

ARE YOU READY TO TALK TURKEY? BECAUSE WE ARE

There are just two short months to prepare before our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet and Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes. It may seem too soon, but if you were prepping to cook over a hundred turkeys and serve thousands of people you would be preparing already as well! As the day approaches, we are gathering needed supplies, support, and volunteers

It takes many resources to pull off our Thanksgiving outreaches and Banquets. Besides hot Thanksgiving dinners at the Banquets, there will be God-honoring music, free warm clothing, showers, and hygiene items, along with haircuts and vaccines for those who want them. Our staff members and volunteers will show love to our homeless friends and, where needed, they will give crisis care to the weary and downtrodden.

Most importantly we will invite our homeless friends to join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets into faith, employment, and permanent housing (Please read John Gomez's life story in this month's newsletter about how the New Life Program saved him). When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life Program then we can truly say that their hope began with a meal.

Besides sit-down meals in our dining room, we will be giving Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes to the working poor, so they can celebrate with loved ones at home. Here's how you can help:

Give Use the envelope included with this newsletter or scan the QR code in this newsletter, You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone, or visit RescueSaltLake.org to donate through our website.

Donate We are also in need of warm clothes, winter boots, and other items (visit our website for a more complete list). We do not want to turn anyone away this holiday season and want to make sure no one will go hungry.

Volunteer Email or call Brandon, our volunteer coordinator at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org or give him a call at 385-354-8165.

Please help today!



Our homeless friends and low-income families need your help this upcoming winter and holiday season. We don't want anyone going hungry this Thanksgiving!

RESCUER

SEPTEMBER
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



John Gomez doesn't remember how he ended up walking through the Mission's doors but he knows that God changed his life by giving him faith, sobriety, and employment.

When I struggled my way into the Rescue Mission almost a year ago, I didn't know how I got here.

I had been awake for seven days, while living on the streets using meth and alcohol. I was not a functioning person at that point. I understand now it was God who led me here, the place that would change my life. The Mission gave me a safe place to stay off the streets. While here I started attending the evening chapel services. During one chapel service a former homeless person who had graduated from the New Life Program shared their story about how they were homeless and

addicted but now they were employed and had a good place to live.

The person had been through the same things that I had been through. I thought, "wow, if this person can make it, maybe there is hope for me."

I joined the New Life Program and decided I would start by simply following the basic rules. I went to bible study. I attended group classes. I met one-on-one with the staff. They also taught me how to start working again, by providing assignments around the Mission. I helped in the pantry. It felt good to prepare food boxes for families who needed help. As I followed all

Please see "John" on page 3.

THE LIFE-ALTERING CLOTHING DONATION

I recently shared a story, once with colleagues at the Rescue Mission, and again with volunteers helping with a paver project at one of our transitional homes. Each time I was asked how I started working at the Rescue Mission.

I first walked up the red stairs into the Rescue Mission the summer of 1988 when the pastor of my parent's church asked my dad and me to lead a chapel service at the Rescue Mission. My dad led worship, and I shared why and how I can become a follower of Jesus. Eight years later, in the summer of 1996, I found myself walking up the same flight of stairs leading 31 teenagers on a week-long summer missions trip to help the homeless. During this time my wife and I got to know



one of the men on the New Life Program named Dave and we shared letters for a couple of years.

Fast forward another nine years to December of 2005 and I found myself walking up the same red stairs. Just like John Gomez who shares his life story in this month's Rescuer, I did not know my life was about to change.

My wife and I had been cleaning out our closets and I wondered what I should do with the bags of winter clothes we no longer needed. I thought of Dave and that Mission with the red stairs and the big yellow building with the JESUS SAVES sign out front. I didn't remember the address, but I headed downtown to find the building and drop off the bags of clothes. Carrying the bags of clothes up the red stairs, I was

asked if I wanted to receive newsletter updates from the Rescue Mission. The next month I received a Rescue Mission newsletter, which shared that the Mission was hiring. I applied and have been walking up the red stairs ever since.

While so much has changed since then, what hasn't changed is the need for our homeless friends to have warm winter clothes when the weather turns cold and chilly, especially overnight. When the first storms and cold spells hit, we will be overwhelmed with requests for warm clothes, so we want to get our clothing pantry stocked now.

The Bible tells us that simple acts like giving someone your tunic can be a strong witness of God's love to another person (Luke 3:11; James 2:15-16). In my nearly two decades working at the Mission, I have personally seen simple acts such as sharing a jacket or providing someone with a new pair of boots, be the catalyst for a person to welcome Jesus into their life and get off the streets. Yet be careful! You never know if, when you walk up those red stairs, God will change your life every bit as much of you are changing the life of our homeless friends inside.

Thank you so much in advance for helping to stock our winter clothing pantry (and food pantry) – you can even consider hosting a clothing or canned food drive at your church or place of employment.

Thank you and may God bless you,

Chris D. Croswite

Executive Director

JOHN: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the steps of "the program" my mind started to change. My thinking grew clearer and my compassion for other people increased.

Most importantly I was understanding the Bible for the first time. I realized who God and His son Jesus were. I knew that having a relationship with Jesus could change my life not only on this earth, but also for eternity. I started going to church and found a church family at the Potter's House Christian Fellowship.

The people from church developed real relationships with me. They gave me rides when I needed to get somewhere and would let me do yard work and other small jobs around their homes. I stayed sober and found more joy and peace.

While over the last 15 years of my life, I had spiraled into deep addiction and had stayed on the streets or in jail for most of that time, there were points during my life when I was a successful worker. I am a professional electrician and made good money but would often lose jobs after falling back into addiction.

But as I came to the point when I would graduate to the employment phase of the New Life Program I wondered if anyone would hire an older worker like me with a spotty work history.

I asked God for help, and I was blessed to find a good job at a restaurant distribution company. We work hard to supply food and other supplies to local restaurants, and it feels great to be working and making an honest

living again. As I have been employed, I have been saving money so I can afford a place to live when I graduate from the New Life Program.

It's amazing to me that I can now be an example (like others had been for me) to other homeless men and women who come to the Rescue Mission for help. There was once a time when I felt like I could never have faith, sobriety, stability, and employment. But I would look at people who were succeeding on the New Life Program for inspiration. It's awesome to return that inspiration to others.

I know all the credit goes to God. He gets the glory for changing my life. He was the one who brought a desperate and broken version of myself to the Mission when I had no hope and no place to go. God was the one who put me in that chapel service where I heard from someone who had their life changed through the New Life Program.

I also want to thank all of you, the faith supporters of the Mission. I am a life you have helped save. I know that the Mission would not be here without your sacrificial gifts and God's enabling power. Please pray for me as I continue to work, stay plugged into my local church, and look forward to moving into a place of my own.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH JULY



Professions of Faith

196



Meals

187,190



Family Food Boxes

1,672



Nights of Shelter

48,899



Clothing

50,171



Hygiene Items

59,711



Day Service

13,207



Jobs Obtained

59



Housing Obtained

40



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

RescueSaltLake.org

facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake

instagram.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake

[Twitter/@rescuesaltlake](https://twitter.com/rescuesaltlake)

tiktok.com/@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 Brandon at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org

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