

LET’S ACCOMPLISH EVEN MORE THIS THANKSGIVING

In just two short months, the Rescue Mission will once again open its doors for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet—a day that brings warmth, dignity, and hope to our homeless and low-income neighbors. Last year, we served over 1,400 meals in just three hours, including deliveries to homeless camps where people were invited to leave the streets behind and come to the Mission for help. We served over 45,000 meals during the Thanksgiving Season, including family food boxes, so the working poor can celebrate with their loved ones at home.

This year, we’re preparing to do even more.

The banquet is more than a meal. It’s a full day of care and connection. Guests will receive hot Thanksgiving dinners, warm clothing, hygiene products, showers, haircuts, crisis care, vaccines, and so much more. We are planning to offer professional haircuts with local churches providing vans and drivers to shuttle guests to and from the Mission. God-honoring music will fill the air, and our staff and volunteers will offer crisis care and compassion to those who need it most.

Most importantly, we invite our guests to consider joining our New Life Program—a pathway off the streets into faith, employment, and permanent housing. When someone chooses to take that step, we can truly say their restored hope began with a meal. One of our graduates, Steve, shared he was so hungry that he returned to the mission three times during the same Thanksgiving Banquet, because he felt so welcomed and cared for. Then, weeks later, Steve joined the New Life Program and today is working for a recovery program in California, to be close to his daughter and family.

In addition to our sit-down banquet, we’ll be distributing Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes to the working poor so they can celebrate at home with loved ones.



Here’s how you can help:

Give Use the enclosed envelope, scan the QR code, call 801.746.1006, or visit RescueSaltLake.org.

Donate We need turkeys, hams, warm clothes, winter boots, and more.

Volunteer Contact our coordinator at Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org or call 385-354-8165.

Let’s make this season unforgettable. Help us serve up hope, one plate at a time.

Please help today!

RESCUER SEPTEMBER 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



Jay, with his new wife, has a good job at a fabrication company, is sober, and, most importantly, has a new life with Jesus.

If you had met me a few years ago, you wouldn’t recognize me today. I had just been released from prison, was homeless, and unsure of what my next step would be. I had spent 64 months locked up, and when I got out, I had nowhere to go. I was sober at the time, but being out in the world with no address made everything feel impossible. I spent 45 days living on the streets of downtown Salt Lake City. After those 45 days, I remember walking into a meeting with my probation officer and being told I had only two options: find an address or go back to prison. I asked my probation officer for options, and he said I could join the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, find a place to live (with no job or income), or be put back in a cell. I chose the Rescue Mission, but it wasn’t a choice I welcomed. At the time, I considered myself Pagan, which meant I believed in other gods, not the God of the Bible. And now here I was, essentially forced to live in what I considered a large Christian church and attend Bible

classes and chapel services. I disliked it at first. I resisted and I questioned. But slowly, something changed. As the days passed, I noticed and heard things that made me pause. I saw the truth in what was being shared and the lives that were being changed at the Rescue Mission. Gradually, my heart opened. The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn. I started to understand that God had been with me all along, even when I didn’t believe. I began attending services at Conversation Church SLC, a new church that’s been operating for about a year. A man from the church had come to the Mission and shared during the Mission’s nightly chapel service. I found a friend in him, and he became a mentor to me—someone I could talk to honestly about my struggles. What started as just “going through the motions” became a real journey of faith for me. At the Mission, I began serving in the kitchen, eventually becoming the kitchen lead. Later, I found a better fit

Please see “Jay” on page 3.

A SOBERING CALL TO STEADFAST LOVE AND CARE

August 31, 2025 was a sobering day here at the Rescue Mission. It is designated as International Overdose Awareness Day, a global moment to remember those who have died from accidental overdoses, whether from drugs or alcohol. Recent data from Utah underscores the urgency of our mission. In 2023, 606 Utahns died by drug overdose, the highest total in state history and drug overdose was

the leading cause of death among Utahns experiencing homelessness.

These numbers make clear that addiction is a matter of life and death. That reality drives us to respond not only with compassion, but with intentional, life-saving action.

At the Rescue Mission we fight the battle against addiction every day

and will continue to help through:

Sharing life-saving hope. Through the New Life Program, we share the message of redemption and purpose at every stage of recovery, empowering individuals to rebuild their lives, restore relationships, and find faith.

Personalized care and accountability. Our three-phase model—stabilization, education, and implementation—ensures each person receives spiritual, emotional, and practical support to heal and thrive in community.

Emergency services as front-line ministry. We are here 24/7, offering not only meals, shelter, showers, and clean clothes, but also spiritual presence: daily Bible study, chapel, mentoring, and Christ-centered companionship.

Partnerships when needed. When participants require psychiatric or medical care beyond our scope, we collaborate with trusted agencies to ensure they receive the full range of support needed for recovery.

Faith-driven advocacy. We pray, we love, and we act. We remain steadfast in faith that redemption and life are possible through Jesus Christ, even in the darkest of circumstances. Our mission— restoring lives and ending homelessness in the name of Jesus Christ—calls us to care for the whole person: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Please join us in this effort and help by:

Telling others about the Rescue Mission. Help others understand why faith-based recovery matters. It could be as easy as sharing this newsletter with a friend.

Volunteering or mentoring. Bring presence, prayer, and life to those who need help.

Giving generously. Every donation helps sustain meals, shelter, counseling, and the New Life Program as we help people permanently off the streets. You keep our doors open and together we help people off our streets.

Lifting us, and our homeless friends, up in prayer. Ask that God would continue rescuing, healing, and restoring lives and that those we serve would have the strength to face their life issues and the desire to change.

Thank you and may God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE
Executive Director

JAY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

running the chapel, working directly with our homeless guests we serve for nightly shelter, day room, meal services, clothing, etc. Every person at the Mission has a story, and I learned the power of listening—learning their names, hearing their struggles, joking with them, and helping them feel and know they are seen and valued. Later, as a Mission intern, I helped guests find work and walked alongside people as they navigated their way through and out of homelessness. Being able to give back in this way was transformative. It showed me that my past struggles weren’t wasted—they prepared me to help others with compassion and understanding.

After serving as a Mission intern, I started working outside the Mission, building mattresses and then moving to a job at a fabrication company working in quality control. My new job has been a blessing. I work for a company where I had previously helped one of our homeless friends gain employment. That man, in turn, recommended me for work when I was ready. I have also helped another member of the Mission find work at our company. Our business is in ready-mix concrete and precast, building sound walls, highway barriers, and other infrastructure. To advance in this field, I am working on certifications so I can grow professionally while staying grounded in my faith and service.

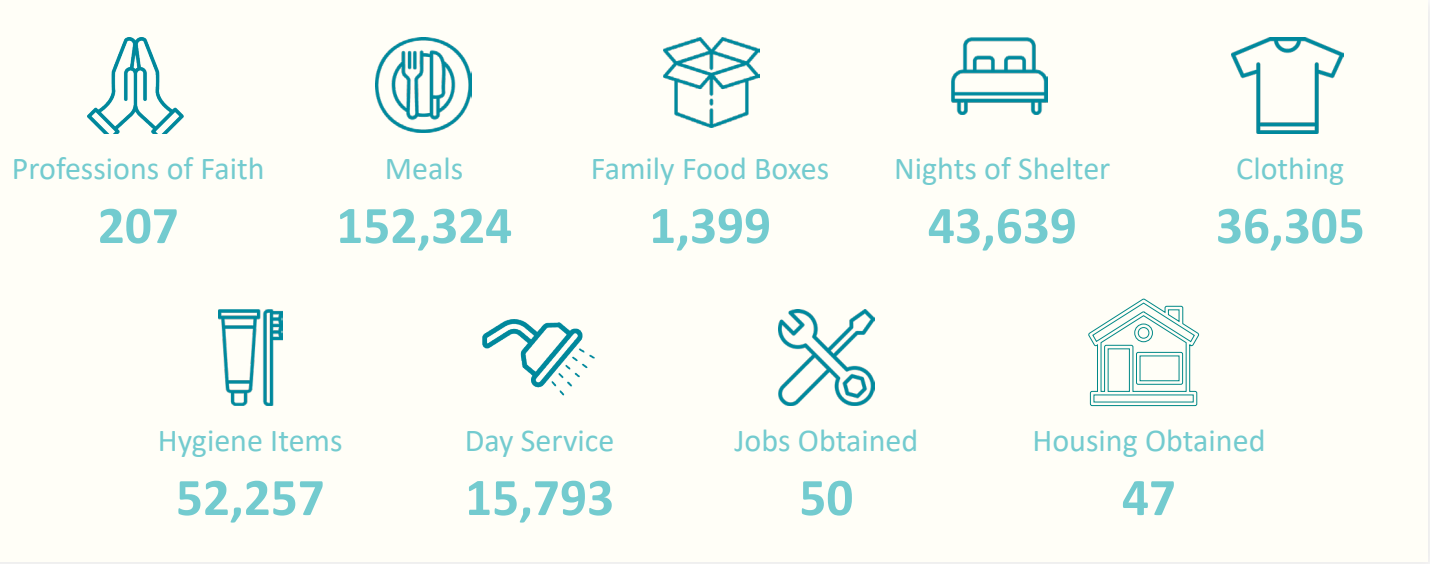
I recently moved to Freedom House, the Rescue Mission’s transitional housing unit for those moving away from homelessness and into self-sufficiency. Life in Freedom House has been another adjustment. I went from the constant, hectic pace of the Mission to a slower, quieter routine. At first, it was challenging—I was used to being everywhere at once—but I’ve learned to embrace quietness and stability.





My long-term girlfriend has been so good to me throughout this process. She has supported me every step of the way, attending church with me even though she has questions about my newfound faith. Our journey together has strengthened our relationship, and on April 16, 2025, we were officially married. I have a steady schedule, a job I enjoy, and time to focus on my recovery and my family. My wife and I have a stepson, and I’m also working on starting a recovery group at my church. My church life and service help keep me spiritually grounded. Staying sober has allowed me to rebuild my life. I’m saving money so that soon I can move into an apartment with my wife and stepson. Being together as a family is one of the greatest blessings I could ask for.

Even with the progress I’ve made, life is still a work in progress. I have legal obligations to navigate, I don’t drive, and I rely on my wife to take me to work. But through it all, I see God’s hand guiding me. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow, to learn patience, and to trust in His plan. Looking back, I am amazed at how far I’ve come. From living on the streets, resisting the New Life Program, discovering true faith in Jesus Christ, and serving others at the Mission, I have learned that God’s grace is bigger than any mistake I’ve made. I have hope, a supportive family, steady work, and the opportunity to give back.


I am living proof that God can take broken paths and turn them into something beautiful. To the donors and supporters of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, thank you. Your generosity changes lives every day. You help people like me find freedom, hope, and a future. Without your support and God’s guidance, I would likely still be trapped in chaos. Now, I can look forward with faith, serve others, and continue building a life centered on Jesus Christ.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH JULY





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