

HELP THE HOMELESS RISE, RENEW, AND REJOICE THIS EASTER

As Spring begins to peek around the corner, we will be encouraging our homeless friends to Rise, Renew, and Rejoice at our annual Easter Banquet at Pioneer Park downtown (Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter Sunday).

At our Easter Banquet, we will have our annual egg hunt, where hundreds of homeless and low-income kids will enjoy finding eggs, having their faces painted, playing carnival games, and making crafts. Our homeless friends will appreciate live music, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, fingernail painting, help writing letters home, crisis care, and more.

Our homeless friends can also join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. And most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus’ resurrection!

With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be. To support this event, you can pray, volunteer, and donate. Here are some specific ways to help:

Make giveaways for kids. Some of the best giveaways are plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please). We can use Easter baskets along with stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games.

Easter Prep. We need volunteers to come to the Mission a day or two before the event to help with meal preparation. Please contact Natalie Lanza at, N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org to volunteer.

Pray and give. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change lives of our homeless friends and donate today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will Rise, Renew, and Rejoice in the love of Jesus, even as they experience difficult life circumstances.

To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, Scan the QR code on this newsletter, call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at RescueSaltLake.org.

Easter is a blessed time to help our hurting friends Rise above their difficulties, Renew their life and Rejoice as they become the people God truly intends them to be. Thank you for your support that keeps our doors open every minute, every day!



RESCUER

FEBRUARY
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

I spent most of the past three years living in homelessness and addiction, but that changed when an internet search at the American Fork library led me to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

Three years ago, in 2021, my father died and my life went downhill. Prior to losing him I had a good job as a restaurant manager and my son and I purchased a house together that we shared with some of my other six children. To deal with the pain of losing my father, I started abusing pills like Adderall and muscle relaxers. I began missing work, lost my job, and one night attempted to end my life by taking too many pills at once. The paramedics resuscitated me, but my family could see I needed intervention.

BECOMING HOMELESS

They told me I needed to leave the house and I started living out of my car, using food stamps to eat. Sometimes I got money by giving people rides or doing other small tasks. I had a storage unit containing my things from the house, and I would stay inside the unit at times.

When the manager discovered I was living in the unit, I had to move my things to a different storage facility. I found no purpose in life anymore and was being abused by people who knew I was homeless and helpless. I thought I should just die from using meth and the other streets drugs I had been taking since becoming homeless.

As my life grew worse, I was arrested often for common crimes that many homeless men and women face: trespassing and using my family’s credit or bank information to get cash or make purchases. I was released from my third stint in jail in October of 2022. It started to snow that day and I walked from Provo to American Fork.

A LIBRARY INTERNET SEARCH

I weighed 109 pounds, down from my normal healthy weight of 150 pounds. As the snow continued to fall, I took shelter in the American Fork library. I knew I needed help and after some web searching, found the Rescue Mission’s Women’s Center. I felt like it was the faith-based program I needed.



Rebecca Collier is sober, has a great home church, and is employed and working to pay off her debts, so she can start saving and get back into housing.

Please see “Rebecca” on page 3.

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Here at the Rescue Mission, we are blessed that God has granted us favor with so many community partners, allowing us to provide complete life change for so many.



We meet immediate needs (food, shelter, clothing) and bring people into a life-changing relationship with God and His Son Jesus. Spiritual transformation is at the heart of what we do and the beginning of change for any person. Our primary focus rests in the New Life Program, a life-skills and education program with one-on-one support and individualized plans for life change. We additionally help people create resumes, teach interviewing skills, obtain employment, independent housing, and so much more than I can list here.

And while we do so much in-house, I appreciate how God blesses our ministry and the people we serve through our community partners. In my nearly 20 years at the Mission, we've had several people diagnosed with cancer. Sacred Circle and The Fourth Street Clinic have been key in helping these men and women – and many others with serious medical needs – find quality charity care, even at the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

The legal system works with us and we appreciate public defenders, Adult Probation and Parole officers, and others who keep people out of jail and get them

into the Mission's New Life Program as an alternative to incarceration.

So many churches volunteer here and perform chapel services to encourage our homeless friends each night. Many in the food industry regularly supply us with meals or staples to keep our kitchen open. Individuals and business volunteer for clothing and food drives, or special projects around the Rescue Mission.

For those who need quick access to medical professionals for mental health or other care, we provide referrals to our mental health collaborators. Additionally, there are several agencies who connect with us when those we serve need dental work to look more presentable in a working environment.

Maybe most critical of all is your support. Thank you for allowing us to not only provide comprehensive services at our facilities, but also to have a great reputation in the community, affording us the ability to connect with so many organizations that provide things the Rescue Mission cannot, such as medical care. As an unashamedly faith-based organization we do not receive any government funding and your support is what allows us to continue to freely share God's love within our program and be a light for the homeless here in Utah.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE
Executive Director

REBECCA: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I was lucky to still have a working cell phone and I called and left a message on the answering machine. Later my phone rang. Normally, I never pick up calls from numbers I don't know since at that point they seemed to all come from collection agencies, but this time I answered.

The woman on the other end asked me to be at the Women's Center by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, still a few days off. I was able to make it by bus up to the Women's Center in Salt Lake and since that moment, my life has changed.

A NEW LIFE AND NEW EMPLOYMENT

I am sober now and have a full-time job working at a nice restaurant at the Salt Lake City airport. I carry "truth cards" with me to work that have Bible verses on them, like Proverbs 3:5-6. When I see passengers getting stressed about how long it is taking to get their food, I pull out a truth card and read it to myself so God's Word will calm me down. I know it can be stressful to travel, so I try to bring the Holy Spirit with me to work, and help everybody relax and enjoy our food, whether it's takeout or sit down.

As I work, I am saving up money and slowly paying off my creditors. I am looking forward to having no more debt and being able to save money for housing of my own.

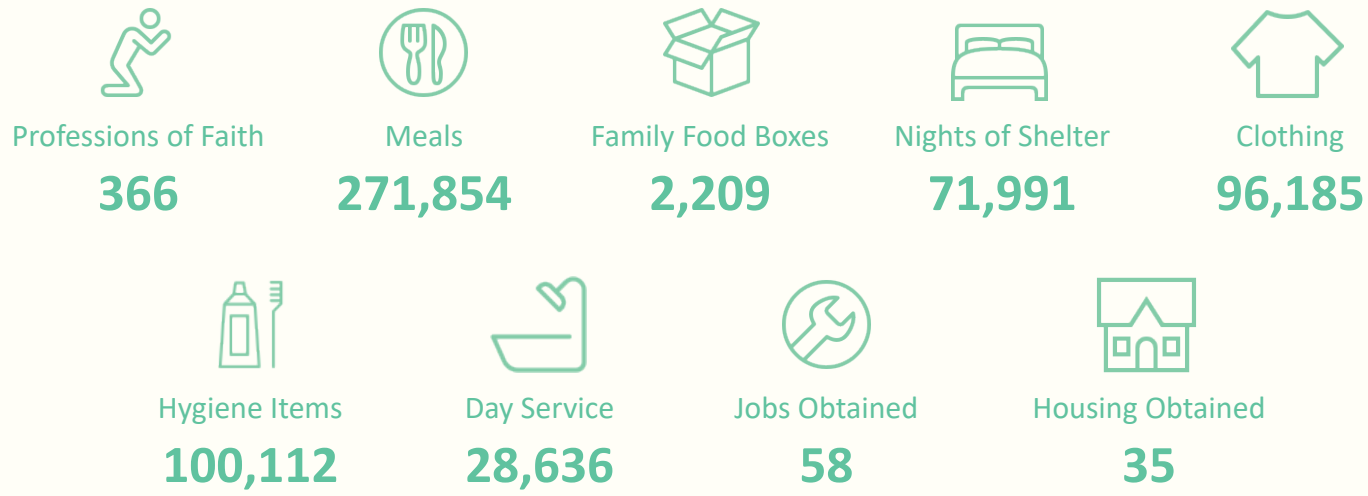
Before, I felt like if I was not beautiful, nobody would love me. The stress of this thought overwhelmed me at times. Now I know that I am loved by God, and He made me just the way He wanted me to be.

RESTORED RELATIONSHIPS

Through my recovery, God has restored relationships with four of my children. I have one going to a university, another about to start college, and a third in graduate school in North Carolina. My younger children are also well taken care of by family members.

Last but not least, I have a great church family at Capitol Church. It's like a home to me and I am welcomed there and learn so much through the teaching, preaching, and worship. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. I was hopeless and homeless and had given up on life. Your support created a place that God used to change me and give me new hope. I could not be more grateful!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR 2023 YEAR-END STATS - THANK YOU!



CONNECT ONLINE FOR MINISTRY VIDEOS, PICTURES, & MORE



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

RescueSaltLake.org

Facebook/rescuemissionofsaltlake

Instagram/@rescuemissionofsaltlake

X/@rescuesaltlake

Tiktok/@rescuesaltlake

Email: info@RescueSaltLake.org

SCAN THE QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE NOW



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.355.1302

Donor Relations – 801.746.1006

Mail: PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1227

Volunteer: Email Natalie at N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org

Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101