

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BANQUET

Imagine what it's like to experience homelessness along the Wasatch Front, especially during the Thanksgiving and holiday season.

It's cold and lonely. You can't afford a meal, let alone a place to stay. Businesses do not let you come inside to get warm, even for a few minutes. People walk by and barely notice or avoid you all together. Today, the rising cost of life's essentials means more people are facing homelessness and isolation.

The journey of healing and restoration often begins with a meal, or a good night's sleep, at the Rescue Mission — and that's why your gift to support our annual Thanksgiving Banquet is so critical. As a private, faith-based charity, we depend on support from friends like you to help our neighbors in critical need.

Beyond a hot, nourishing Thanksgiving meal, your support today help provides:

- **Shelter, clothing, and education**
- **Job training and mentoring**
- **A home for the holidays**
- **A pathway off the streets**

For over 50 years, the Rescue Mission has cared for the people in greatest need in our community, providing nourishing food, shelter, and warm clothing. In our long-term programs, we help hurting men and women address the root causes of their homelessness. Through education, job training, Bible studies, and other services, we give them the tools to rebuild their lives, and become the men and women God truly intends them to be — and stay off the streets permanently. Please give today by using 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!

Please help today!



Our homeless friends and low-income families line up for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet, which is a true blessing to so many. We don't want anyone going hungry this Thanksgiving!

RESCUER

OCTOBER
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Keith Earnhart shares a moment with his late grandma, who was a stable blessing in his life. Today, Keith is also stable, has a good job, and continues to grow.

Editor's note: We typically share stories of people who have had God change their life through our New Life Program. However, the Rescue Mission also runs other programs to help people get off the streets and achieve faith, sobriety, and employment. Our Transitions Program is one of those other programs. The Transitions Program is for people who are homeless or struggling but need less focus on addiction and more help with employment, housing, and stability.

This month we share a life story from Keith Earnhart, who recently completed our Transitions Program.

While I have struggled with drug use and criminal behavior for much of my adult life, I have never considered myself an addict. I have quit drugs for long periods of time without the help of counseling or a long-term program. At the same time, I know my drug and alcohol abuse has had a significant and negative impact on my life.

One of the negative impacts of my substance abuse caused my homelessness. I have a child (who is now

Please see "Keith" on page 3.

SEASON CHANGE AND MEALS CAN CHANGE LIVES

Recently I was hiking with my family, enjoying the changing season and fall colors. It was a difficult hike. At times we rested in the shade. We took water breaks. At one point we talked about turning back, which some of us did. Others hiked on and enjoyed lunch overlooking the valley. It was a difficult, yet blessed time for our family.



The hike and season change reminded me about our work at the Rescue Mission to help people do difficult things to experience a changed life. It also brought to mind how Jesus' disciples experienced radical change in their lives. Jesus knew he faced death on the cross. He knew he was about to die, raise to new life, and

gift the Holy Spirit to His disciples shortly thereafter. Jesus had to keep His "Band of Brothers and Sisters" together during this very difficult time of immense change.

Amid this change, the apostle Peter and some others returned to their old way of life and went fishing. Jesus would have nothing of this. Their fishing efforts failed and Jesus watched them struggle. But to help, Jesus provided fish. The resurrected Jesus cooked breakfast for His struggling and discouraged disciples, who seemed to want to return their old way of life. In the midst of Jesus cooking breakfast, He called to his hurting friends and asked them how they were doing, and taught them how to be successful at fishing on the other side of the boat.

I share my family's story and this part of the Bible to note that life change can happen around season change and food, which are both key parts of our ministry at the Rescue Mission. Almost everyone who comes through our door is hungry and in need of food. People also often come through our door when they are experiencing a season change in their life. While hunger brings many people to our door, the help people really need is radical spiritual change. It's a change as profound as a green leaf turning yellow, red, or orange. Just like any hike we may go on to see God's fall colors, the journey may be hard (and some may even turn back) but it is worth it.

Every day at the Rescue Mission we ask hurting people to keep going and embrace change by God's grace. We encourage them to welcome the difficult and become the person God is molding them to be. The initial invitation might be as simple as to join us for a meal or a short walk around the block, but the purpose is to change the life of a hurting person who is struggling and desperately wants the hope we can provide through God's awesome and life-changing power.

Thank you for enabling us to help those in our community who want help, but are struggling to find it,

Chris D. Croswrite
Executive Director

KEITH: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

almost four-years old) and I was living with my child's mother. My drug use contributed to a falling out between me and my child's mother.

I recognized my struggles and chose to leave our home, knowing I was unstable and upsetting our family situation. With nowhere else to turn, I sought help from the Rescue Mission. The staff there welcomed me and gave me a place to stay and food to eat. While I had known about homeless shelters before, I had never actually lived in one.

The Mission staff shared that they had a program to quickly get me back on my feet. They blessed me by giving me a safe haven. There are few places that are drug free and protect people in situations like I was in from the rigors of the street. In fact, I think the Mission is the only place where people struggling with homelessness can experience a drug-free and faith-based environment.

At the Mission my life changed. There is a sermon every night that you can listen to and be encouraged by God's Word. The whole place is a safe spot where you can regain your connection to Jesus.

I was able to refocus my life and quickly got a good-paying job in my profession as a cement-mixer driver. Through the Transitions Program I could live at the Mission while getting financially back on my feet.

I had many fines to pay off due to my criminal charges and am thankful to say I have been able to pay them

all. I also have paid all my child support and continue to pay it each month to support my child and my child's mother. Because I have been doing so well, my probation officer and the judge overseeing my cases ended my probation early, in July.

Today I feel like a free man again.

I am off the streets and living with family members until a friend of mine has an opening at a place he rents out. I would appreciate your prayers about my family situation. The mother of my child does not trust me (and she has every reason to not trust me because I have let her down many times). Right now, I am giving her and my child space but would love to have a better relationship with them in the future.

I have been clean and sober for two years now and am in a good place spiritually and ready to be a father. At the same time, I know there is a lot of relationship building that needs to happen before my child's mother can trust me again.

Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission and providing a place for people like me who need help. I never thought I would be homeless or in need of this kind of assistance, but I am so thankful that there is a place in our community that helps people like me. Your support is a true blessing and has changed my life!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH AUGUST



Professions of Faith

206



Meals

187,190



Family Food Boxes

1,789



Nights of Shelter

53,784



Clothing

53,030



Hygiene Items

64,721



Day Service

19,200



Jobs Obtained

65



Housing Obtained

42



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