

# YOUR SUPPORT MADE FOR MANY THANKSGIVINGS

It was a great Thanksgiving at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. We served approximately 1,500 meals in three hours and our homeless and low-income neighbors received winter clothing and hygiene products. Several local churches and community members volunteered to make the event a success and a local hair academy was on location giving haircuts to our homeless neighbors.

Thank you for blessing the less fortunate in our community this Holiday Season!

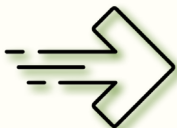


## HELP US MEET OUR DECEMBER MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

**Preparation** is underway for our Annual Christmas Banquet serving up hot food and gifts to those who may be without a home or family for the holidays.

A supporter has pledged a **\$60,000 matching gift** challenge, doubling your donations in December!

Plans include providing **15,000+ hot meals** during this Christmas season, and distributing family food boxes, winter clothing, and other essentials.



**Give now.** Please help us meet our December match challenge by donating today and double the pledged \$60,000!

**Check:** Payable to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake  
**Credit Card:** Call 801.746.1006  
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# RESCUER

DECEMBER  
2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



*For most of my life I’ve been running from pain, from loss, and from myself. Drugs were my escape. They started as a way to numb childhood trauma, but over the years they became chains that dragged me deeper into despair.*

My mom had been my anchor. She was only in her 60s when she died from a tragic fall in the shower. She had multiple sclerosis, and I used to visit her every week to help. When she passed in that accident related to her MS, I felt like the ground beneath me gave way. I didn’t know how to cope, so I turned back to drugs. For most of my life, I had been a successful commercial truck driver, hauling gravel and construction materials, but after Mom’s death I spiraled.

One day in 2021, I was driving down the freeway with 43 tons of material in my truck. Exhausted, I nearly fell asleep at the wheel. Suddenly, I heard my mom’s voice—clear as day—telling me to wake up. I could even smell her perfume. That moment shook me. I pulled the truck over, drove back to headquarters, and told my company I had to resign. I needed real help to cope with her loss.

But real help was hard to find. I became homeless. To survive and have food to eat, I shoplifted. Eventually, I was arrested. Sitting in jail, I was angry with God. I blamed Him for taking my mom. I thought it would have been better if she were still here on Earth with me. Then, in my jail cell, I opened a Bible. I read 1 Corinthians 15:51–58, which says that those who believe in Christ are still alive. My mom was a believer in Jesus. That meant she wasn’t gone but that she was alive in Christ. Suddenly, I understood why I had heard her voice in the truck that day. My anger melted into humility. I realized God was speaking to me, too.

I expected to go to prison. My record was long, and the judge was ready to send me away. But then something miraculous happened. The judge offered me a chance: if I committed to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake’s New Life Program at the Women’s Center and completed it, I could be released on probation instead of prison.



Elizabeth Martin was homeless and in and out of jail as she used drugs to mask the pains of life. Now has faith in Jesus, has a good job, and ready to graduate from the Mission.

HOW GOD USES THE MISSION TO RESTORE FAMILIES

As I’ve been reading the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ birth during my devotional time this season, the theme of family keeps rising to the surface.



The more I sit with these passages, the more I’m reminded that the Bible is, at its heart, a story of God’s family. From Abraham, to Isaac, to King David, to Jesus, and to those who are adopted into Jesus’ family by faith in Him, the Bible traces a lineage that shows God working through generations to bring hope and redemption into the world. Even Jesus’ birth is filled with family connections. Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, knew he was born to make ready the way of the Lord. Their relatives, Mary and Joseph, were a young couple learning to trust God together as they welcomed God’s Son, who would change everything. In this way, Christmas begins with families uniting to say “yes” to God. Throughout Jesus’ ministry, the theme of family continued. He gathered people to Himself and formed a new kind of family, the faith-adopted sons and daughters of God. Jesus refers to the “least of these” (even the homeless, sinners, and destitute) as His brothers and sisters. He invites all of those upon whom God’s favor rests, regardless of our past, into a restored relationship with Him. This message resonates deeply with the work we do at the Rescue Mission. Every day, we meet men and women whose family stories have been marked by pain,

separation, and loss. Addiction, homelessness, and trauma often fracture relationships. Yet through God’s grace, we see families rebuilt. We see parents reunited with children. We see sons and daughters restored to their loved ones. We see people discover their identity as beloved members of God’s family. Our New Life Program and our emergency services are not just about meals, shelter, or recovery — they are about helping people become the healthy, whole individuals God desires them to be. As they heal, they are able to return to work, rebuild trust, and reconnect with people they love. (As Elizabeth Martin shares in her life story in this newsletter). (As Jonathan Miller shares in his life story in this newsletter). During this Christmas season, many of us long to be close to family. That desire is a reminder that God created us for connection, belonging, and love. Thank you for helping us extend that same gift to those who feel far from family today. Your generosity helps create a place where people can experience the hope of Christ and the joy of being welcomed into a stable home where they can become part of God’s eternal family and, through God’s grace, rebuild family relationships here on Earth.

Merry Christmas,

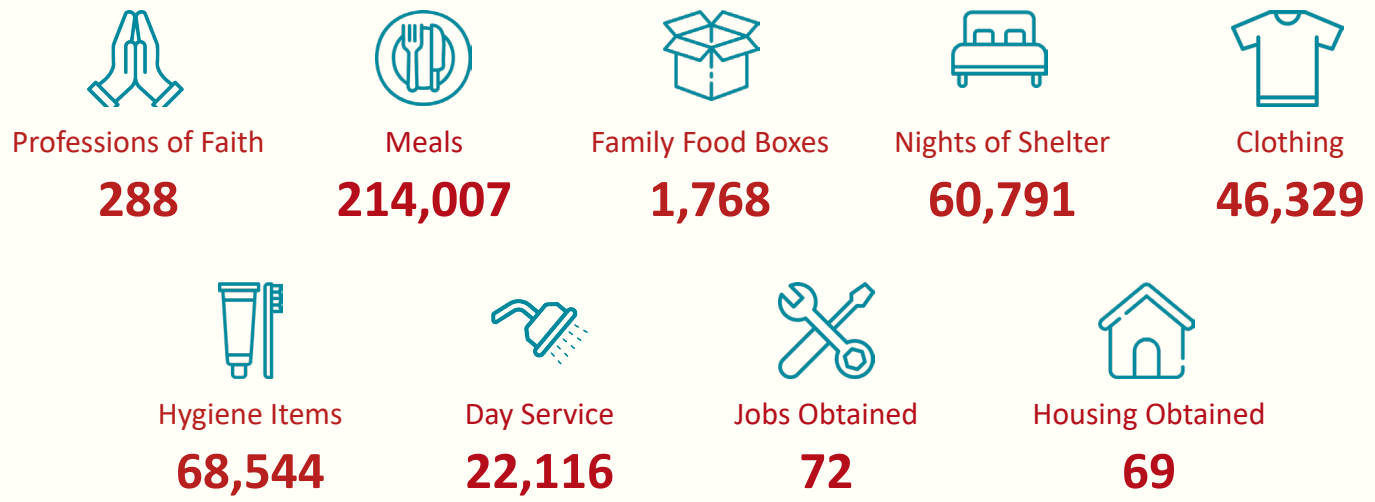
Chris D. CroswHITE  
Executive Director

ELIZABETH: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I said yes. When the jail was set to release me, they mistakenly tried to drop me off at the Rescue Mission’s men’s facility downtown. I was handcuffed and scared to be around so many homeless men, but soon everyone realized I was supposed to be at the Women’s Center. When I finally arrived, the staff welcomed me warmly and told me, “This is your new home.” At first, I struggled. Two months in, I got frustrated and stormed out. I walked to the bus stop, like a child running away from home, determined to leave. But then I heard that voice again, telling me I had nowhere else to go. Humbled, I returned. That was a turning point, and God began to change my heart. During the New Life Program, I faced serious medical issues. The Mission connected me with the Fourth Street Clinic, where I received medical referrals, and Huntsman Cancer Institute, where I had diagnostic scans. The scans came back as lung cancer, and showed it had spread. But after a lot of prayer and further diagnosis, I was declared to be in remission. Doctors couldn’t explain how I survived. But ultimately, I know it was God’s healing. Slowly, my life continued to change. I returned to truck driving and now have a good job at a nearby construction company. Even better, I have the opportunity to become a CDL instructor at a local community college. It feels like God is directing every step. When I graduate from the New Life Program, I’ll move into Hope House, the Mission’s transitional housing for women. I should be able to clear probation this summer. Through it all, I’ve learned to trust God. He is in control. My relationship with Him has become intimate and I hear

His voice guiding me. I’ve learned that I can’t do life on my own. I need Him, and I need community. One of the greatest blessings has been reconnecting with my daughter. For years, she was angry with me. She felt I chose drugs over her. But while my daughter was in nursing school, she had an assignment to attend an AA meeting. The assignment was given so she could better understand those she may treat who struggle with substance abuse. The AA class experience opened her eyes. She wrote me a letter, saying she understood me better now and was ready to forgive. We’ve been writing back and forth, and I’m so grateful. God and the Mission gave me back communication with my daughter. Looking in the rear-view mirror, I see how far I’ve come. I have spent the holidays at times camping along the Jordan River, homeless and hopeless. I’ve been in jail cells, hospital rooms, and dark places I thought I’d never escape. But today, I’m alive, working, and walking with God. I give all glory to God for changing my life. I’m thankful to the Rescue Mission for opening its doors when no one else would, and to the supporters who make this ministry possible. You gave me a chance when most of the world gave up on me. My story isn’t finished yet. Graduation is coming, probation will end, and I’ll step into a new chapter. It’s bittersweet to leave the Women’s Center, where I’ve lived for over a year, but I know God will guide me as I transition to Hope House. He’s brought me this far, and I trust Him to lead me the rest of the way. Thank you for your support of that helps women like me!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH OCTOBER



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