

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE HEAT DOESN'T STOP?

This summer has been one of the hottest we can remember. For our homeless neighbors, that heat isn't just uncomfortable, it can be life-threatening. That's why the Rescue Mission activates **Operation Hydration**, providing cold water, a cool place to rest, showers, and life-saving outreach to men and women on our streets.

But this year was so hot, the extreme heat affected more than the people we serve. It affected the Mission itself. **It all started the week of July 20, 2026.**

July 22, 2026 On a routine Wednesday, old pipes, super-heated ground, and unprecedented water demand, caused a city water main to burst directly in front of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake. The water was shut off for nearly 24 hours, while more than 150 people were inside, expecting toilets, food, showers, and more.

We soon realized there were no working toilets, no running water to wash dishes, and no way to operate normally. There wasn't time to panic, so our staff immediately pivoted.

We purchased emergency portable toilets and paper plates, cups, and disposable utensils replaced our normal kitchen service so meals could continue uninterrupted. Despite the outage, our homeless guests still had a safe place to stay, meals to eat, and dignity preserved.

July 23, 2026 Only a day later, another city water main failed, this time in front of our Women's Center. The same emergency supplies we had just used at the Men's Center were cleaned, loaded up, and rushed across town so our women could continue receiving care while city crews worked around the clock.

July 24th Weekend As if that weren't enough, over that same weekend, the cooling system at the Ogden Rescue Mission failed. Critical components had to be replaced before our guests could once again find relief from the dangerous heat. Thank you to Beckler HVAC for helping so fast!

Through it all, the Mission never closed, meals were still served, beds were still available, and cold water was still distributed, because homelessness doesn't pause during an emergency.

Because of your support, neither do we!

Prayerfully consider making a special gift today to help replenish emergency supplies and offset these unexpected costs, an out continued Operation Hydration through August. Your generosity keeps the water flowing, the swamp coolers running, and our doors open when our homeless neighbors need us most.

Please give today!



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Rescue Mission Executive Director Chris D. Croswite records a social media post as water gushes from a broken main outside the Rescue Mission (above). Less than 24 hours later, a second water main break occurred in front of the Rescue Mission's Women's Center (below).



RESCUER

AUGUST
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

I grew up in Vernal, Utah, where life revolved around family, hard work, and the oil fields. Like a lot of teenagers, I made some poor choices early on. I started smoking marijuana in high school, and before long I was kicked out of school. At the time, it didn't seem too bad because there were always good-paying jobs in the Uintah Basin and I went straight to work in the oil fields.

The work was demanding. Long shifts and endless hours were part of the job. Unfortunately, drug use was common, and I eventually started using methamphetamine to keep up with the pace. At first, I convinced myself it was helping me work harder and longer. Looking back, I can see it was the start of a long road that nearly cost me everything.

THE DAY IT ALL CRASHED

One day I came home from work and found police officers surrounding my house. I had no idea what was going on. That's when I learned a family member had been selling drugs out of our home without me knowing it. Everything changed in an instant. My marriage fell apart, and our children were placed in foster care and later adopted.

Losing my children (I have six, including stepchildren) has been one of greatest regrets of my life. As painful as that has been, I've also come to realize they were given stable homes where they could grow up safely. That doesn't erase the hurt, but it gives me peace knowing they were cared for when I couldn't provide what they needed.

After my marriage ended in 2014, my life became a cycle of addiction, homelessness, jail, and trying to start over. Sometimes I found work. Sometimes I found myself back behind bars. I never stayed on my feet for very long before drugs pulled me back down.

Then life hit me with two more devastating losses.

My dad passed away in 2018. I relapsed afterward because I didn't know how to deal with the grief. A few years later, in 2022, my mom passed away. She was my best friend. Losing her sent me even deeper into addiction because, once again, drugs seemed easier than facing the pain.

After my mom died, I bought a converted shuttle bus that someone had turned into a tiny home. I parked it wherever I could and tried to make a life for myself while working overnight stocking shelves and building displays at Walmart in Salt Lake. From the outside, it probably looked like I was getting by. Inside, I was still carrying around a lot of pain.



Jeremy Gilley is working, has a new life with Jesus, and is reconnecting with his children and family in Vernal, Utah after finding help at the Rescue Mission.

Please see "Jeremy" on page 3.

GOD’S GIFT OF TIME

Several people have said to me recently, “Where did the summer go?” Honestly, I find myself asking the same question. Time slips away fast and I can hardly believe we’re already planning for fall and winter ministry.



When I was in college, just beginning my walk with Jesus, I often took prayer walks through a nearby cemetery. I would read the names and dates on headstones and think about the small dash

between them. That dash represented an entire lifetime. God gives each of us many gifts, such as our abilities and personalities, His grace and mercy, and most importantly, the opportunity for eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. He also gives all people something else: Time. None of us knows how many years, days, or even hours the Lord has ordained for us. We simply know that every moment is God’s gift. One of my seminary professors often wrote that ministry rarely happens according to our time schedules. More often, it happens in what feel like interruptions. I’ve found that to be true. Several years ago, I stepped outside the Mission hoping for a quiet prayer walk when a homeless man stopped me. I wanted to go for my prayer walk, but I stopped on the sidewalk. We talked for a few minutes before I invited him inside. That man was Brent. Today Brent is married, owns

a home, has a successful career, and encourages other men to enter the New Life Program. What I thought was an interruption became one of God’s appointments. The same thing happened again this morning. On my way into the building, I stopped to visit with a homeless man named Larry. I was already thinking about the meeting waiting for me, but God had something more important planned. Within minutes, Larry was connected with one of our staff members and his needs were met. Moments like these remind me that despite our schedules, our time belongs to God. Because of this, one of the greatest gifts we can give another person is our time. By listening, encouraging, praying, serving, or simply being present, we emulate what Christ did for His people. Jesus became present in time and then gave His very life so that all who trust in Him would receive a timeless gift. As summer ends and the busy fall and winter seasons approach, please consider giving your time to the help our homeless friends at the Mission. You may discover that what feels like an interruption is one of God’s divine appointments.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite
Executive Director

JEREMY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On May 12, 2025, I was arrested again on a drug-related charge. When I was released on July 3, 2025, I had nowhere to go. I had stayed at the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake before during periods of homelessness, so I knew where to turn.

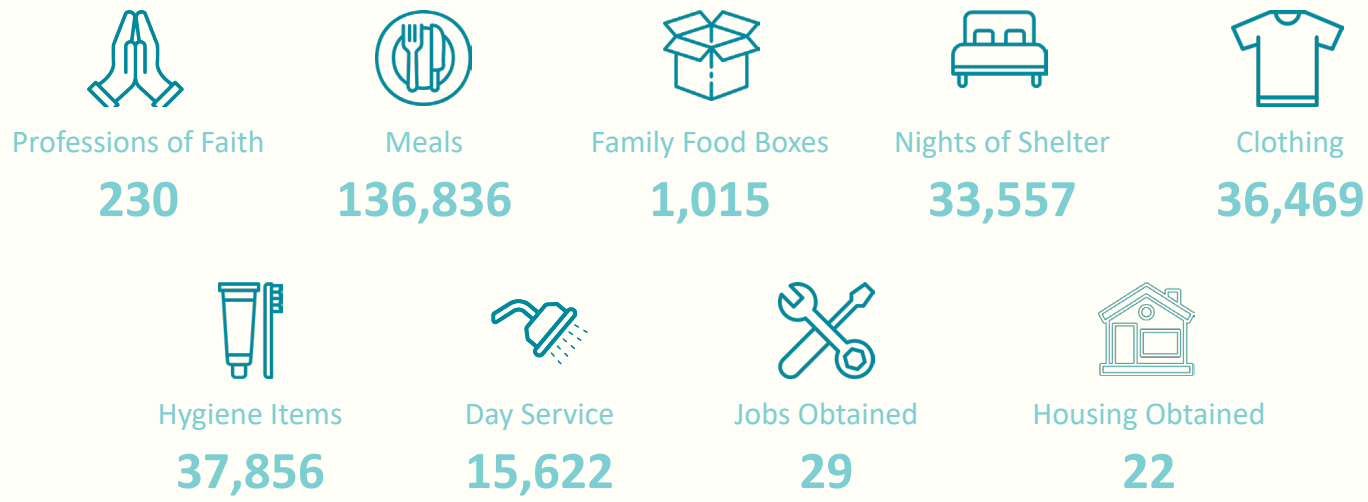
This time was different. I entered the New Life Program.

GOD AND THE MISSION CHANGED ME

One of the biggest turning points for me was working through the Genesis Process. It helped me understand not only my addiction but also who God really is. I learned that instead of trying to carry every burden myself, I could surrender my life to Him. I discovered that God doesn’t abandon broken people. He restores them. I had attended Calvary Chapel in Salt Lake off and on for years, but I had never fully committed my life to Christ. Then one Sunday, someone asked if I wanted to be baptized that afternoon. Without hesitation, I said yes. On November 24, 2025, I was baptized and became a born-again Christian. Since that day, I’ve learned to trust that God will help me each day. The Mission also gave me opportunities to serve others. During the education phase of the program, I worked as part of the Mission’s security team. My job was to help keep our homeless guests safe, but it became much more than that. Twice I had to administer Narcan to people who had overdosed in front of the Rescue Mission. Years earlier I had worked as an EMT, so I knew what to do while talking with 911 dispatchers. By God’s grace, both of those individuals survived. One of the greatest joys has been encouraging other men who are where I once was. I’ve had the privilege of talking

with several homeless men and convincing them to give the New Life Program a chance. Today, some of those same men are still in the program, growing in their faith and rebuilding their lives. After completing the employment phase of the program, I found work and began saving money so I could return home to Vernal. In July 2026, that dream became a reality. Today I’m back in the Uintah Basin, closer to my family than I’ve been in years. My oldest son, who is now an adult, and I talk almost every day. Rebuilding that relationship has been one of the greatest blessings God has given me. I also have a wonderful fiancée who stood beside me through this journey. Together we’ve put a down payment on a fixer-upper home, will be married soon, and look forward to building a future together. I have a job opportunity as a welder, helping to fabricate the large oil tanks used to store oil and gas throughout the Basin. It feels good to be coming home with a new purpose and a new outlook on life. The Rescue Mission didn’t just help me get sober. They helped me find Jesus Christ. They gave me hope when I had none, surrounded me with people who believed in me, and reminded me that my past didn’t have to determine my future. To everyone who supports the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, thank you. Because of your generosity, I have been given another chance, as well as others like me. You helped me find recovery, rebuild relationships with my family, and begin a new life. I will always be grateful for the hope you helped restore.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH JUNE



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