

## SUPPORT OPERATION HYDRATION

Summer heat can be dangerous for people without access to water or shelter. Operation Hydration is our compassionate response, offering cold water, care, and a safe place at the Rescue Mission where people can find relief and pathways to stability. Inside the Mission, guests can rest in our cooling room, refill water bottles, charge phones needed for job and housing searches, and access showers and clean clothing that restore dignity.

Our outreach teams also search camps, parking lots, and cars (where people are often living these days) to bring Care Kits with cold water, sunscreen, hats, lip balm, and refillable bottles. Each visit becomes a moment of connection and an invitation to come to the Mission for deeper help.

Please support by donating supplies, volunteering, or giving financially at [RescueSaltLake.org](https://RescueSaltLake.org), by calling 801 746 1006, or using the response envelope in this newsletter. Your generosity saves lives and offers hope.



## PLEASE HELP PACK OUR PANTRY

The Rescue Mission's food pantry helps the working poor stretch their limited resources so they can stay housed or cover critical needs like car repairs. It also supports the breakfasts, lunches, and dinners served daily at the Mission. Right now our shelves, once filled with staples like canned goods, pasta, and peanut butter, are nearly bare.

Your generosity can refill our pantry and bring hope to families in need. You can donate non perishable items, give financially, or host a food drive with your business, church, youth group, or friends. **Donations can be delivered to 463 South 400 West or we can arrange a pickup.**

To organize a food drive please email [Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org). Every staple and every dollar helps feed our neighbors.

## JOIN US FOR GOLF OR BECOME A SPONSOR

**When:** July 17, 2026

**What:** Our annual golf tournament at beautiful Thanksgiving Point Golf Course. This event includes breakfast, lunch, great prizes, and a full day of fun, all while helping men, women, and families overcome homelessness.

**Play:** To play in the tournament or even gathering a few friends to play along with you, please give Dennis (contact below) a call. You do not need a full foursome to participate.

**Sponsor:** We need hole sponsors, prize sponsors (for closest to the hole, longest drive, and team awards), and meal sponsors for both breakfast and lunch. Sponsorships are a great way for companies, churches, and individuals to support the Mission while enjoying a memorable day on the course.

**Contact:** If you or your business can participate, please contact Dennis Dickerson at [Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Dennis@RescueSaltLake.org) or call/text 801.949.8559.



# RESCUER

JUNE  
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



*For most of my life, I knew how to seem successful, but it was always a façade.*

I could get a job quickly, learn fast, and move up the ranks. Employers saw someone ambitious and capable. Friends saw someone confident and independent. From the outside, it looked like I had everything under control.

But beneath the surface, I was fighting a battle with alcohol for years. As a young woman, I didn't realize that drinking would eventually become the way I coped with life. Alcohol helped me avoid painful emotions, run from difficult situations, and silence things I didn't want to deal with.

I grew up in a North Carolina church, so I always knew who God was. The problem was that I spent most of my life trying to do things my own way, running from God.

As I got older, I became good at putting on a mask. I could walk into a job and excel. I often advanced quickly and earned more responsibility. People saw someone who was successful, driven, and capable. But eventually alcohol would catch up with me.

I would stop showing up and walk away from opportunities. Other times my drinking would affect my judgment and lead to consequences. I knew my drinking problem was causing me to lose job after job but instead of facing the problem, I kept running.

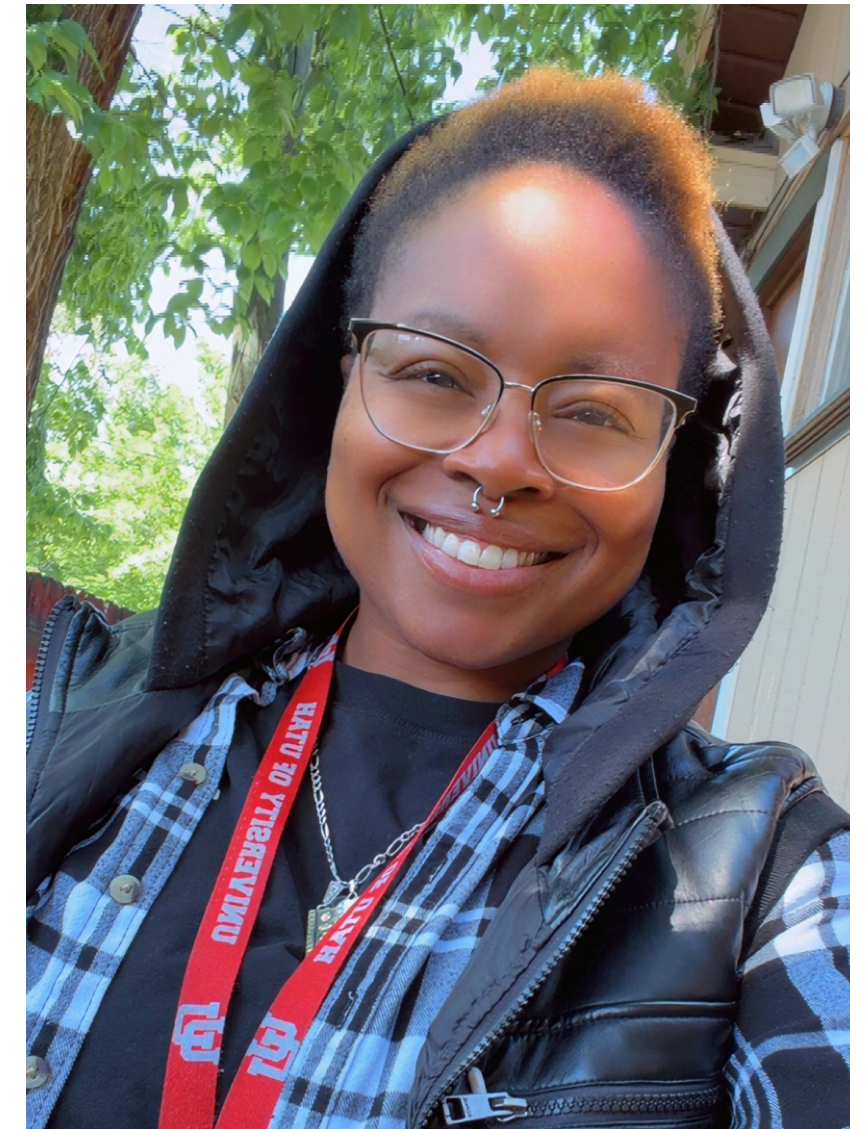
I left my home state of North Carolina and made my way west. I couch surfed, slept in my car, stayed in short-term rentals, and drifted from place to place. I convinced myself that if I could just find a fresh start somewhere else, things would get better.

But no matter where I went, I took my addiction with me. About three years ago, I moved to Utah hoping for another new beginning. Instead, my drinking became worse than ever.

I was drinking all day, every day. Weeks turned into months. I was so drunk that I didn't even realize how drunk I was anymore. Alcohol wasn't just part of my life. It had become my entire life.

Deep down, I knew I was dying. I remember crying out to God and saying, "You have to do it. You have to make me stop because I can't do it myself."

God answered that prayer. At the time, I was living with roommates who had watched my addiction spiral out of control. They finally sat me down and told me that I couldn't stay there anymore. As hard as that conversation was, I actually felt relief. They weren't giving up on me. Instead, they started looking for help.



Teara O'Kelly has a good job with a private transportation company. She is saving money for a place of her own when she graduates this year.

Please see "Teara" on page 3.

## MORE OF OUR HOMELESS FRIENDS ARE SHELTERED

*It's encouraging to hear good news.* It's especially encouraging when it shows that the ongoing outreach at the Rescue Mission, which is accomplished through gifts, donations, hard work, and God's grace, are truly making a difference.



That's why I was heartened when the State of Utah released the results of its annual Point in Time Count (PIT) last month. The Rescue Mission, along with other public and private homeless service providers, participates in this statewide effort to count individuals experiencing

homelessness in shelters, transitional housing, and on the streets.

Last year's PIT Count revealed a troubling 18% increase in homelessness across Utah. With that sharp rise in mind, I was intrigued to see what the 2026 numbers would show.

The good news is that homelessness decreased by 1.6% statewide, year over year. At the same time, the number of our homeless friends staying in shelters increased by 0.8%. Both numbers encouraged me. They suggest that your support, combined with the efforts of the Rescue Mission and many partner organizations, is making a real impact.

One reason the increase in sheltered homelessness is meaningful is that it reflects the success of programs like our Seek and Rescue outreach. Our staff and volunteers visit camps and outdoor locations to meet people where they are, build trust, and invite them into the safety of the Mission. When someone

comes indoors, everything changes. We can help them stabilize, address life controlling issues, find employment, and secure housing. Most importantly we can share the love of Jesus and in word and deed and help our homeless friends encounter the hope of the Gospel.

Last year alone, through Rescue Mission efforts, we helped 78 individuals secure employment and 77 individuals obtain housing. These are not just numbers; they are lives changed and futures restored. And they contributed directly to Utah's overall 1.6% decrease in homelessness. The numbers lend credence to my belief that there is a correlation between increasing the number of our homeless friends living in shelters, like the Rescue Mission, and decreasing the total number of people who are homeless.

There is still much work to do. But after the significant increase the year before, this year's reduction is a welcome sign that progress is possible and happening.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Rescue Mission. Your generosity makes a profound difference not only in the lives of people experiencing homelessness today, but also for eternity.

God bless you,

*Chris D. CroswHITE*

Executive Director

## TEARA: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

My roommates researched and found the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake Center for Women. Looking back, I know God put those roommates in my life to answer my prayer.

When I arrived at the Mission, I had been drinking continuously for months, and I could not imagine facing life without alcohol. The staff quickly realized I was in trouble and sent me to the hospital. I spent four days in the hospital dealing with severe alcohol withdrawal.

For the first time in a very long time, I couldn't run. I couldn't drink. I couldn't distract myself. All I could do was talk to God. I spent hours praying, asking for forgiveness, and asking Him to turn my life around. That was the moment when I started to realize this wasn't just about getting sober. It was about surrendering my life to Jesus.

When I was released from the hospital and returned to the Mission, things began to change. The staff and other program women held me accountable and encouraged me. I had people who loved me enough to tell me the truth.

As I worked through the New Life Program, God began revealing the deeper issues that had fueled my drinking. I started processing old wounds, unhealthy beliefs, and years of pretending to be someone I wasn't.

I realized I had spent most of my life wearing masks. I didn't even know who I was anymore. Little by little, God began stripping those masks away.

Now, I have real relationships with the other women at the Mission. I genuinely care about them, and they care about me. I love hearing about their day and supporting them however I can. God has used the friendship and accountability here to change my life.

Today I work for private transportation company as a motor coach driver. I transport professional sports teams,

including NBA, NHL, and Major League Soccer teams that come through Utah. I also drive groups to places like Lagoon, the Clark Planetarium, and other destinations around the state.

It is a job I truly enjoy, and I see it as a blessing directly from God. I have also found a church family at Capital Church.

I still remember my first experiences there. During the first service I attended, the tears started flowing. God was breaking down walls that I had spent years building. Since then, I have formed meaningful friendships and found people who encourage me in my walk with Christ.

I feel a peace and happiness that I cannot fully explain. I understand that I don't have to carry the weight of the world on my shoulders. God is in control.

As I prepare to graduate from the New Life Program, I am prayerfully considering my next steps. I have been saving money and believe God may be leading me to Hope House, the Mission's transitional housing program for women, but I am learning not to rush ahead of God's timing.

When I look at where I was a year ago, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I am no longer slowly destroying myself. I am sober, have meaningful employment, and peace. Most importantly, I have a relationship with Jesus that is stronger than it has ever been.

I am incredibly thankful for the Rescue Mission, the staff, the case managers, the women in the program, and every donor who supports this ministry. The Rescue Mission gave me a place to find help when I couldn't help myself.

God answered my prayer through this place, and because of that, my life has been completely changed.

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH APRIL



Professions of Faith

152



Meals

99,475



Family Food Boxes

832



Nights of Shelter

22,409



Clothing

27,512



Hygiene Items

26,214



Day Service

10,258



Jobs Obtained

13



Housing Obtained

12



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

[RescueSaltLake.org](https://www.RescueSaltLake.org)

[Facebook/rescuemissionofsaltlake](https://www.facebook.com/rescuemissionofsaltlake)

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[Tiktok/@rescuesaltlake](https://www.tiktok.com/@rescuesaltlake)

Email: [info@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:info@RescueSaltLake.org)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE NOW



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.355.1302

Donor Relations – 801.746.1006

Mail: PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1227

Volunteer: Email Brandon at [Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org)

Physical Address: 463 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101