

HELP US GEAR UP NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It’s hard to believe but in two short months, our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. As the day approaches, we are already gathering the supplies and support we will need to serve over 1,000 of our “street-famous” turkey dinners.

It takes a lot of resources and support to pull off the event. Besides hot Thanksgiving dinners, there will be God-honoring music, free warm clothing, showers, and hygiene items, along with haircuts and vaccines for those who want them. Our staff members and volunteers will be showing love to our homeless friends and, where needed, they will provide crisis care to the weary and downtrodden. Most importantly we will be sharing how much God loves them, how much we love them, and offer friendship and care.

Our goal is to create an experience so wonderful that our homeless friends will stay and join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets into faith, employment, and permanent housing. When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life Program then we can truly say that their restored hope began with a meal.

Besides are sit down meals in our dining room, we will be providing Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes to the working poor, so they can celebrate with loved ones at home. So please support our Thanksgiving Banquet and our upcoming busy holiday season.

Give Use the envelope included with this newsletter or scan the QR code in this newsletter, You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone, or visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate through our website.

Donate We are also in need of warm clothes, winter boots, and other items (visit our website for a more complete list). We do not want to turn anyone away this holiday season and want to make sure no one will go hungry.

Volunteer Email or call our volunteer coordinator Natalie Lanza at N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org or 385-354-8165.

Please help today!



Our homeless friends enjoyed safe community, ate hot turkey dinners, and received warm clothes at our outreaches last year. We don’t want anyone going hungry this Thanksgiving!

RESCUER SEPTEMBER 2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



The four roommates, from left to right: Kyle Carson, Ryan Barker-Brewer, Daniel Wisdom, and Jaden Herbert enjoy the rooftop patio of their new West Valley town-home.

Editor’s Note: While we usually share individual life stories of our New Life Program graduates, in this month’s Rescuer we share the story of four graduates, who formed a unique bond at the Mission. Their story represents the power of God to change lives. It also shows great personal dedication on the part of these four men and the Mission’s staff, along with the huge impact your support can have in restoring broken lives. This is the story of Daniel Wisdom, Ryan Barker-Brewer, Jaden Herbert, and Kyle Carson. The group chose Daniel to share their story on behalf of all four, so their story is written as told by Daniel. I was the last of the four of us to arrive at the Mission, but quickly formed a bond with Ryan, Jaden, and Kyle.

I was able to move into a three-person room at the Mission with Jaden and Ryan and our room became an awesome respite from the streets. When we weren’t doing our work therapy jobs, classes, or individual study time and prayer, we were hanging out in our room. Other members of the New Life Program, especially Kyle, would come and hang out. Sometimes we would play video games. I was learning to play the guitar at the time and sometimes people would listen to me play. The things I remember most though were the encouraging conversations we had about recovery and learning about each other’s past wounds that led them into addiction. While Ryan, Jaden, and me were roommates, Kyle

Please see “The Four Roommates” on page 3.

FACING TRAGEDY - GOD’S LOVE STORY

People often ask me about making sense of tragic events, which frequently push people into addiction and homelessness. When looked at independently these events are awful – the death of a child, a divorce, a wildfire that kills hundreds. Often events are simply just evil, like physical or other kinds of abuse, murder even.



These tragedies, which we all face, can only make sense in light of God’s Love Story.

First, God created us in love, to have fellowship with Him, because He simply wanted to have a relationship with us. God created us in His image. He designed us to live forever and not face death, pain, and suffering.

Second, we (beginning with the first two people He created) turned our backs on God and broke off fellowship and relationship with him through sin, which in its simplest form is us wanting to be God of our lives, instead of letting God be God of our lives. This brought death and tragedy into the world (e.g., Judges 17:6— many do whatever is pleasing in their own eyes.)

Third, despite our fall from relationship with God, He reached back to His people. He sent his Son Jesus to live perfectly and then take God’s wrath for our fall on Himself, by dying a terrible death. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus provided healing and elimination of the consequences of sin, pain and

death, for His people. God did not leave us in a state of brokenness but reaches out to heal us.

Fourth, God provides re-creation for people. Here on Earth God is changing His people, helping them overcome the sins they struggle with and follow His commands—so that it is joyful to follow Him, instead of cumbersome. Ultimately, when Christ returns, He will do away with all sin and evil and those who have trusted in him will be free from tragedy forever.

Our human story, then, only makes sense in view of God’s Love Story. God did not intend death and tragedy. The good news is that when mankind walked away, God did not leave His people as lost children, but sent rescue and a pathway into a new home with Him.

At the Rescue Mission, we model this heavenly reality on Earth. We provide rescue and a pathway off the streets into faith, sobriety, housing, employment, and new life. Let us not underestimate the impact of tragedy on our lives but let us also not understand tragedy through a lens that is absent of God’s Great Love Story!

Thank you for your support that has been allowing the Rescue Mission to share God’s Love Story with the victims of tragedy for over 50 years.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE

Executive Director

THE FOUR ROOMMATES: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shared the same abandonment issues that I had faced and we connected over those shared, yet painful, experiences. All four of us did well in the program. I ultimately was hired as the Mission’s driver, picking up donations and other deliveries, while Ryan, Jaden, and Kyle all got jobs outside of the Mission.

Jaden and Ryan moved out together, but after a year their lease was set to balloon to \$2,300 for a two-bedroom apartment. They needed to move somewhere more affordable. We decided to find a four-bedroom place we could all share and afford.

The best part about our bond is that we can look out for each other and notice behaviors in each other that could lead to relapse. Then, we can help the other person out when we see they need help. For example, when we were looking for houses to rent, we could tell Jaden was really stressed. I asked him what was wrong, and he explained how stressful it was trying to find a house everyone was happy with and the pressure he felt. Ryan and I were then able to tell him to not worry about it. He could be taken out of the house-hunting process and the two of us would take care of it.

Since we have moved in together, we provide similar help. If we can tell someone is stressed, but then leaves dirty dishes without washing them, someone else will take care of it for them, instead of confronting them and causing an argument and more stress.

We did eventually find an awesome townhouse in West Valley City, near the Valley Fair Mall area. It was literally brand new when we moved in on August 11, 2023 – we even had to take the plastic wrap off the appliances.

While realizing material things are only fleeting, we all felt a sense of wonderment at having a new washer and dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, and more in our house.

Sometimes I come home and just think, “wow, I actually live here.” Maybe the coolest part is our rooftop patio, which gives a great view of the whole Salt Lake Valley. There are outlets up there so you could have a TV and watch football, or grill some barbecue, or just hang out and talk.

We were all once homeless, living on the streets with no hope. Today we all have relationships with Jesus, are sober, have jobs, and are actively helping each other to succeed, move forward, and never go back to the shadows of addiction.

The rent for our place is \$2,850 total, which means each of us pays about \$750 a month, something we can all afford. We all have our own bedroom, which is nice, but also have the accountability of living with four people who know each other well and can help each other understand when they are acting in ways that could lead to a relapse.

Thank you so much for supporting the Mission. You have changed each of our lives. The four of us could not be more thankful for your support and praise God that He changed our lives. We truly have new lives, off the street and in a brand-new home, thanks to the Mission, which would not be here without God’s provision through your giving. Thank your again from all four of us!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH JULY



Professions of Faith

203



Meals

161,318



Family Food Boxes

1,339



Nights of Shelter

41,397



Clothing

48,156



Hygiene Items

54,815



Day Service

17,022



Jobs Obtained

19



Housing Obtained

25



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

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