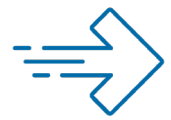


## YOU HELPED US MEET OUR DECEMBER MATCH!



### Mission accomplished! You raised \$50,000 for the Mission

Thank you for helping us meet our December matching gift challenge! Your support raised thousands of dollars for our homeless friends and made a Merry Christmas and joyful holiday season possible for many. We are deeply grateful for your generosity. Please take a moment to enjoy the pictures from our holiday outreaches on the right.



### Data shows that more help and love are still needed

Despite this wonderful blessing from God, it was sobering to read the January HUD annual report on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness. For Utah, the report found:

- **A 5% increase in homelessness over the past year.**
- **Looking back to 2007, homelessness in Utah has risen by 28.5%.**

At the Rescue Mission this December:

- **71 people who had never walked through our doors before came in and asked for help.**

At the Mission, our facilities are among the few faith-based programs dedicated to helping people transition into faith, sobriety, employment, and permanent housing. We are able to boldly offer faith-based solutions because we receive no government funds and rely entirely on the generosity of donors like you. By choosing not to accept government support, we can provide free, Bible-centered programs to our homeless friends. Whether they need rapid rehousing, a short-term stay after a job loss, or a life-transformation program with God at the center, we are here to help.

Please prayerfully consider the statistics above and how you might get involved. Whether through volunteering, praying, donating needed items, or giving financially, your support is essential as we continue to tackle this growing issue in a God-centered way.

# RESCUER

JANUARY  
2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Adam Thompson has been homeless and in and out of jail his whole life. Now he is sober and working as a Certified Homeless Caseworker after finding a new life at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

*For my thirteenth birthday, my mother gave me methamphetamine as my present. I come from a long line of drug users and abusers, and this gift set me on the same destructive path. I grew into a lifelong drug addict—until I found the help I needed at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.*

Growing up in rural northeast Utah (the Vernal area) and northwest Colorado, I came to believe that because my entire family was involved in the drug life, I too would be a lifelong addict.

My life was spent in and out of prison for selling and using drugs, only to be sent back for parole or probation violations. When I wasn't incarcerated, I was usually living on the streets or bouncing from place to place, unable to get sober or hold down long-term employment.

By 2023, the court system had understandably had enough of me. My lawyer told me that the judge had given me

Please see "Adam" on page 3.



## HELPING THE HOMELESS THROUGH COLD AND DARKNESS

As we navigate the long, dark winter, it's important to remember that for our homeless friends, the darkness of this season can be even more



*acute.* The lack of shelter, warmth, and basic necessities deepens feelings of isolation, despair, and hopelessness. The cycle of addiction often thrives in these conditions—darkness becomes a place of numbing, where pain is avoided rather than confronted. Additionally,

the literal cold can mirror the spiritual coldness that many homeless individuals feel as they disconnect from society.

In contrast, it's striking that God's first act of creation was to speak light into existence: "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). His first creative act wasn't just to bring physical light, but to dispel the chaos of a formless, dark world. This light represented God's presence and order, a theme reiterated in the Gospel of John when Jesus declared Himself to be the "light of the world" (John 8:12). Like God's first creative act, Jesus' light seeks to dispel chaos and disorder (this time caused by the fall in Genesis 3).

God desires that all of us experience spiritual light rather than spiritual darkness. At the Rescue Mission, we strive to carry out that divine desire, especially during this season. We take deliberate

steps in the dark winter months to help our homeless friends navigate both the literal and spiritual challenges they face.

Providing safe, warm shelter during the coldest months not only saves lives, but also creates a space for spiritual healing. Our programs combine one-on-one therapy, group discussions, nightly chapel services, work therapy, and Bible studies. We use proven principles to help individuals break free from the cycle of addiction. (Please read Adam Thompson's life story to learn how the New Life Program helped him overcome this cycle.)

As winter's darkness continues, it's important to remember that the Bible assures us that darkness cannot overcome the light. For our homeless friends struggling with addiction, the light of God's love and the practical support of the Rescue Mission provide both warmth and hope this winter. As the light of Christ dispels spiritual darkness, our actions are a tangible reflection of that light, offering healing and restoration to those in need.

Thank you for supporting our ministry. Your prayers and support are "letting there be light," dispelling the chaos and disorder in the lives of our homeless friends here in Utah.

God bless you,

*Chris D. Croswite*

Executive Director

## ADAM: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a choice: I could enter Drug Court or spend the next 35 years in prison for my numerous parole violations and felony charges.

Though I had no faith background, a friend told me about the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake's New Life Program. I needed a place to live while in Drug Court, and the Mission agreed to let me stay there and join the New Life Program as I also worked through my court requirements. When I first started, I planned to run—maybe try to escape to another state.

But as I worked through the New Life Program, I developed friendships, and grew to appreciate helping others, something finally clicked in my mind. I said, "I'm done. I don't want to see prison again. I don't want to live on the streets anymore."

In addition to becoming sober, I now love that I can help the homeless and share my story. I truly believe that if I can do it, anyone can. I tell people that the Mission is like a family. They're not an organization just trying to get public dollars for every person who comes through their door. In fact, they don't take public funds at all. At the Rescue Mission, you are treated like a human, not a dollar sign. There is always someone available, day or night, who you can talk to.

My passion for helping the homeless has carried over into my new work life. I joined the employment phase of the program several months ago and now work at a facility that houses homeless people on the west

side of Salt Lake. The company has a secure lot filled with re-purposed shipping containers that are used as short-term housing. I check the residents in and out, looking for weapons or other contraband to ensure a safe environment. I also help with meal service, as meals are catered into the lot from off site.

In December, I became a Certified Homeless Caseworker through the State of Utah, after completing educational requirements and logging over 400 hours working with the homeless community. It is incredible to help people who are in the same life situation I was in only a short time ago.

Please pray for me as I plan to move into my own apartment in March. I would love to make homeless and addition services my career. I still struggle with God and faith. I believe in God, but I have not yet fully put my trust in Jesus. I've appreciated the faith-based aspects of the Mission's program, but I know I need more of God's help to fully understand the truth about Him.

I cannot say enough about how your support and the Mission's love have helped me. I want to especially thank Cassie, the program director, for her unwavering support and care. Now, with nineteen months of sobriety, I can't express how much this place has changed my life.

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH NOVEMBER



Professions of Faith

274



Meals

252,152



Family Food Boxes

2,218



Nights of Shelter

68,201



Clothing

70,078



Hygiene Items

99,008



Day Service

24,113



Jobs Obtained

78



Housing Obtained

51



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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Email: [info@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:info@RescueSaltLake.org)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE NOW



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Volunteer: Email Brandon at [Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org)

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