

OPERATION HYDRATION: SAVING LIVES IN THE SUMMER HEAT



As temperatures soared to 90 degrees in May, forecasts predict another scorching, dry Utah summer. To combat the dangerous effects of extreme heat—exhaustion, heat stroke, severe dehydration, critical sunburns, and even death—the Mission has enhanced its efforts to help our homeless community. We’ve made two significant upgrades this year:

- **A new bottle-filling station in the Mission’s foyer, ensures easy access to clean drinking water. In May, our first full month of use, we have filled over 4,000 bottles.**
- **Expanded ice machines now provide enough ice to meet the increasing demand in our kitchen and fill coolers we take Seek and Rescue street outreach.**

Cold ice is especially vital during our Seek and Rescue outreaches, where our staff and volunteers visit local homeless camps to provide relief. We distribute **Care Kits**—which include water, hats, and sunscreen—and invite those in need to come to the Mission, where they can cool off, clean up, and hydrate. But beyond physical care, we offer something deeper: a community of support, faith, sobriety, employment opportunities, and self-sustained housing.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide:

- 12,966** bottles of water and over **900** reusable water bottles
- 601** hats
- 1,211** bottles of sunscreen
- 321** sticks of lip balm

We need your help again this year! Here’s how you can make a difference:

Volunteer—Join our outreach team to visit homeless camps and provide supplies.

Donate supplies—We need refillable water bottles, brimmed hats, travel-size sunscreen, lip balm, lightweight long-sleeve shirts, soap, shampoo, socks, and underwear of all sizes.

Give—Donate using the enclosed envelope, online at RescueSaltLake.org, or by calling **801-746-1006** for a secure phone donation.

Your support can prevent tragedy and introduce someone to Jesus. **Together, we can save lives!**



RESCUER

JUNE
2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

I’ve struggled with drug addiction my whole life—since before I was a teenager—but it wasn’t until shortly after my father passed away a decade ago that I became homeless, living on the streets.

Then, in God’s perfect timing, my life changed. After more than 10 years on the streets, I ran into a friend last June. He told me he was about to enter the Rescue Mission’s New Life Program as part of his court-ordered release from jail. I told him that when he started the program, I would join as well. I was exhausted from the streets and the drug life and needed a change.

It was incredible timing. One of the first steps in the New Life Program is a recommendation to get a physical and if need be, a mental health evaluation at the Fourth Street Clinic, a free healthcare center for the homeless located on the same block as the Mission. I went in for my evaluation and they took a blood sample for routine tests.

The next evening at 9 p.m., the clinic frantically called, urging me to go to the emergency room immediately. One of my blood test results showed a critical issue: the measurement was supposed to be between 14 and 16, but mine was only 3.2.

I was hospitalized for four days. Doctors gave me five units of new blood, iron treatments, and ran cancer screening tests—which thankfully all came back negative. By the time I was discharged, my blood

levels were back to normal, and the doctors couldn’t determine the original cause of my low numbers.

I truly believe God brought me to the Rescue Mission so I would get that blood test, land in the hospital, and ultimately receive the life-saving care I needed.



Edward Davis is sober for the first time in over 10 years, has a closer relationship with God, is off the streets, and working 40 hours a week.

Please see “Edward” on page 3.

CAUTION: ROAD (AND LIFE) WORK AHEAD

Summer is here in Utah and we all know what that means: more road construction. I often hear that there are only two seasons in Utah: Winter and Road Construction.

At some point (or more likely, many points), we'll find ourselves stuck in a single lane, surrounded by orange barrels and traffic cones, grumbling as we



crawl along. We'll complain about the delays, the detours, and how this roadwork is keeping us from what we need to do or our favorite summer destinations.

Yet, despite our frustrations, we endure it because we understand the work is necessary. Utah's harsh winters and road salt leave behind deep potholes and dangerous

cracks that need repair. Our state is growing rapidly, and wider roads are essential to keep traffic flowing safely and efficiently.

This familiar scene reminds me of the work we do here at the Rescue Mission. But instead of rebuilding roads, we're rebuilding lives—men and women broken by trauma, homelessness, and addiction.

Like road construction, the process of healing and rebuilding is slow, difficult, and sometimes frustrating. There are setbacks. Things don't always move as quickly as we'd hoped. It's hard work, and it can test our patience.

But just like with roadwork, we press on because the need is great, and the results are worth it.

And by "we," I mean all of us: our faithful supporters, selfless volunteers, devoted prayer partners, dedicated staff, and our New Life Program members themselves. Together, we recognize that while the work is hard, it's also blessed by God. We see the desperate need on our streets—people who are hurting, hungry, confused, and afraid. The task is daunting, but the mission is clear.

So here's my challenge to you this summer: the next time you're stuck in construction traffic and feeling frustrated, take a moment to pray. Use that time to lift up our homeless neighbors and the ministry of the Rescue Mission. Let what feels like wasted time become a moment to petition God on their behalf.

Because just like rebuilding a road, rebuilding a life takes strength, perseverance, time, and vision. And we need God's help every step of the way. We need His strength to sustain us, His wisdom to guide us, and His eyes to see the transformed lives yet to come.

Thank you for standing with us, especially during the summer months when support tends to wane. The work may be slow, even frustrating at times, but it remains as vital as ever, with more and more people walking through our doors.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE

Executive Director

EDWARD: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When I returned to the Mission, I was physically healthier, but I knew I also needed to focus on my spiritual and emotional well-being. I started doing work therapy in the Mission's kitchen, washing dishes for breakfast and lunch. I've never been a morning person, so the job forced me to adjust my routine—helping me get used to the structure of working and find joy and purpose in serving God and others.

As I stabilized, I participated in one-on-one education with the Mission's staff, attended Bible studies, and joined nightly Chapel. The Mission's staff was great and answered any question I had about the Bible and Jesus. My relationship with God deepened, and I was able to stay sober. I began praying several times a day, turning to God for strength. I started attending Adventure Church in Draper and joined their weekly recovery class. I found a welcoming community there, and they even send a van to the Mission to bring me to church services on Sunday.

When I transitioned into the employment phase of the New Life Program, God blessed me with a job at the Maverik across the street from the Mission. It's a busy store, and the work can get hectic, but it's a gift to be sober and employed again. I now work at least 40 hours a week with a great benefits package.

As I continue working, I'm saving money through the Mission so I can afford a deposit and first and last month's rent for an apartment. Because of high housing costs, I may need a roommate or two—please

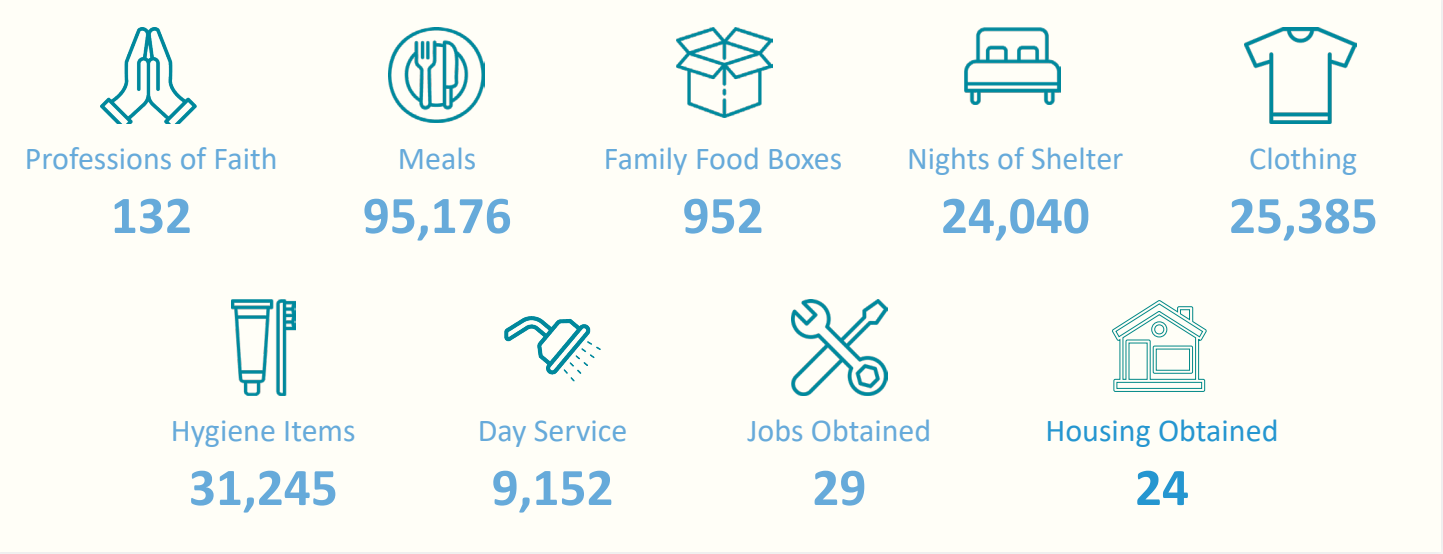
pray that God will lead me to the right place and the right roommates.





Today, I have a strong relationship with my family. My aunt helped me get my job at Maverik, and I often connect with my mother, who lives in an assisted living facility here in Salt Lake. It feels good to have the trust of my family again.

Looking ahead, my goals aren't complicated. I want to get my own apartment, keep working, stay sober, and maybe try to get my driver's license (I've never had one before).

Please pray for me as I graduate from the Mission later this summer. Pray that God keeps me on this path. Also, thank you for supporting the Mission. Without it, my blood levels likely would have dropped so low that I wouldn't be here today. God used your generosity to save my life, and I am deeply grateful.


HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH APRIL





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