- 3. Give** – You can donate by using the enclosed envelope, give online at [RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.RescueSaltLake.org), or call **801-746-1006** to make a secure credit

OPERATION HYDRATION SUMMER HEAT RELIEF



Cold water can be the catalyst that gets people out of camps and on the path to a new life.

card donation over the phone. Help our homeless friends this summer! Your support can help save a life from being lost to extreme heat and introduce a homeless person to Jesus!

Thank you for restoring lives and ending homelessness with the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

RESCUER

JUNE
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



[RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.RescueSaltLake.org)



Four years after becoming homeless and seeking help at the Rescue Mission, Ken Bailey is giving back by serving others and rebuilding his family.

Editor's Note: We are often asked about the continued success of the men and women whose life stories we feature in the Rescuer. This month we bring you an update on Ken Bailey, whose story we featured in July, 2020. Ken became homeless four years ago after he lost his 17-year job and his family relationships due to alcohol addiction. This month, we wanted to share how God has continued to work in Ken's life after he graduated from the New Life Program.

When I left the Rescue Mission three years ago, I took advantage of the offer to live at Freedom House, a home for people like me who were transitioning

out of homelessness and into self-sufficiency. While living there, I became the supervisor of a pallet repair business that took broken-down warehouse pallets and refurbished them.

These were industrial pallets that weighed 60-70 pounds each and I did quality control and inspections to ensure their viability for reuse and resale. While it was a good job, I felt like God had something more for me as the work became more and more physically taxing the older I became.

That's when my home church, Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake, approached me about working at the church's thrift store in West Jordan. It's a large, busy thrift store

Please see "Ken" on page 3.

ENCOURAGING THE HOMELESS TO DO THE HARD THING AND SEEK HELP

If your life is like mine, you often find yourself having to face difficulties and do hard things.

The homeless can relate. In the summer they suffer through many challenges. There’s the general heat and lack of shade that is stifling.



Water bottles, if there are any, sit in the sun and turn almost boiling hot. There are sunburns, heat strokes, dangerously hot pavement radiating heat back toward them, and food that spoils quickly.

All of it combined can make many homeless lose hope during Utah’s sometimes unbearably hot summers. That sense of hopelessness means our job here at the Rescue Mission is to help people not give up.

When I meet a homeless man or woman, or a member of our New Life Program, who seems to be teetering on hopelessness, I often share the story from Luke 5:17-30 and Mark 2:2-11. It’s the story of four men who had a crippled friend that they believed Jesus could make walk again.

They discovered where Jesus was and carried their friend, who was lying on a mat, to the location. Upon arrival, they were stymied by the enormous crowds surrounding the house where Jesus was and could not get to the door. The four

friends could have given up. But they didn’t. They painstakingly carried their crippled friend to the roof, which was heavy enough to support the weight of five men. Then they dug through the roof creating a hole big enough that they could lower their friend down, while still laying on the mat, into the house to be near to Jesus.

They didn’t give up and were rewarded when Jesus healed their friend, as a sign that He was the one people could believe in for the forgiveness of sins and gain eternal life.

Our summer message to our homeless friends, then, is to do the hard thing: to not give up and dig through the proverbial roof. It’s not always easy to ask for help. Sometimes getting help means doing hard things – like climbing on top of a house and then digging into it. Other times it is swallowing your pride, admitting you have a hopeless problem you can’t solve on your own, and asking for help.

Join me in praying that our Operation Hydration summer outreach would bring hope to the hopeless and cause many to do the hard thing to find Jesus and a new life.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS	2023 TOTALS (THROUGH APRIL)
Professions of faith	137
Meals	97,106
Family food boxes	820
Nights of shelter	23,634
Clothing	32,249
Hygiene Items	34,832
Day service	9,855
Jobs obtained	16
Housing obtained	13

KEN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and there are over 100 cars that come through our donation line each day, dropping off things for the store to sell.

FINDING MY MINISTRY

The store needed someone to help in the donation drop-off and processing area, so I took the job. About two weeks later I was feeling down. While I liked the working for my church, I thought I might have made a mistake quitting my previous job. That’s when I felt like God spoke to me and said I should begin offering to pray for the people who drop donations off at the store.



I walked out to the drop-off line and the inside the next car was a woman. After unloading her car, I asked if she would like prayer for anything. She

looked at me in the eyes and started crying a bit. She said her father had been diagnosed with cancer that morning. She said she didn’t really know why after hearing the news she had come down to the store to donate the items, but she and I began to think that it was so I could pray for her and her father.

I prayed for her father and we both had tears in our

eyes as I said goodbye. From that point on I have made it my practice to offer prayer for anyone who donates to our store. I have had several opportunities to pray for people who truly needed prayer and appreciated it. Today, I feel completely fulfilled working for God at our thrift store.

BECOMING A FATHER AGAIN

I have other opportunities to serve through my church. I help lead our Celebrate Recovery addiction recovery ministry and serve at our weekly food distribution ministry when I am able. God has blessed me by allowing me to save money to buy a car that I use to get back and forth to work and church. God even supplied me with an affordable place to live when I moved out of Freedom House.

You might remember that one of my goals three years ago was to try and rebuild the broken relationships I have with my children. Today, I have great relationships with three of my adult kids and pick them up for church each Sunday. I never dreamed we would attend church together. In fact, two of my children are getting baptized at my church this month.

I have almost four years of sobriety now, after becoming homeless in 2019 due to my alcohol abuse. I cannot thank you enough for how much your support has changed my life. I know it was really God who rescued me, but without your generosity, there wouldn’t be a place I could have found to learn about Jesus and begin a new life. Thank you so much!

CONNECT WITH US

WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

RescueSaltLake.org
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instagram.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake
Twitter/@rescuesaltlake
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