

HELP PUT HOPE ON THE THANKSGIVING TABLE

Thanksgiving is a time to gather around a table, share a meal, and give thanks for God’s blessings. But for many of our homeless friends, there may be no home, no family table, and no one waiting for them on Thanksgiving Day.

That’s why the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake hosts our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. We want to do more than provide a hot meal. We want to provide hope.

Each year, hundreds of men, women, and children come through our doors for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. They are welcomed with dignity, kindness and fellowship. Most importantly, they have an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ.

For someone who has spent months or even years feeling forgotten, a warm meal and a welcoming seat at the table can be the beginning of hope. A meal can open the door to a conversation. A conversation can lead to a relationship. And that relationship can point someone toward a new life through Jesus Christ.

Our Thanksgiving outreach also extends beyond those who are homeless. Many working families in our community are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of groceries. Our Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes help these families put a Thanksgiving meal on their own tables, allowing parents and children to celebrate together without having to choose between a holiday meal and other essential expenses.

Last year, the Mission distributed more than 2,400 family food boxes. This year, we want to reach even more struggling families while providing a Thanksgiving banquet for our homeless neighbors.



How you can help:

**Give** Every dollar you give goes directly to serving meals, providing shelter, and offering ongoing support. Your gift could provide a Thanksgiving meal for a struggling individual and a new beginning for their future. Call 801.746.1006, use the enclosed envelope, scan the QR code, or visit RescueSaltLake.org.

**Volunteer** Join with us and serve directly to those in need. Your presence will remind them they are not forgotten. Email: Volunteer@RescueSaltLake.org.

**Donate Food or Supplies** We need everything from turkeys to side dishes to drinks. Your donations will help us make this event special.

**Pray** The power of prayer is real. Please pray for the individuals we’ll serve, and for the Gospel to reach hearts and change lives.

Together, we can make sure no one is forgotten this Thanksgiving.

RESCUER

OCTOBER  
2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



Fourteen years ago, I was living a different life. Then I came to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake in October, 2012 and entered the New Life Recovery Program.

I had spent about 30 years battling addiction and about 18 years of my life in prison. I had been trapped for so long that I never imagined a different life.

A BRAND NEW LIFE

On October 4, 2026, I celebrated 14 years clean and sober. That was the same day I celebrated five years of marriage to my wife, whom I purposely married on my sobriety anniversary, in 2021. My wife and I are as opposite as two people can be. She has never drank alcohol, used drugs, or had anything to do with that kind of life. They say opposites attract, and I guess they were right.

We met through Facebook during COVID. We started talking, eventually met in person, and things grew from there. She graduated from college and has worked as an analyst for a health insurance company for 21 years. Somehow, God brought the two of us together, and I am thankful He did.

Today, we live in West Bountiful in a four-bedroom house. My mother-in-law lives in an attached apartment. She is 80 years old, and I consider it a blessing that we can help take care of her. I also have a job I never thought I would have. I drive a semi-truck, hauling loads across the country and am on the road for about three weeks at a time and home for several days before heading out again. Through my job I have been to every state in the lower 48, except one (someday I will get a delivery to Florida!).

For most of my life, I knew what it meant to be locked up. Now I know what it means to be free. Driving across the country, seeing different places and having the freedom to go wherever my job takes me is something I never take for granted. Many people will never get to see the things I have been able to see through my job.

Better than that, God has blessed me with things I never thought I would have. I have a wife who loves me, a Chevy Silverado that I bought in 2022, and a 1965 Chevy C10 sitting in the backyard that I want to restore. And then there are the dogs. We have a half Chihuahua, half pug named Chevy who thinks she owns the place. We also have a



Doug MacMillan snuggles with his dog Chevy, whose full name is Chevy Chevelle Super Sport, because she is so fast. Chevy drives with Doug on his interstate deliveries.

Please see “Doug” on page 3.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES THROUGH HARD WORK

Doug McMillan, whose story you can read in this month’s newsletter, is one of the physically strongest men I know.

Before Doug entered the New Life Program back in 2012, he spent several years coming in and out of the Rescue Mission, trying to work his way out of homelessness. We talked often. Doug would find a job, save some money, and try to move forward. But eventually, his addiction and other challenges would become overwhelming, and he would relapse.



During that time, several people and service providers encouraged Doug to apply for Social Security Disability, which provides a very limited monthly income and prohibits people from working full time. Doug could potentially qualify for disability because, despite being built like a lumberjack, one of his arms and hands did not fully develop from birth. Doug and I had many conversations about whether his condition prevented him from working or whether it was an obstacle to overcome.

The Rescue Mission is different from many other service providers because our goal is not simply to help someone obtain government benefits (yes, we fully realize that many people genuinely need assistance, and we are here to help them). But, whenever possible, we want people to work and support themselves.

That means we encourage people to develop skills,

overcome obstacles, and strive for their God-given potential. And we do not ask them to do it alone. We point them to Jesus Christ, whose strength is greater than our own. I remember the day Doug finally walked into my office and told me, “I’m not disabled, and I’m not going to take disability assistance.”

I was, and still am, incredibly proud of him and ever since, I have known Doug to be a hard-working man. Today, Doug has been sober for 14 years. He is married, owns a home, supports his family, and drives a semi-truck across the country. Most importantly, he loves the Lord and gives Him the credit for the life he has today.

At the Rescue Mission, we believe people are made in the image of God. We believe that Jesus Christ can change lives. And we believe that, with God’s help, people can overcome formidable challenges.

Thank you for supporting the Rescue Mission and helping us give people more than a temporary place to stay. Your support helps us provide the encouragement, accountability, skills, and Gospel-centered care people need to overcome life-defining challenges and pursue hard work.

Thank you and may God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

DOUG: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bigger dog named Bubba.

These things might sound ordinary to some people, but to me they are reminders of how much my life has changed. Most importantly, the Lord is at the center of my life. I pray every day and ask God to help me put on His armor and live the way He wants me to live. I don’t always get everything right, but my conscience is different now. I believe God’s Holy Spirit corrects me and helps me recognize when I am heading in the wrong direction.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

God has also brought me out of my shell. I have never been a big people person, but He has helped me connect with people in ways I never could before. One of those people is George Sproul, a longtime counselor at the Rescue Mission. George and I have been good friends for years. When I was at the Mission, there were people who didn’t think I was going to graduate. George believed in me and I still have him over for dinner whenever I am in town.

I also remain in contact with the discipler the Rescue Mission assigned to me way back in 2012, Jim DeVore, who now lives in Beaver creek, Ohio. He and his wife were there for me and became my “adoptive” family. Unfortunately, Jim’s wife, who I called “Mama,” went to be with the Lord two years ago, but I still visit Jim, who is in his 80s, whenever my trucking route brings me near Beaver Creek.

I’ve also seen God carry me through health challenges. During COVID, I became concerned about diabetes. At one point, my blood sugar was 396 mg/dL, which is critically

high. I started paying attention to what I was eating and made major changes. Today, my blood sugar is in the normal range.

I also recently learned that I have beaten Hepatitis C. The medication normally costs about \$30,000, but God opened a door and I ended up paying only \$5 for my prescription. About a month ago, I went back to the doctor for another test, and there was no sign of the virus. The Lord has been good to me.

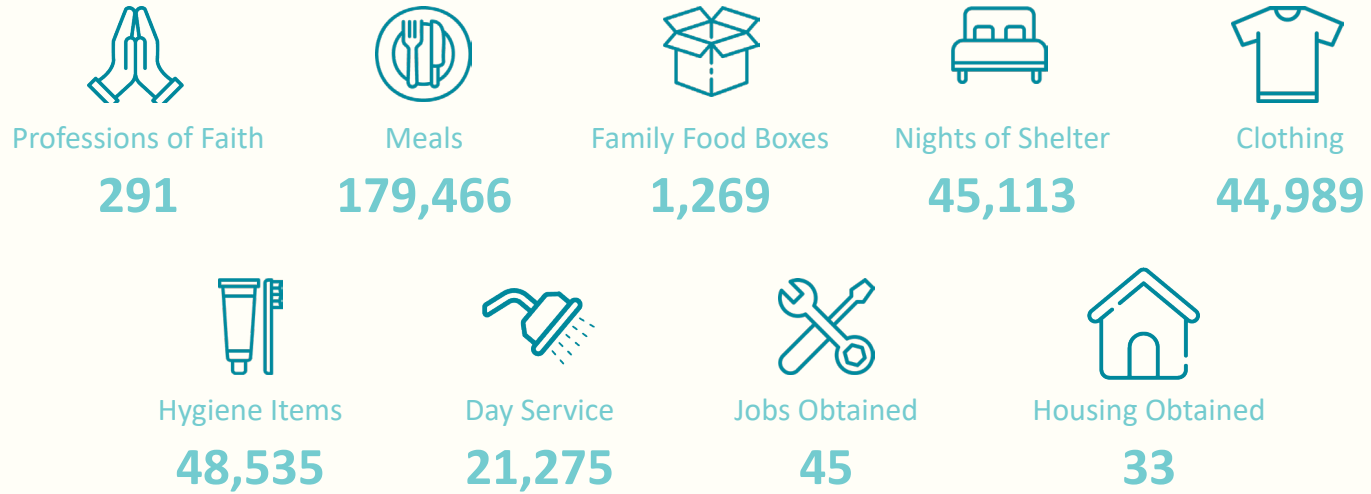
TRUE THANKFULNESS

Sometimes I think about everything I have now and realize how unlikely it all is, a true miracle really. I spent so much of my life addicted and incarcerated. Now I have a wife I love, a home, a career, family, friends, vehicles, dogs, and the freedom to travel across the country.

But the greatest blessing is that I have the Lord. He has given me a life I never thought I would have. On October 9, 2026, I returned to the Rescue Mission to receive my 14-year sobriety chip. Fourteen years ago, the Lord used the Rescue Mission and the people there to help give me a new direction. I will always be grateful for that.

I don’t know what the next 14 years will hold. I joke with my wife that someday soon she is going to have to push me around in a wheelchair. But whatever comes, I know Jesus will be with me. The Lord has blessed me beyond what I could have imagined, and I want to continue following Him wherever He leads. Thank you so much for supporting the Rescue Mission, saving my life, and providing a place where I could receive the long-term help I need.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS THROUGH AUGUST



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