

WE'RE IN HOT WATER!

We need to heat a lot of water (and other liquids), especially during the winter months. Here are just a few of the ways we keep things hot:



Running showers that give hope and hygiene, providing over 5,000 showers per month in just our men's facility.



Washing dishes after serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner to hundreds of our hurting and hungry friends each day.



Cleaning hundreds of towels, sheets, pillowcases, kitchen rags, and more in our laundry each day.



Heating soups, gravies, and dishes like noodles or rice in our industrial gas kettle.

Across our organization, we're facing major projects to replace this wear and tear.

One project involves completely replacing our failing water heating system at the Ogden Rescue Mission. Another is to repair or replace our industrial gas kettle at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake men's facility (ironically, the men's facility also likely needs two new ice makers).

Altogether, these projects will cost around \$50,000. So, we need your help!

Please consider donating today. Your support of these projects ensures we can offer lifesaving necessities. These services draw our homeless neighbors to our facilities where they receive the hope they need for a changed life. We often say hope starts with a meal, and it often does, yet a new life often starts with a warm shower and nice fresh clothes so a person can apply for a job. With your help, we can continue offering the hope of faith, recovery, housing, employment, and new life.

Give today! Donate online at RescueSaltLake.org, call our Donor Relations office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card giving over the phone, or use the enclosed envelope to mail a check. Thank you!

RESCUER

FEBRUARY
2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org



Mark Johnson looks out from the Rescue Mission kitchen where he has spent months preparing meals for the hundreds of hungry people who come to the Mission's door each day.

For the seven years before I came to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, I had been homeless on the streets of Kansas City. This was the result of escalating drug abuse that started when I was 15.

During those seven years, I saw Kansas City grow increasingly dangerous. It wasn't safe to live on the streets anymore, and some of my acquaintances from that life were murdered or died. I grew more and more afraid and finally reached out to family members for help.

My brother told me he had bought me a one-way ticket to Salt Lake City. He thought I would be safer there and might be able to find help. That ticket marked the beginning of God changing my life through the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

When I arrived in Salt Lake, I had no intention of altering my lifestyle. I thought I would continue panhandling, living on the streets, and getting money for drugs or alcohol. But my first day in Salt Lake, I realized it was much different than Kansas City.

Please see "Mark" on page 3.

HELPING THE INCARCERATED FIND NEW LIFE

One of the great joys of working at the Rescue Mission is welcoming men and women from jail (or those facing potential incarceration) into the



New Life Program. Over the past few decades, the criminal justice system has increasingly offered individuals struggling with addiction opportunities to avoid jail or prison by entering recovery programs like the Mission's New Life Program.

While our program is unapologetically faith-based, judges, legal defenders, prosecutors, and probation/parole officers sometimes include us as an alternative to incarceration. If someone is open to trying a faith-based program, they might choose us from the available options.

I'm proud of the success of our program and grateful that the justice system and individuals struggling with addiction are willing to give our team the opportunity to help. By my last calculation, we save Utah taxpayers approximately \$1.2 million annually in costs that would otherwise be incurred by people in jail or in the criminal justice system as opposed to on our New Life Program.

While it's encouraging to help incarcerated individuals find new life and save taxpayer dollars, this also means that our New Life Program is at full capacity. Right now, there are five individuals in jail, waiting for a spot to open in our program. When

space becomes available, those on the waiting list can meet court or parole requirements and be released to join us.

Those coming to us from jail are indigent and at times either do not qualify for or cannot get into a fee-based program. We work hard to maximize the space in our New Life Program and balance the number of people who are coming to us from incarceration diversion programs with our commitment to helping people off our streets. The sad fact is many people are released from jail directly onto our streets and become homeless.

Your support helps us provide as much space as possible in the New Life Program and enables a high-quality program that works. It's this quality that allows judges, legal defenders, prosecutors, and parole/probation officers to trust that we can help incarcerated individuals find a new life.

Please consider giving to our ministry this February. As we're currently at full capacity, we are constantly exploring creative solutions to help as many people as we can, and we need your support today to continue this vital work. Thank you for your continued gifts and prayers as we strive to save taxpayer dollars while introducing those struggling with incarceration and addiction to the love of Jesus and a new life in Him.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite

Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR 2025 STATS



Professions of Faith

306



Meals

273,062



Family Food Boxes

2,359



Nights of Shelter

74,821



Clothing

81,927



Hygiene Items

109,370



Day Service

26,450



Jobs Obtained

81



Housing Obtained

66

MARK: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Kansas City, the police and building security didn't care if you panhandled or slept wherever you wanted. But in Salt Lake, I would sit down to panhandle, and within a minute or two, someone would ask me to leave. I spent a hard night on Salt Lake's streets.

The next morning, I asked someone I saw walking on the sidewalk where I could get breakfast. The man happened to be a member of the Mission's New Life Program. He told me I could eat at the Mission and mentioned that they had a free program to help people get off the streets.

I went to the Mission for breakfast, but I was so dejected that I ate and left. However, what the man said about the New Life Program stuck with me. As I sat on the streets, I prayed to God for help. After that prayer, I felt God empower me to get up and walk back to the Mission. I shared my situation, and they told me I could apply to the New Life Program.

The moment I sat down in the Mission's chapel, I felt at peace. I realized this was the best place for me, and a huge burden was lifted from my chest. God answered my prayer that day, and after attending several Bible studies and chapel services through the New Life Program, I eventually accepted Jesus into my life and began a true relationship with God. I knew I couldn't change without Him.

I found great joy in living in relationship with God. Before, I had known about God, but I had always blocked Him out of my life. I realized that, unlike the last 30 years of my life, which were full of crime and drug

use, there was nothing wrong with the way God wanted me to live. Instead, it was a joy-filled life.

Through the program's work therapy, I became a cook in the Mission's kitchen, and it was a blessing to feed so many people in need each day. As someone who had always been a loner, I found camaraderie at the Mission and at my local church, Gospel Grace. My church family doesn't look down on me because of who I used to be. I don't feel judged there, and I love the preaching.

My brothers text me often, and it feels good to have real relationships with them again. When I graduated to the employment phase of the New Life Program, I got a job as a cook at a sit-down restaurant. It's a good job, and it feels good to be working and making an honest living. I was able to obtain my birth certificate and ID, and I'm working towards getting my driver's license. As I work at my new job and live at the Mission, I'm saving money for the first and last month's rent on an apartment and hope to save for a car.

It's a blessing to be surrounded by the staff at the Mission and the other men in the New Life Program. It's inspiring to hear their stories and see how God is changing their lives. It's also encouraging to see people who have gotten off the streets, found jobs and entered housing, achieving long-term sobriety.

I want to thank all the supporters of the Rescue Mission. Your generosity created the place where God led me to find a relationship with Him, His people, and a new life. Your kindness has meant so much to me.



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