

YOUR SUPPORT MADE THANKSGIVING SPECIAL AT THE MISSION

It was a great Thanksgiving here at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. We provided over 1,200 Thanksgiving meals in just three hours with help from Smith's Food and Drug, who donated turkeys for the Banquet and Christmas Family Food Boxes for low-income families who come to us for help. R&R Barbeque smoked the turkeys for a savory and delicious meal. We were also blessed to have Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and his family and staff once again help serve our Thanksgiving Banquet to the homeless.

It was great to have community partners on hand, such as professional hair stylist to cut hair and the medical clinics who came to give flu shots and perform annual wellness checks for those who needed them. We were able to share thousands of warm items of clothing with those in need and also had a team of staff and volunteers who traveled to many of the area homeless camps, inviting people to come in off the streets and seek help at the Rescue Mission.

The Thanksgiving Banquet was not only happening in Salt Lake, but simultaneously at our facility in northern Utah – The Ogden Rescue Mission.

Thank you for making our Thanksgiving outreach possible. We could not have done it without all your support, volunteering, and prayers. Many, who may have otherwise been alone for the holiday, were welcomed because of your generosity!



Top: A father and daughter share a Thanksgiving meal together at the Rescue Mission's Banquet.

Bottom: Utah Gov. Spencer Cox serves a hot Thanksgiving plate

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT IN DECEMBER!

We are in the throes of a Christmas season of outreach, including preparing our Annual Christmas Banquet for our homeless and hurting community.

This year we have been blessed by a supporter of the Mission who is challenging others to give to the Mission at Christmastime. The supporter has put up a \$30,000 matching gift challenge. **This means every dollar you give will be doubled during December, up to \$30,000. It is a great opportunity for the Mission to raise \$60,000 this December, so please give today and double the holiday blessing you are providing.**

Many of Utah's homeless don't have anywhere to go for the holidays, so we want to be a family and home for them. We plan to serve another 1,200-plus meals at our Christmas Banquet and provide over 15,000 hot meals and hundreds of Family Food Boxes during the Christmas season. That is in addition to distributing warm winter coats, new socks, hats, gloves, long pants, and thousands more items of clothing.

We hope that great food, warm clothes, and smiling faces will be the encouragement a person needs to join our New Life Program, which helps people off the streets and into employment, housing, faith, and restored family relationships. Pray that our Christmas outreach would touch many lives this year—and make sure to be a part of our December matching gift challenge by giving today!



RESCUER

DECEMBER
2023

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Solomon Miller shares a picture while visiting his mother's house this month. Eight months ago she had kicked Solomon out of the house because of his constant alcohol abuse. But during those eight months, God led Solomon to the Rescue Mission where he found faith, sobriety, and a good job at the Salt Lake City Airport. Today, Solomon and his mother share a great relationship again.

It was a little over eight months ago when I called 911, letting them know I was about to rob a store.

When the police came to arrest me, they asked me why I would turn myself in, before committing a robbery. I explained that I was never going to commit a crime, I just needed help. My mother had kicked me out of her house. I had been abusing alcohol daily for 10 years and she had enough.

With nowhere to go, I figured jail was my best option. As the officer took out his handcuffs, I asked if I could have just one more moment outside before I went to jail. The officer looked at me and said, "I'm not taking you to jail, I am taking you someplace where you can get help."

The police took me to a hospital, where the attending physician told me that he had never seen someone with as much alcohol as I had in my system who was not dead or suffering from severe alcohol poisoning. He told me he thought I would be dead within a month if I kept drinking the way I was. I spent some time in the hospital and then they transferred me to a detox center where I spent 10 more days getting sober.

While in detox I tried to find a recovery center that would take me in, but there was no room for me. Just before I was set to be released, my mother called and said she had found a place. She said I needed to call the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and speak to a staff member named Cassie, who might agree to take me onto the Mission's New Life Program.

I took this as a sign. I have a tattoo on my leg with the name Cassie on it. She

Please see "Solomon" on page 3.

ILLUMINATING OUR MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE

During the nearly 20 years I have served here at the Rescue Mission – and I believe ever since we moved to our current location back in the 1970s

– there has been one visible constant that simply states what our Mission is about. Especially during the dark winter, our illuminated *Jesus Saves* sign serves as a beacon to the hurting and the hopeless. It stands for the truth that the baby whose birth we celebrate during Christmas is the only one who can truly save

and change lives.

By putting faith and trust in Jesus, not only do people receive forgiveness, but they also receive help from Jesus, who suffered in the very same ways we all suffer. Jesus can relate to the homeless, because he was born essentially homeless and at times in life had no choice but to live outside. He can relate to having one his closest family members killed. He can relate to being rejected and all types of physical and emotional abuse. Jesus suffered so He can help others who suffer, give them strength, and carry them through this life.

Our *Jesus Saves* sign has communicated His saving grace to so many who have come through our doors and asked for help. I have heard countless stories from our homeless friends who were alone

on the streets and praying to God for a sign. When they walked around the corner or looked up, the *Jesus Saves* sign is the thing they noticed first. Some have shared they walked by our building for years, never noticing the sign. Yet when they’ve reached out to God, often on bitter cold winter nights, they see the yellow beacon of hope for the first time. Jesus truly is the light of the world and darkness cannot exist where there is light. For people getting off a bus in Salt Lake for the first time or for people who have been evicted and have nowhere to go, or for countless others, God has used the Mission’s *Jesus Saves* sign to draw people into a place where they can find His light, His help, and begin a relationship with Him.

Thank you for your support in these difficult times. You are keeping our doors open and our lights on, including the one that illuminates that “Jesus Saves” and has encouraged so many. I pray you have a blessed Christmas season, and as you celebrate, remember Jesus Saves.

Merry Christmas,

Chris D. CroswHITE
Executive Director



SOLOMON: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was an important person in my life who passed away about 20 years ago. I thought it couldn’t have been a coincidence that another Cassie could now help me out of my hole. Cassie granted me access to the New Life Program, but I came in with a bad attitude. My intentions were not to make any friends, not really participate in the program, and probably leave before I finished.

But the longer I stayed, the chip fell off my shoulder. I made friends. I completed the Genesis Process curriculum, which made me realize that God needed to be a part of my life and that He can make anything possible. If I could give others one piece of advice that I learned, it’s to stop blaming others for your own problems. And along the same lines, stop blaming God for your problems, because God does not want anything but success for you, within His perfect will.

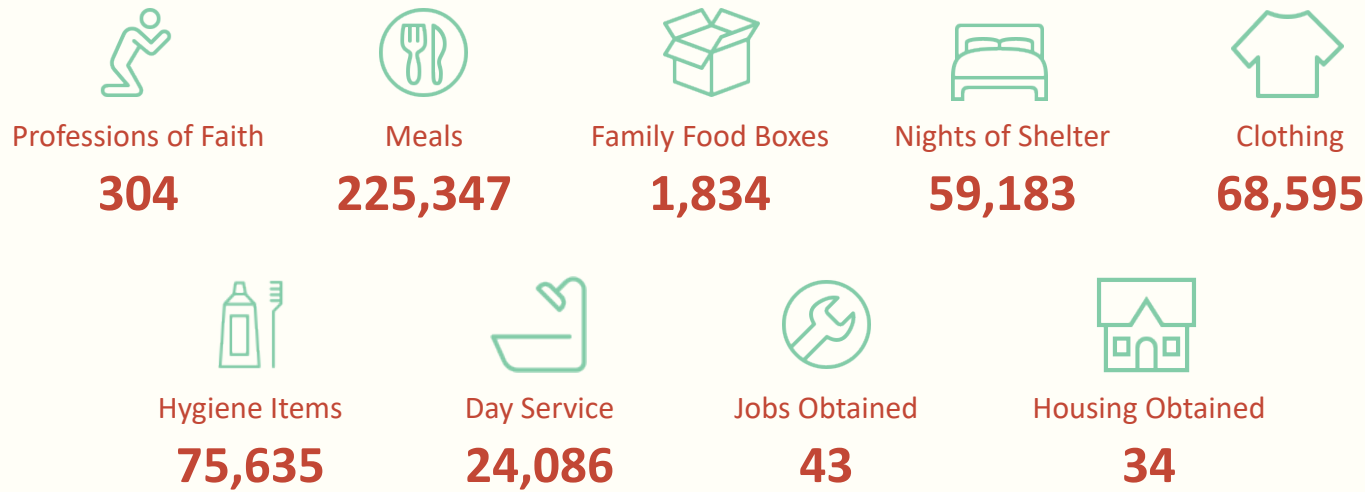
Today I attend Potter’s House church and am blown away by the new things I learn from the Bible and Pastor Don each week. I have been sober eight months now and my mother constantly calls me and tells me how proud she is. We have a great

relationship again and I go to her house to hang out some days and other days we go places to spend time together. I understand now that the only reason she didn’t want to be with me was because I was always intoxicated.

When I moved to the employment phase of the new life program, my other family members were so impressed that they gave me a job at our family business, which has a contract with the Salt Lake City Airport to clean all their big nice, new windows using boom lifts. Now that I am sober, I have a great work ethic and am saving money to get my driver’s license, purchase a car, and be able to afford a deposit and first and last month’s rent on an apartment.

I want to thank everyone who supports the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. I came here bitter and alone but now have a relationship with God, my family, and good friends. Your support has meant the world to me and truly changed my life.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH OCTOBER



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