

SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BANQUET

Imagine what it’s like to experience homelessness along the Wasatch Front, especially during the Thanksgiving and holiday season.

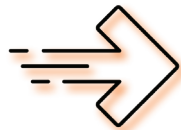
It’s cold and lonely. You can’t afford a meal, let alone a place to stay. Businesses do not let you come inside to get warm, even for a few minutes. People walk by and barely notice or avoid you all together. Today, the rising cost of life’s essentials means more people are facing homelessness and isolation.



The journey of healing and restoration often begins with a meal, or a good night’s sleep, at the Rescue Mission — and that’s why your gift to support our annual Thanksgiving Banquet is so critical. As a private, faith-based charity, we depend on support from friends like you to help our neighbors in critical need.

Beyond a hot, nourishing Thanksgiving meal, your support today help provides:

- Shelter, clothing, and education
- Job training and mentoring
- A home for the holidays



Check: Payable to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake
Credit Card: Call 801.746.1006
Online: [RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.rescuesaltlake.org)
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For more than 50 years, the Rescue Mission has cared for the people in greatest need in our community, providing nourishing food, shelter, and warm clothing. In our long-term programs, we help hurting men and women address the root causes of their homelessness. Through education, job training, Bible studies, and other services, we give them the tools to rebuild their lives, and become the men and women God truly intends them to be — and stay off the streets permanently. **Please give today!**

26 YEARS OF CLEAN AND SOBER LIVING

People often ask us about the long-term success of our New Life Program members. We try to

share the continued success of our program graduates through updated testimonies and in other ways. At right is a picture of four graduates who together represent over 26 years of sobriety, faith, employment, and housing. From left to right, Doug M. (11 years clean and sober), Paul N. (10 years clean and sober), Ken D. (four years clean and sober) and John C. (18 months clean and sober). Doug even married the love of his life after getting off the streets and has purchased a home of his



own. Thank you for your continued support, which creates lasting change for so many.

RESCUER

OCTOBER
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



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



Steven Sell was homeless, living on the streets, and considered ending his life. Then God led him to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake where he found restoration.

For anyone who knew me a year ago, if you would have told them, “Steven is a Christian” they would have said, “Then you don’t know Steven.” I had spent most of my adult life trying to convince other people that God didn’t exist. But in my early 50s, I found myself living on the streets of Salt Lake addicted to meth. I have spent most of my adulthood in and out of prison because of my addiction, totaling nine years of incarceration. I was on probation and knew it wouldn’t be long before I was back behind bars. I decided to overdose and end my life. Then it seemed like God put an idea in my head. The thought crossed my mind, “what if God is real?” I

decided not to end my life that day and opened it to the possibility God may be real. So, I came the Rescue Mission with the “Jesus Saves” sign that hangs over the front door. At first, I faked like I was interested in faith, but in reality, I was still set against God. After the first week of being at the Rescue Mission, I came to realize that it wasn’t so much that I hadn’t believed in God my whole life, but that I hated God. There were some difficult things I had to go through during my childhood. I realized I blamed God for allowing those terrible things to happen. As I went to the Bible studies, engaged in serving

Please see “Steven” on page 3.

PUTTING PEOPLE TO WORK

It’s a hard truth for some to embrace, but God made people to work. Even before the Fall, Adam was charged with jobs like naming the animals and taking care of the garden where he lived. In Second Thessalonians 3:10, the Apostle Paul instructed the Church in Thessalonica, “that if a person shall not work, they shall not eat.” Those



words might seem harsh, but the underlying point is that people should work to receive God-enabled joy (like having a full belly).

One issue I see often within our homeless population is a lack of desire to work. This desire has its roots in different things for different people. Some may be

so addicted they can’t work. Some might be so depressed or downtrodden they can’t work. Others might just have grown plain lazy being inundated with constant handouts.

And we must acknowledge that there are members of our community who will never be able to work because of physical or mental illness.

But most of the homeless people we see on our streets every day do have the ability to work. In fact, over 50% of the men and women who seek shelter at the Rescue Mission are employed, struggling to work their way out of homelessness.

A primary focus and key component of our New Life Program is putting people back to work.

When people join our New Life Program they are assigned responsibilities inside the Mission. They might do laundry, make beds, receive and organize clothing donations, or serve in our kitchen.

Then, upon completion of the stabilization and education phases of our program, they enter the employment phase, where we assist them in finding employment while they continue to live at the Mission and save money. Once they have saved enough and have stabilized in their work life, they obtain housing and become productive members of our communities.

There are many ways our New Life Program men and women work hard (with God’s enabling power) to achieve change. They dig deep to discuss past emotional wounds and spend much time in prayer and studying the Bible. But a key path to change is embracing the idea that hard work brings joy, satisfaction, and dignity, because human work is God’s design.

Thank you for your support of our continued efforts to bring people into faith and put them back to work, so they can strive for their highest God-given capacity in this world.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE
Executive Director

STEVEN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other homeless people at the Mission, attended nightly chapel services, made friends, and talked with staff members, I started believing in the loving God of the Bible. I saw that God was good and gave up His only Son Jesus for people like me.

When I embraced the truth about God, my life changed. I have connected with a great church, The Adventure in Draper. We are currently using a “first century” model of church, which is different from the modern style of a sermon and worship songs. Instead, this model brings people to church to fellowship, share food, study the Apostle’s letters, and pray together.

Before I came to the Mission, my family had mostly given up on me. Some family members feared I might be dead. But the minute they found out I had come to the Mission, my sister bought me a nice Bible and brought it down to me. Now I enjoy the best family relationships I have ever had.

I also never really had friends before. Today I have a great friend and roommate here at the Mission, as I continue to work through the New Life Program. Its great to be friends with so many people on the New Life Program, who have the same goals and share the same thoughts as we all work through the pains and troubles we have experienced in life.

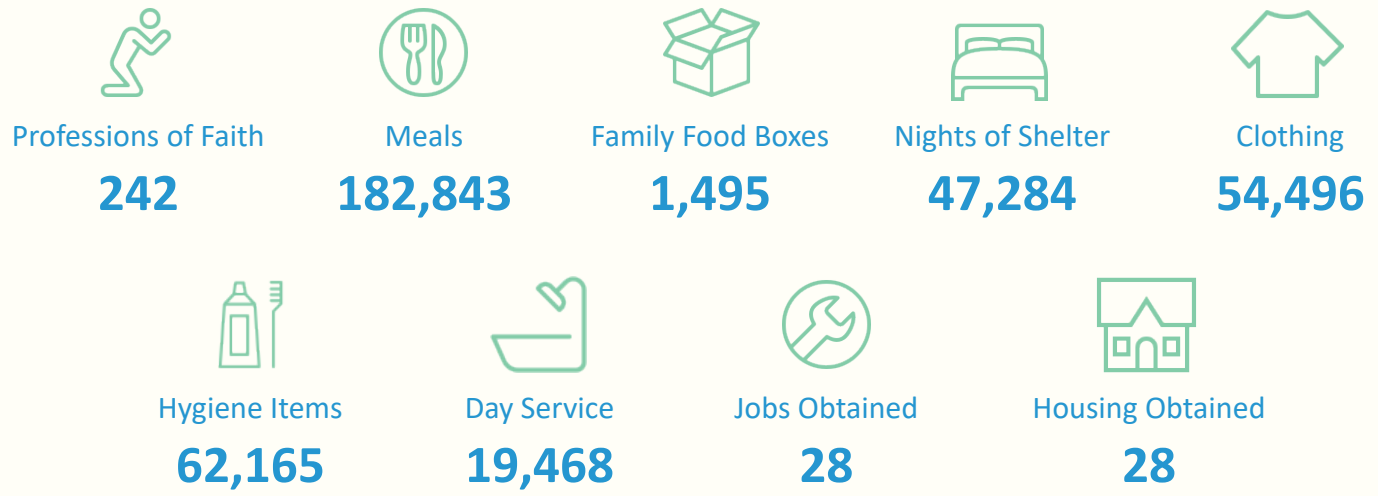
My probation officer is happy with my progress and may give me the opportunity to end my probation early. I have done so well during the first 10 months on the New Life Program that the Mission has given me

an internship, where I help lead classes and do other work around the Mission, helping other members of the New Life Program, and our homeless friends. After my internship, I hope to either find a job at a Rescue Mission, or I will find other employment. I know God will lead and guide me in this process. My future really depends on what God decides for me.

Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. There are so many people out on the streets who are thinking of ending their life like I was. People who are angry at God and are using drugs and alcohol to get past their pain and anger. Your support helps create a place where people like me can learn the truth about God’s love and have a restored life.



HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH AUGUST



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