

OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM MEMBERS ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

EYRN

I am grateful for processing the trauma in my life and for the Lord who is my promise, guide, and path to joy. I am grateful for my church community and staff support at the Rescue Mission. I am ever so grateful for our donors who invest in me. The support gives me joy.



AUSTYN

I am grateful for the Rescue Mission. I have a bed to sleep in, food to eat, and a new family that cares for and loves me for who I am, and who I will become in the future.



CARRIE

I am thankful to God for guiding me to the Rescue Mission and for the amazing staff. I know that without God, the Rescue Mission, and the chance you are giving me I would not be the woman I am becoming now. Thank you!



ROMAN

I am thankful to be in this program because it has made my life worth living. I have gotten everything back I have previously lost, my family, my kids, and most of all, I am walking in God's light again.



LOGAN

I am thankful the New Life Program is helping me get sober and stay that way, so I can show my little brother that he can do it too!



JOSEPH

I am grateful the New Life Program is helping me beat my addiction, saving my life and teaching me self control.



HELP US ENSURE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

It's not too late to support our annual one-day early Thanksgiving Banquet coming up on November 27. Any donations made to the banquet after November 27 will be put towards our annual Christmas Banquet, which helps the homeless feel the warmth of a loving environment during Christmastime. In addition to our Hope for the Holidays efforts to help hurting people off the streets, we still need many items, including: **Turkeys, hams, canned vegetables, disposable razors, shampoo, body wash, socks, hats, pants, and coats.**

You can always give towards our banquets by [donating online at RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.rescuesaltlake.org), scanning the QR Code in this newsletter, calling our Donor Relations Office at 801-746-1006, or by using the enclosed envelope.

The Rescue Mission's banquets not only serve great food, but share all the other services we provide, including flu shots, live music, haircuts, warm clothing and footwear, and love and support from our staff for those in need of counseling or emotional support. Our goal is that people would feel the love of Jesus, hear the Gospel, and join our New Life Program. Then they can have their hope renewed, get off the streets, and experience a restored life.



RESCUER

NOVEMBER
2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

It was a little over 20 months ago when I walked into the probation office and asked my supervising officer to put me back in jail. I was using a version of meth known as "Bath Salts" and I couldn't quit. I told the officer I needed to be incarcerated to stop me from killing myself.

At the time, I had four kids and we were bouncing from house to house. Most of the time my family members took care of my kids, especially when I was on the streets. I knew I couldn't take care of my kids any longer and family members and the Department of Child and Family Services were helping me. I needed to go somewhere where I couldn't get access to drugs.

My supervising officer took me before the judge, who said that because I came forward and asked for help, she would send me to the local jail, instead of prison. After seven months in jail, my attorney visited. He said he heard about a program at the Rescue Mission. It was faith-based and 13-months long. If I agreed to do it, he thought the judge would release me.

To me his words were a prompting from God. It was like God was telling me, "You need to do this." I told my attorney "yes" and was released into the Rescue Mission's New Life Program, at the Women's Center.

I have lived on and off the street of Utah and used drugs regularly since I was 13. There were many abuses that happened to me early in my life. Living on the streets at 13 years old, the adult homeless population introduced me to drugs. I think I started using drugs to put the memories

Please see "Ashley" on page 3.



Ashley Nichole lost her mother and one of her children in 2015. She turned to drugs to ease the pain. Now she is sober, working, and ready to graduate from the New Life Program. She plans to welcome her kids back into her life and her new home.

LET'S PRACTICE THANKFULNESS TOGETHER

As we come to the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded that thankfulness is emphasized throughout the Bible. First Thessalonians 5:18 encourages us to “give thanks in all circumstances.”



This verse highlights that gratitude is not just for the good times but also for the challenges, as they often lead to growth and deeper faith. The act of giving thanks shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundance we already possess.

Many of our homeless friends who come to us are initially unthankful and might even be resistant to our help. They have little hope due to addictions, extreme poverty, and lifetimes of abuse and heartaches. But as they stay here at the Rescue Mission and feel the love of God, the compassion of our staff team, and the warm welcome of our New Life Program members, their hearts begin to change.

Even those considered hard-hearted start to have hearts of gratitude. They see their lives in a new light. People realize in the mist of their difficulties, God protected them—at times even from themselves. They realize God was there with them the whole time. People see how God is providing for them at the Mission. They become thankful, even though they still don't have much.

I asked some friends at the Mission how they cultivate thankful hearts amid difficulty, realizing that true heart change can only happen through a

relationship with God through his Son Jesus. Here are some of their recommendations:

- Daily Reflection:** Set aside a few moments each day to reflect on what you are grateful for. Ponder things as simple as a warm cup of tea or the support of a friend.
- Gratitude Journaling:** Write down three things you are thankful for each day. This practice shines light on the ways God provides and keeps us focused on the good, not our challenges.
- Helping Others:** With God's enabling, express gratitude through actions. Acts of kindness not only spread joy to others, but they reinforce joy in the life of the person who is following Jesus's example of compassion.
- Prayer:** Incorporate thankfulness into your prayer life to acknowledge the blessings God has given and to ask Him for help to remain thankful even in hard times (all circumstances).

Please join me in using these tips this Thanksgiving season and beyond. Daily thankfulness brings joy to God's people and gives God glory for His provisions. I pray that you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. All of us at the Rescue Mission could not be more thankful for your faithful (and much needed) support of this ministry.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director

ASHLEY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of my childhood out of my mind. Later, in 2015, my mother and one of my children (a 2-month baby-girl named Lyrik) were murdered by a man for no apparent reason at their house in Salt Lake City. The man was mentally ill and despite being hospitalized and incarcerated for the past nine years, he has not gone on trial yet.

That tragedy sent me further into addiction and despair. I lived on and off the streets and in and out of jail. I eventually landed in prison.

At the Rescue Mission I was able to learn about the one true God, and the love and forgiveness offered by Jesus. I was able to look back at my life and see how many times my addiction should have killed me. I saw how many times God protected me. In those times, I could see God calling me to Him even when I didn't think He was there.

The hardest part of completing the New Life Program was going through the Genesis Process educational curriculum. The Genesis Process resurfaces past traumas and helps you to talk through them and learn God's truth. I had to reconsider the abuse I suffered as a child and came to forgive my abusers. I was even able to find forgiveness for the man who killed my mother and daughter. It was hard but also freeing.

I have connected with a great local church, Capital Church. The people there don't judge me and are

welcoming and accepting. I was baptized there earlier this month.

I have a good, stable job at a local printing company and love the people I work with. I have been saving money and was able to get my driver's license (I never had one before) and purchase a car. By the end of November, I will graduate from the New Life Program and move into a home that my sister rents out. I am working with DCFS and the courts to regain custody of two of my children and if all goes well, they will be moving in with me.

Please pray that I will continue to stay connected with “my community” (my church, the other graduates of the New Life Program, and the Mission staff). Also, pray for God's will about reconnecting with my children, including the two that will come live with me. Pray I can be a good mom to them. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission. This place has truly changed my life and has been used by God to heal my deepest wounds.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH SEPTEMBER



Professions of Faith

223



Meals

206,134



Family Food Boxes

1,789



Nights of Shelter

55,199



Clothing

53,346



Hygiene Items

66,119



Day Service

19,216



Jobs Obtained

65



Housing Obtained

43



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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Email: info@RescueSaltLake.org

SCAN THE QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE NOW



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

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Volunteer: Email Brandon at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org

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