

## GIVE THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND

A Donor Advised Fund or DAF is an investment account for the purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about. You contribute cash, securities or other assets into a DAF, and are generally eligible for an immediate tax deduction. The funds are invested with tax-free growth.

If you have a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), you can use it to make a meaningful gift to the Rescue Mission. Simply work through your DAF provider to request a grant to support our work of providing food, shelter, recovery programs and hope through Jesus Christ to people in need. If you don't have a DAF, and are interested in one, you can set one up through many common financial planning apps or through your financial advisor.

**Your DAF gift can help transform lives and bring the love of Jesus in action to our community.**



## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE RESCUE MISSION!

Want to see more of what's happening at the Rescue Mission? Our Facebook and Instagram pages are updated almost daily with videos, stories, photos, and other behind-the-scenes glimpses of the people and work you help support.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (our most active channels) for encouraging updates, inspiring stories, upcoming events, and news from the Mission. It's a great way to stay connected and see how God is working through the Rescue Mission and our community of supporters!



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## GATHER A SMALL GROUP AND SERVE!

Looking for a hands-on way to make a difference? Gather a small group of 2–4 people and come serve at the Rescue Mission! We have a variety of projects throughout the year, from painting and touch-up work to other small “honey-do” projects that help keep our facilities welcoming and well cared for.

Bring a coworker or two, your family, or a few friends and spend a few hours serving together. Your time and talents can make a real difference for the men and women we serve!

Contact with Brandon Murray at [Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org) to schedule a time and arrange a project.



# RESCUER

SEPTEMBER  
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



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

*For a long time, I didn't realize how much alcohol was taking from me.*

It wasn't that I was drinking every minute of every day. It was more subtle than that. Little by little, I stopped caring about things. I became lazy, unmotivated, and willing to let important parts of my life slip away. Eventually, that pattern led to homelessness.

Today, my life is very different. I have a good job, I'm moving into my own apartment, and I'm involved in my church and my community. I'm also still working on my recovery and growing in my faith. I'm proud of how far I've come.

## HOW IT STARTED

My problem with alcohol began shortly after my mother died from cancer when I was 15 years old. She had taken me to church regularly, but after her death, which happened shortly after my parents divorced, I stopped going.

I've usually been able to find jobs, but eventually, my drinking would sabotage my employment. Last year, I was working in Elko, Nevada, operating machinery and helping repair heavy mining equipment. The company I worked for eventually went under, but I had managed to save some money. Instead of using that money wisely, I started drinking more, spending money at casinos, and generally making poor decisions.

As my money ran out and my drinking grew worse, I knew I needed help. Through the internet, I found the Rescue Mission and traveled to Salt Lake to see if the program might be a good fit for me. I knew I needed something different.

## THE HELP I NEEDED

When I arrived at the Rescue Mission on July 8, 2025, I slept in the chapel because that was the last available spot. I didn't know what to expect, but I decided to give the program a chance. I'm still here, and I'm glad I did.

As part of the program's work therapy, I started serving in the laundry and managing the guest showers. We do laundry for the men in the program and all the linens of the Rescue Mission. The showers have to be cleaned and managed every night. I ended up really enjoying that work because it gave me an opportunity to get to know people.

I still talk to many of the men I met when I first arrived.

There was one man in particular whom I kept encouraging to join the New Life Program. He would come around every day with all his belongings in a shopping cart, and I would tell him, “You're already here. Why not give the program a chance?”



Carl Engelken is working, has a renewed life with Jesus, and is connecting with his community and church family after finding help at the Rescue Mission.

Please see “Carl” on page 3.

# MAKING ROOM AT THE THANKSGIVING TABLE

*I recently read a Deseret News/Hinckley Institute of Politics poll that asked Utah voters which rising prices concerned them*



**most.** Among 799 registered Utah voters surveyed, 51% said “groceries and other household items,” making it the clear No. 1 concern. Housing followed at 24%, with health care at 16%.

Across Utah, families are feeling the pressure of rising food costs. For poor, working families, higher grocery bills can mean there is less money available for rent, utilities,

and other household expenses. For those already experiencing homelessness or living on very limited incomes, the margin is even smaller.

Here at the Rescue Mission, we are not immune to these challenges.

Almost everything we purchase to feed, house, and clothe our homeless friends and low-income neighbors has increased in price. Because of these pressures, the Rescue Mission is operating at a year-to-date deficit in 2026.

At the same time, many of the people we serve need more help than ever. That makes this Thanksgiving season especially important. As I have been thinking and praying about our annual Thanksgiving banquet for the homeless, I keep coming back to Jesus’ words in Luke 14:12-14:

“When you give a dinner or a banquet . . . invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be

repaid at the resurrection of the just.” That is the heart behind our annual Thanksgiving banquet for homeless men, women, and families. Last year, alongside our banquet, we distributed over 2,400 family food boxes to families who needed help stretching their limited resources so they could keep food on the table and stay in their homes.

This year, because of our financial pressures, we need your support more than ever. We want to make sure that no one in our community has to spend Thanksgiving alone or wonder where their next meal will come from. We want everyone to have a seat at the table, to feel welcomed, loved, and fed.

We often say that hope begins with a meal, and in many cases, it does. A warm meal can open the door to friendship, encouragement, and an opportunity to share the love of Jesus. Those relationships can become the beginning of restored lives and renewed faith in God.

Please consider making a gift to our Thanksgiving and holiday meal outreach today. Your support will help us provide food, fellowship, and the hope of Christ to our homeless friends and low-income neighbors this holiday season.

Thank you for helping us make room at the table.

God bless you,

*Chris D. Croswhite*

Executive Director

# CARL: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I probably talked to him about it for a couple of months. Eventually, he joined and has now been in the program for five months. Watching him make progress has been incredibly rewarding.

The spiritual side of the program has also been important to me. Faith had not always been a big part of my adult life.

At the Mission, I began attending Bible study every morning and participating in question-and-answer sessions. I’ve also found a church I really enjoy, Gospel Grace. I’m continuing to learn about Christianity and develop my relationship with God. I meet regularly with my discipler, Tony, and I’m grateful for the people who continue to encourage me in my faith.

## MY NEW LIFE

The Mission has also helped me rediscover how rewarding it is to help other people.

I’ve volunteered at community resource fairs where people experiencing homelessness can connect with services they need. I’ve also volunteered with organizations that help people in difficult circumstances, including a hospice program where the goal is to make sure nobody dies alone. Sometimes that simply means sitting with someone, reading, talking, or sharing a hobby. Another place I volunteer is an outreach that allows homeless individuals with dogs to board their pets until they can get back on their feet.

Today, I also have a job that I’m excited about. I operate CNC machinery for a growing company that builds power-storage systems. It’s a great place to work, with good pay and benefits, and I’m grateful for the opportunity. I never

would have imagined that I would end up doing this kind of work.

I even bought an electric scooter so I can get to work. It takes me about 20 minutes, and I’ve already put hundreds of miles on it. I have enough money saved to buy a car, but I’m waiting until I find the right one.

I’m also getting ready to move into a studio apartment. It’s close to my work, the Mission, my church, and many of the places where I volunteer. I’m looking forward to having my own place and continuing to build an independent life.

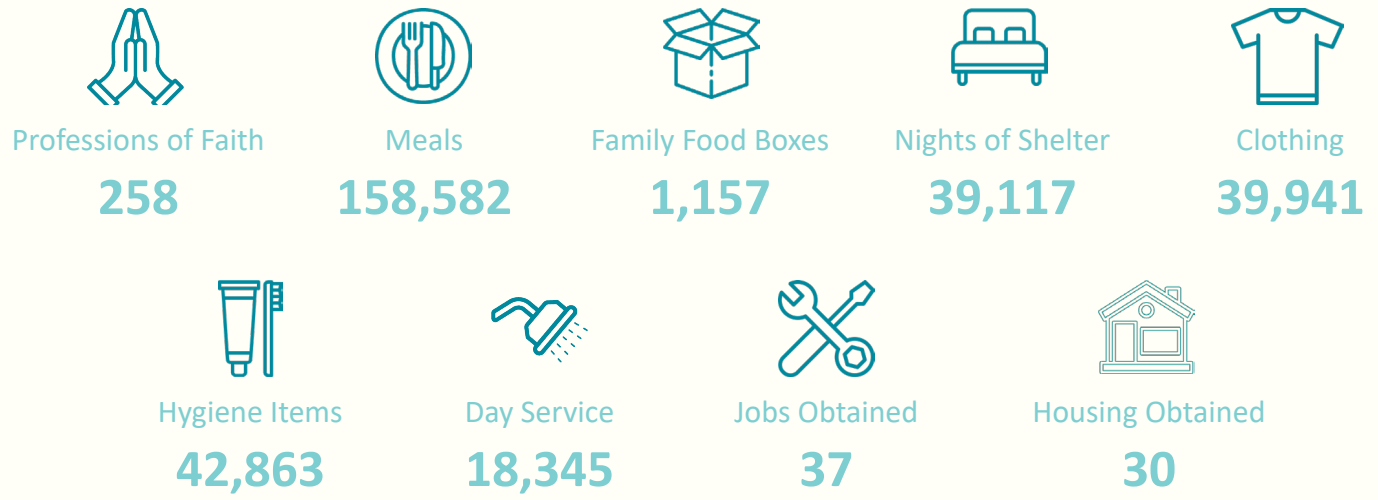
When I graduate from the Mission’s program, I plan to keep volunteering here. The Mission has become an important part of my life, and I want to give back to the place that helped me when I needed somewhere to turn.

My life isn’t perfect, and I know recovery is something I need to continue working on every day. But I have a job. I have a church. I have people who care about me. I have a place of my own waiting for me.

Most importantly, I have a growing relationship with God and a new understanding of what it means to live with purpose.

The Rescue Mission gave me the opportunity to start over. I’m grateful for all of you, the supporters of the Mission, who believed in me, encouraged me, and gave me a place to rebuild my life. I’m excited about what comes next.

# HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH JULY



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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