

OPERATION HYDRATION: SAVING LIVES IN THE SUMMER HEAT

As we prepare this July newsletter the first 100 degree day is in the forecast. The chance of rain is 0% and the air is so dry it seems to suck the moisture out of a person's body. Many of us can retreat from the July heat into an air-conditioned home or apartment, but our homeless friends living on the streets are in dire straits.

While many come to the Mission's doors and find cold water, swamp-cooler chilled air, and refreshing showers, others – for reasons including severe anxiety, addiction, PTSD, lack of trust, and crippling fear – remain on the streets. They haven't experienced the love and healing power that Jesus brings, and are stuck in a rut, living in camps or alone outside in the smothering, dry heat.

This is why a big part of Operation Hydration is outreach. Our staff and volunteer teams travel to area homeless camps. We share Care Kits – which include things like water, hats, and sunscreen – with those living in camps and invite them to come to the Rescue Mission where they can relax, get cool, cleaned off, and hydrated. They can obtain the physical care they need, as well as finding loving people, biblical teaching about Jesus, sobriety, employment, and self-sustained housing.

So please continue to support Operation Hydration this summer. You can volunteer to visit homeless camps, or serve meals in our dining hall. You can collect supplies like water bottles, hats, sunscreen, lip balm, and lightweight long-sleeve shirts and drop them off at the Rescue Mission- 463 S. 400 W. in downtown Salt Lake City.

And you can also give. **Donate by using the enclosed envelope, scan the QR Code in this newsletter, give online at RescueSaltLake.org, or call 801-746-1006 to make a secure credit card donation over the phone.** Your support can help save a life from being lost to extreme heat and introduce a homeless person to Jesus!



RESCUER

JULY
2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

It was about 18 months ago, in the late fall of 2023, when I stood on the edge of Big Cottonwood Creek, ready to leap into the cold waters below and end my life.

I had arrived at that specific spot using an online ride service. As a photographer specializing in engagements, weddings, and portraits, I'd visited that canyon many times for photo shoots. I knew that area well—for its deep water and high perch above the creek. I had spent the last of my money to pay the ride service driver. Nearby sat my last remaining possessions: a large rolling case holding my professional photography equipment. I stood there, preparing to jump.

Then, a man approached. He was an off-duty forest ranger, familiar with patrolling the area up Big Cottonwood Canyon. He asked if I was okay but I brushed him off, saying I was just looking at the water. He seemed to accept that and walked away. I prepared to jump again, but suddenly, I was body-slammed to the ground. The ranger had returned. He pinned me and told me he wasn't going to let me take my life.

He called the police and stayed with me until they arrived. As we waited, we talked about life. I learned he was a Christian and I came to believe that God had sent him to save me. The police eventually took me to a local hospital, where I spent three days getting help for the hopelessness that had consumed me.

That moment was the culmination of more than 20



Dave Jacobs is sober, has a new relationship with God, has lost 45 pounds, has a good job helping put on conventions downtown, and recently found an apartment.

years of worsening alcohol abuse. As my drinking escalated, I began losing photography work, then my marriage, and eventually my relationship with my children. I lost my home and bounced from motel to motel, drinking away what little I had left. When the

Please see "Dave" on page 3.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A NEW LIFE

When someone walks through the doors of the Rescue Mission, they are often facing overwhelming challenges—fear, hunger, job loss, the trauma of the streets, and the anxiety of not knowing where they’ll sleep that night. Before a person can even begin thinking about allowing God to rebuild their life, they need immediate relief: a hot meal, a place to rest, and loving people who see their humanity.



By meeting those urgent needs—a warm shower, a clean change of clothes, a safe bed, or a kind word—all of us can help restore dignity and spark hope. Sometimes God uses these acts of compassion to ignite a journey toward healing and renewal. This was the case for Dave Jacobs who shares his life story in this month’s newsletter. Dave was rescued by an off-duty forest ranger and then was given a sleeping bag and a coat by a homeless stranger. Finally, Dave found a hot breakfast at the Rescue Mission where God began to change his life and bring him to faith.

Thanks to your generous support, we’re able to provide that first step of help to people like Dave through services such as:

- > Hot meals served three times a day—365 days a year.
- > Shelter for up to 240 guests each night, offering safety and rest.

- > Clean clothing to preserve dignity and help guests take steps toward employment.
- > Essential resources like mailing addresses, phone numbers, device charging stations, and referrals for jobs and housing.
- > Seek and Rescue outreach, bringing emergency care directly to unsheltered neighbors and inviting them in.
- > A welcoming Day Room, where people can feel safe without needing to hide or keep moving.
- > Crisis care, through conversations that lead to deeper understanding and individualized help.
- > Spiritual enrichment, offering the hope and strength of God alongside a community of faith.
- > Comprehensive referrals for medical and mental health services beyond our walls, as well our own inpatient New Life Program

Because of your compassion, someone experiencing homelessness today can find stability, care, and the courage to take their next step forward. On behalf of everyone you’ve helped—thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and being God’s instrument for the emergency help that leads to long-term change.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE

Executive Director

DAVE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hospital released me, I had nowhere to go and no money. It was my first night actually living on the streets. I walked to the downtown library, rolling my photography equipment case behind me, wearing shorts and flip-flops. It was getting cold and dark when a stranger shouted from across the street. He looked like someone you might instinctively fear, but he turned out to be kind. He loaned me a sleeping bag and a coat and showed me a place to lay down for the night. The next morning, he guided me to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. He said I could warm up and get a hot breakfast there.

At the Mission, I learned about the New Life Program and how they help people get sober and return to work, but I was hesitant to join the program. Still, I start going to daily Bible studies, afternoon life-skills classes, and evening chapel services. These classes are required for program members but open to everybody, even people just walking in off the streets like me. Through those services, I became a true follower of Jesus. My faith in God changed my heart. I no longer felt depressed, and I stopped drinking. I lost 45 pounds and became physically healthy again.

I began attending Gospel Grace Church, which sends a van every Sunday to pick up people from the Mission. I joined the Sunday School program and started working through the New City Catechism. The pastors have been a wonderful support, always willing to answer my questions about faith.

When I was ready to work again, I got a job at the Salt Palace Convention Center, doing event setup and service. I had experience in event planning and was honest with

the hiring manager about my story—including the fact that I was living at the Mission. He took a chance on me. As I work there, I am also rebuilding my photography business, and love taking pictures for the Rescue Mission when they need help with photography.

I began saving money and eventually had enough to move out with a friend who is in the Mission’s program. We found a clean, quiet, and safe two-bedroom apartment just east of downtown where we can share the bills.

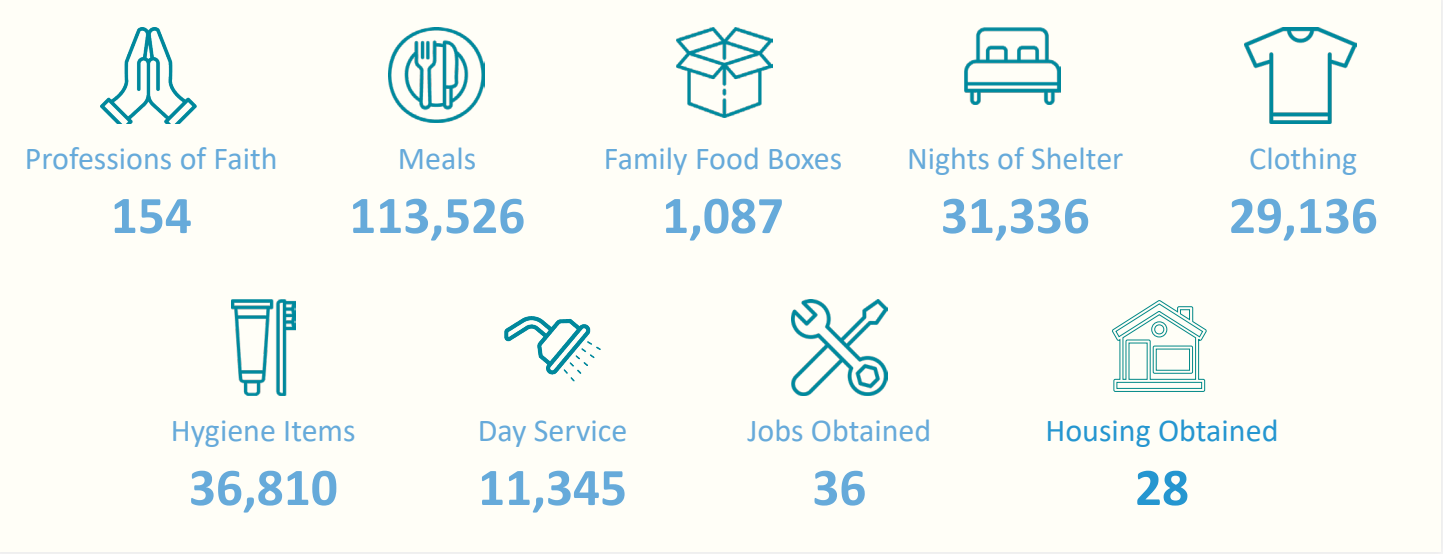
By God’s grace, my daughter reconnected with me through her therapist, and we’re slowly rebuilding our relationship. My mother, who lives in Montana, has also reached out and we now have a strong relationship. Please pray that God continues to heal the family wounds I’ve caused.





I’m pursuing membership at Gospel Grace Church and will soon begin serving in their van ministry, helping transport others from the Mission to Sunday services. It’s my joy to give back to the community that supported me when I had nothing.

I still keep in touch with the off-duty ranger who tackled me that day. We text often. He checks in on me, and I thank him for being the vessel God used to save my life. Not in that moment, but for the long term.

There was a time when I was cold, alone, and without hope. But God led me to the Rescue Mission, where I found food, warmth, and loving help. To all the faithful supporters of the Rescue Mission—thank you. Your support has meant everything and I regularly praise God for you!


HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH MAY





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