

YOUR HELP HAS IMPACTED LIVES THIS SUMMER!

Your support of *Operation Hydration* during what might turn out to be the hottest, driest summer in Utah history made a huge difference in the lives of our homeless friends and has likely saved lives. Through the end of July, your support allowed us to provide:



12,966 bottles of water



601 hats



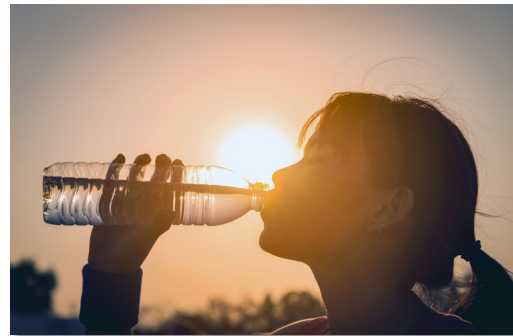
1,211 sunscreens



900 reusable water bottles



321 sticks of lip balm



These items were distributed to unsheltered people living in homeless camps, and at the Rescue Mission with people walking in the door and stopping by our hydration stations. These numbers do not include the numerous times people refilled their water bottles at our fountains and drink stations during meal services.

Beyond those numbers, your gifts created a cooling room inside the Rescue Mission where those facing the extreme heat could find indoor respite. We have been able to show the love of Jesus to those who receive the support we provide. For several people this hope has been the catalyst they needed to decide to ask for our help to leave the streets.

Thank you again for supporting this critical ministry, which has truly helped protect so many this long, hot summer.

RESCUER

AUGUST
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Rebecca Scriver spent most of her life living on the streets, traveling from place to place without much hope. When she came to the Rescue Mission in August, 2023 God changed her life. Today she serves our homeless community at a local resource center.

While I was homeless for most of my life, I have been blessed to find a home at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake Women's Facility. Here I found the help I needed to become sober and get off the streets.

Growing up in Michigan, I started a homeless lifestyle when I turned 18. Early abuse made me distrust almost everyone, especially when my mother didn't believe I had been abused. As an adult I traveled from state to state and at age 24, I met a man at a homeless shelter. We were married and had two children.

However, when he turned abusive, I took my two young children (ages 2 and 3 at the time) and began living on the streets. We were eating out of garbage cans or whatever handouts people would give us. I realized I couldn't make my young kids live that way, so I sought help. I was able to place my children in guardianship with a couple that went to a church where I sometimes attended. The couple raised my kids, who are now nearly 40 years old.

I had two more children as I traveled from state to state, still homeless. I was eventually forced to allow them to be adopted. Alone and using drugs and alcohol to cope with past and current heartaches, I felt scared. I

Please see "Rebecca" on page 3.

HONEST WORK CHANGES LIVES AND CREATES SHARING HEARTS

In the Book of Ephesians, God says, "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." (Eph. 4:28).

Indeed, this charge from God to His people is one of the cornerstones of our New Life Program



ministry. Rebecca Scriver, who shares her life story this month, is a great example. She once stole from stores or other people to get money to live. She would use the money for food or to buy drugs or alcohol that she used to mask the pains of past hurts.

When God healed her heart at the Rescue Mission and she began a relationship with Jesus, she left stealing behind. And while Rebecca, at age 64 and with a disability, is no longer able to work, she does "have something to share" with those in need. Rebecca volunteers at a local kitchen that serves the homeless. There she can share her story with those coming through for food. She explains that there is a way off the streets and shows that God can change the lives of those who have suffered through homelessness for years.

And while I am so thankful for the societal safeguards we have in place that allow the elderly and those with disabilities to receive monthly support, the truth is that most of those who

come to the Mission are able to labor and do honest work. When we help people overcome the underlying pains that are causing them to use drugs or alcohol, they are freed to follow God's call to work. They no longer need to steal, but instead find successful jobs and careers. That said, over 50 percent of our homeless friends who seek emergency shelter from us are employed but remain financially unstable. Whether through help with budgeting or aid in finding a better job, we are helping them work their way out of homelessness.

Many have discovered God's provision is even enough that they are able to give to others. And at times our homeless friends voluntarily buy and donate items to the Rescue Mission, when they learn we have a need.

Thank you for supporting our mission of helping people to get off the streets grow into their God-given abilities to become honest laborers and give back to others. Our efforts to encourage work and self-sufficiency could not happen without the support of all of you, who often labor so that you might have something to share with those in need.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director

REBECCA: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was on the streets not knowing if I would be able to have food and stay safe. At times I would steal just to have food to eat and try to stay alive.

Last year, I made my way back to Utah. I had been here 13 years earlier and had stayed at the Rescue Mission's Women's Facility as a homeless guest back then. I loved the mountains and knew the Mission had a program to help people get off the streets. In my 60s, I faced many health problems and knew I could no longer live in homelessness.

The Mission welcomed me into the New Life Program, and I am happy to say I now have a personal relationship with Jesus. While I had gone to church in the past, I went for the wrong reasons. At the Mission I learned to understand the words of Jesus in the Bible, learned that I could talk to Jesus through prayer, and have been healed in physical, emotional, and spiritual ways.

As I attended Bible studies and through individual and group classes with the Mission's staff, I came to realize I harbored unforgiveness towards many people. On the flip side, I also had done much harm to other people and needed to be forgiven myself. Over time, God healed my heart and I have been able to forgive those who I held grudges against. At the same time, I have received God's forgiveness for the wrongs things I have done, even at times when I am not able to speak directly to the people I have harmed, because of lost contact.

I fellowship with a great church family at Capital Church. The teaching there is inspiring, and I enjoy

the community with others. It is a "come as you are" church that makes me always feel welcome. I don't have to put a front on and can be honest and genuine.

At age 64, I have health issues that have qualified me for monthly disability payments, which I am taking. I am saving money to move into Hope House, the Mission's transitional housing unit for women who are moving out of Women's Facility and into self-sufficiency. I expect to be able to move to Hope House in a couple months.

While my disability prevents me from being employed, I can volunteer to a limited extent. I spend several days a week serving breakfast or lunch (sometimes both) at the Gail Miller Resource Center, which is just down from the Rescue Mission's Women's Facility. I enjoy serving the homeless there because I have been in their shoes and can connect with them. I share my story and hopefully they experience the love of Jesus through interacting with me. I tell them there is a way to get off the streets.

While my parents have both passed on, and I do not have relationships with my children, I am sustained in my relationship with Jesus, good friends here at the Rescue Mission, and an awesome church family. Please pray for me as I transition to Hope House. Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission, where God showed me the truth about Himself and forever changed my life.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH JUNE



Professions of Faith

153



Meals

144,502



Family Food Boxes

1,332



Nights of Shelter

36,694



Clothing

43,446



Hygiene Items

48,951



Day Service

13,207



Jobs Obtained

48



Housing Obtained

30



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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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 Brandon at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org

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