

CLEAN OUT THE HOUSE AND MAKE AN IMPACT!

Spring is a time when many of us clean out closets, organize garages, and sort through the things we no longer use. This year, your spring cleaning can do more than tidy your home. It can directly bless someone experiencing homelessness.

The Rescue Mission of Salt Lake is one of the few places our homeless friends can turn to for shelter, meals, clothing, and a chance to rebuild their lives. As more people come through our doors, our supplies are being stretched thin.

We urgently need bath towels, clothing, food, and basic necessities to care for the growing number of people seeking help. Items that may be sitting unused in your home can become a lifeline for someone who has nothing.

Here are some of the most helpful items you can donate during your spring cleaning:

- Bath towels, and disposable razors
- Men's clothing, especially jeans, shirts, jackets, and shoes
- Blankets and sleeping bags for nights when our shelter is full
- Canned food and nonperishable items
- New socks, underwear (large sizes), and hygiene products
- Financial gifts to help us meet rising costs

Many of us have closets filled with clothes we no longer wear, or pantries stocked with items we never got around to using. A jacket that no longer fits, a pair of shoes you replaced, or a case of canned goods you bought on sale can make a real difference for someone who walks into the Mission hungry, cold, or discouraged.

Your generosity helps us provide not only physical care but also the hope of Jesus Christ to those seeking a fresh start. As you clean and refresh your home this spring, consider how your extra items can help someone begin a new season of life.

Thank you for giving, praying, and standing with us during this critical time.



RESCUER

APRIL
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



I never imagined I would walk into the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake and ask for help. I had built a successful career as an IT network engineer and thought I was in control of my life. Yet in March 2025, I found myself standing at the Mission's doors, humbled and desperate. Swallowing my pride was difficult, but God used that moment to begin changing everything.

My childhood was far from perfect. I was introduced to drugs and alcohol early in life, but by my twenties I believed I had overcome those challenges. I had earned a degree in network engineering, secured a good job in the Salt Lake area, married the woman I loved, and we had a beautiful daughter. I was also pursuing my passion for music. I played bass and drums, and I worked occasionally as a professional DJ. During my marriage I stayed sober for several years, which felt like a major victory.

When COVID hit, everything unraveled. I lost my job. I returned to drugs and alcohol. My marriage fell apart. The life I had worked so hard to build slipped away. Instead of being a sober husband and father, I became a man my wife and daughter could not be around. I felt like I had lost everything.

Over the next several years I tried to drink myself to death more than once. I bounced from job to job, saved enough money to rent a cheap hotel room, and drank until someone found me and took me to the hospital. I would sober up, get released, and repeat the cycle. After my divorce, the loneliness and hopelessness grew even deeper.

Eventually, after another attempt to drink myself to death and another hospital stay, I ended up homeless on the streets. It was even more miserable. That is when I turned to the Rescue Mission for help.

I told myself I would enter the New Life Program as an experiment. I was curious about God but did not fully believe in Him. My thought was simple. If God changed my life through this program, then He must be real. For the first time, I gave God a genuine chance to show Himself to me.



William Mares, had a good job and a home, until he became homeless in Salt Lake. Fortunately, God led him to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake.

Please see "William" on page 3.

SPRING IS HERE AND THE RESCUE MISSION IS BUSIER THAN EVER

Spring always brings a sense of hope to me. Trees begin to bud, the air softens, and we are reminded that God is in the

business of making things new. Yet for many of our homeless neighbors, this season also brings uncertainty and fear.

With the temporary winter shelters now closed, hundreds of men and women suddenly find themselves without a safe place to sleep.

Even in a mild winter, the need

for shelter does not disappear in Spring. People still need a warm meal, a safe bed, and a place where someone will look them in the eye and say, "You matter."

As winter and government funded shelters close, more people are coming to the Rescue Mission seeking help. Our dorms fill quickly, and many nights we reach the maximum capacity allowed by the Salt Lake County Fire Marshal. Our day room is crowded with people trying to rest, charge their cell phones, or simply have a place to be. Our clothing room is busier than ever. And our New Life Recovery Program continues to fill as men and women seek a long term, faith based path out of addiction and homelessness.

This growing need comes at a time when the economy is difficult for many families. Rising costs affect all of us, and they affect the Mission as well. Food, fuel, utilities, clothing, and basic supplies

cost more today than they did even a year ago. At the same time, more people are struggling to find work or to stay housed. Many arrive at our doors exhausted, discouraged, and unsure of how to take the next step.

Unlike many shelters, the Rescue Mission receives no government funding. We rely entirely on the generosity of people who believe that every person is created in the image of God and worthy of love, dignity, and a chance to rebuild their life. Because we are privately supported, we are free to share the hope of Jesus Christ with every person who walks through our doors. We can offer not only shelter and meals, but also the promise of forgiveness, renewal, and transformation.

Spring is a season of new beginnings, and every day we see glimpses of that renewal here. A man who once slept on the streets now reads his Bible with understanding and joy. A woman who arrived addicted and afraid now celebrates months of sobriety. These are signs of God's restoring work.

As we enter this season, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help. Your support allows us to welcome those who have nowhere else to turn and to offer them the hope of new life through Jesus Christ.

Chris D. Croswrite

Executive Director

WILLIAM: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

God did exactly that.

When I joined the New Life Program, I was assigned to work therapy at the Mission's front desk. Every day I interacted with homeless men and women who came seeking help. The job required patience, compassion, firmness, and love. As I attended Bible studies and chapel services, I learned about Jesus and what He had done for me. I felt God giving me faith in His Son, Jesus. That faith began to shape my character. I grew in patience, compassion, and fairness, which helped me serve the guests who came to the front desk with all kinds of needs and frustrations.

God also used that experience to open doors for employment. When I graduated into the employment phase of the program, I was hired as the front desk person at a local construction company. The skills I learned at the Mission helped me handle contractors, suppliers, and others who needed support. I saw this as another way God was proving Himself to me. Over time, I realized I should never have demanded proof from God. I had everything backwards. He had already shown His love through Jesus, and I was the one who needed to surrender.

Through the Rescue Mission, I also found a church home at The Conversation Church in Midvale. The fellowship there has been a huge blessing. People are genuinely seeking Jesus, and I feel supported and encouraged.

One of the greatest gifts God has given me is sobriety. I have been sober for more than a year. I live in the Freedom House, the Mission's transitional housing

program, and I am working hard to save money so I can buy a car and eventually move into my own place.

Another blessing is that God opened a door for me to return to my career field. Many IT network support jobs have disappeared as companies turn to AI systems, but by God's grace I now work for a large and stable company providing internal network support. This allowed me to leave my job at the construction company and return to the field I trained for.

God has also restored my relationship with my mother. We talk often, and when I first moved into the Freedom House, she sent me a box of new clothes. That meant a lot to me. My relationship with my ex-wife is still strained, and I do not currently have a relationship with my daughter. I understand why, but I pray every day that Jesus will heal those relationships. I want to be a good father, and I want everyone involved to feel confident that I am stable, healthy, and ready to be part of my daughter's life again.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who supports the Rescue Mission. Your generosity, combined with the saving power of Jesus Christ, has given me faith, sobriety, housing, and employment. My life is being rebuilt, and I am filled with hope for the future. Thank you!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH FEBRUARY



Professions of Faith

93



Meals

48,740



Family Food Boxes

431



Nights of Shelter

10,815



Clothing

10,323



Hygiene Items

12,193



Day Service

4,949



Jobs Obtained

6



Housing Obtained

6



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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