

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WHEN YOU GIVE IN APRIL

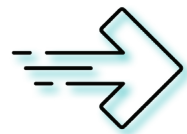
Generous friends of the Rescue Mission, who share your compassion for our struggling neighbors have offered to kick off our annual More Than Meals Matching Challenge by providing a \$50,000 matching gift! Any donation made during April or May will be combined with the same amount from the challenge, providing twice the care for our hurting neighbors. That means:

Any amount you give will double in impact, up to the amount of the challenge gift.

This 2-for-1 opportunity comes at a critical time for our community. As inflation continues to impact the lives of so many in Utah, especially in the areas of food and housing, our most vulnerable neighbors suffer most. The Rescue Mission helps when other safety nets fall away, yet we are not immune to inflation and our costs are climbing as well. The sheer number of people walking in the door requesting to take a shower is sending our water bill skyward. Your support—matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000—will not only provide meals and safe shelter, but comprehensive, life-changing resources, including:

- Safe shelter, warm clothing, and other basic needs like a refreshing shower
- Rehabilitation services, accountability, job training, and life skills
- Meals, fellowship, encouragement, and transformation
- Employment, housing, and self-sufficiency

At the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, we love to supply food to hungry people. But with your support in April and May we can provide much more: a pathway off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing. Please give today:



Check: Payable to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake
Credit Card: Call 801.746.1006
Online: RescueSaltLake.org
Scan: The QR Code in this newsletter

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING A BLESSED EASTER!

Your support impacted the lives of so many of our homeless and low-income friends during our Easter Banquet outreach on March 30. Despite cloudy skies and a light drizzle or two, we supplied over 800 meals and 12,000 hygiene and clothing items. Check out the pictures at right going clockwise: A father and his daughters after participating in our egg hunt; a young boy is served a delicious Easter brunch; a homeless man appreciates a full plate of food; another of our homeless friends waves as a thank you for the hospitality and love; a man gets a clean shave and hair cut at our free “Easter salon”; and another of our homeless friends picks up food served with love. Thank you for making this all possible!



RESCUER

APRIL
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



The four roommates, from left to right: Teresa Wood, Kayra Darling, Nichole Reigard, and Michelle Poulson. While they once were all homeless the group is now all employed and share a house together in South Jordan with dogs Kobi (left corner) and Ginger.

When Michelle Poulson graduated from the New Life Program she knew she needed continued connection to other Christian women who had been through similar experiences.

As part of the education she received on the New Life Program, Michelle learned she not only had to leave her old life behind, but also that strong and healthy relationships would be critical to her long-term success. The problem was, there didn't seem to be an aftercare group that fit her desire to stay in faith-based recovery with like-minded women.

So when she graduated in 2019, Michelle took the initiative and started a group herself. She began inviting other women who graduated from the New Life Program to join. Today the group has 14 members and out of that group, Michelle and three other women developed a close bond.

They have all experienced God's life-changing work at the Mission. Michelle, for her part, has been healed of several debilitating health issues, including epilepsy. She serves in her church's children's ministry and works in a program for autistic children.

Please see “The Four Roommates” on page 3.

AS THE WINTER SHELTERS CLOSE, WE'RE BUSIER THAN EVER

Spring is here and the temporary winter homeless shelters have officially closed in Salt Lake. That means the Rescue Mission is one of the few places where people who used the temporary winter shelters can

turn to as an alternative to sleeping on the streets.

In fact, this past week a bus rolled to a stop in front of our Ogden facility. Nine people were required to disembark before it drove away. The nine individuals walked in our door and asked for help.

Because the winter shelters have closed, the Rescue Mission's facilities are packed full and at times we even must turn people away, when we reach our full capacity as allowed by the Salt Lake County Fire Marshal. Our New Life Recovery Program is filling as well.

During this time, when so many need help, we are facing unprecedented need for food, safe shelter, and access to our free New Life Program that helps people off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing.

This month, then, I am asking that you prayerfully consider how you might help the homeless who have lost access to shelter and are coming to our

doors. Could you raid your pantry and bring cans of food to the Rescue Mission? Could you organize a food drive at your church or place of business or amongst your friend group and donate the food items to the Mission?

As you consider spring cleaning, could you donate old blankets or sleeping bags that we could give to people when our shelter is at max capacity? Could you share clothing that you don't wear anymore?

With your support we can continue to meet this great need. Besides the above ideas (and others all our creative donors may come up with) you can also give today by using the enclosed envelope, donating online at RescueSaltLake.org, or over-the-phone via credit card by calling our Donor Relations Office at 801.746.1006. We have been blessed with a matching April-May matching gift challenge, so your support is doubled in April and May, up to a total pledged amount of \$50,000, creating double the benefit for our homeless friends who are struggling to find shelter off the streets.

Thank you in advance for your help this Spring and God bless you!

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director



THE FOUR ROOMMATES: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As the aftercare group grew, the four women came to a housing crossroads at the same time. Two—Kayra Darling and Nichole Reigard—had been living at Hope House (the Rescue Mission's transitional housing unit for women). Both had been sober for several years and are doing well in their church, employment, and family relationships.

Nichole has a good job with an HVAC company and Kayra has a successful career as a hair stylist. They all talked about the need for a good, sober roommates to share a house or apartment with, given Utah's high housing prices.

Then Teressa Wood, who has served as House Manager at the Rescue Mission's Women's Center for several years, received a promotion. She would now be a case manager working individually with clients who come to the Rescue Mission from the streets and enter the New Life Program.

But being a case manager meant she could no longer live in the House Manager apartment at the Women's Center. Still her new job would help her gain experience as she worked on her degree in nonprofit management.

"It was a big life change for me, on the heels of full-time school, I was a little bit panicked," Teressa said. "Now among all these changes I was going to have to look for a place to live."

So, this group of four who had built solid relationships through the Rescue Mission and the aftercare group

Michelle started back in 2019 all needed a new place to live at the same time. It seemed like Jesus had arranged it that way. They decided to look for a house to share and landed on one in South Jordan that was in a nice neighborhood and in their price range.

"It was actually the first house we looked at," Teressa said.

They met the neighbors who all seemed welcoming. Then they met the owners, who were moving out of country but wanted to keep their house. The owners felt great about renting to the four women who had overcome so much.

"It's amazing that God led the four of us to make a decision to get a place together," Michelle said. "They are such amazing and beautiful women today and I knew them when they weren't."

Added Kayra: "These are three of my favorite people on the face of the planet. The Rescue Mission has not only changed my life but given me the opportunity to develop relationships with these women who are strong and powerful."

The women agree the ability to see each other receive promotions, develop new skills, and continue to restore relationships with family members encourages them to keep moving forward with God's enabling help. They all shared their deep appreciation to Mission's supporters who have helped enable the incredible changes in their lives and the wonderful possibilities still ahead.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH FEBRUARY



Professions of Faith

51



Meals

45,622



Family Food Boxes

426



Nights of Shelter

12,185



Clothing

12,669



Hygiene Items

14,557



Day Service

4,473



Jobs Obtained

18



Housing Obtained

4



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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

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