

## PLEASE HELP US REACH THE HOMELESS THIS EASTER!

### THE OUTREACH

There is no single event that allows us to reach more people than our annual Easter Banquet and Egg Hunt for the homeless. This year we are excited to host our Easter Banquet in Marshal White Park. As Spring hits, the weather turns warmer and people are itching for fun in the sun. We will be at the park on Friday, April 15, the Good Friday prior to Easter Sunday.

Many homeless and low-income kids will be coming for the egg hunt, face painting, carnival games, and to learn about Jesus. Our homeless friends will enjoy live music, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, free haircuts, and crisis counseling.

The homeless will also have the opportunity to join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. Every year, at Easter, we have people join the recovery program, obtain jobs and housing, receive clothing for their new job, and break the cycle of poverty, addiction, and homelessness. Most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus’s resurrection!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

With this great opportunity for outreach in front of us, we need your help to make our Easter Banquet the best it can be. To support this event, you can pray, volunteer, and/or donate.

**We need giveaways for kids.** Some of the best giveaways are plastic Easter Eggs filled with individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or nuts please), Easter baskets along with small stuffed toys, books, school supplies, and other items that can be used as prizes for the carnival games.

**We need volunteers.** We need people to play music, help serve food, run carnival games, and distribute clothing. Contact Eddrena at **801.621.4360** to volunteer today!

**We need your prayers and support.** Please consider donating to our Easter outreach today! We hope to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families. We want to bless these families, so they will see the love of Christ, even as they experience difficult life circumstances. To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, call our donor relations office at **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card over the phone, or visit our website at **OgdenRescueMission.org**.



## RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

### KYLAN HUNT—GAINING A NEW LIFE AT THE OGDEN RESCUE MISSION

*I am only 22 years old, but already I have a new life, thanks to the help I received at the Ogden Rescue Mission.*

I grew up in Southern Utah and when I was little my mother left our house one day and didn't come back. My dad had decided to go back to school in the Salt Lake area so he could work towards getting a better job and be able to provide for us. With my mom (who struggled with addiction) not able or willing to take care of us, my grandmother took us in.

It was good living with grandma and she loved us. But I was a disrespectful kid and my grandmother eventually called my father and told him she couldn't have me in her house any longer. I moved to Northern Utah to live with my dad, while my siblings stayed in Southern Utah with grandma.

### LEAVING HOME

I loved my dad but missed my grandma's house and my siblings. Still, I continued my disrespectful behavior. I started smoking cigarettes, which my father wouldn't allow in his house. I could quit smoking or leave, he said, so I chose to leave. I was just 18 years old at the time and had nowhere to go. For a while I crashed at friends' houses. Then, during the day, I would get on a bus and ride it around Weber County all day long.

I grew friendly with the bus driver on the route I would take and one day she told me I was too young to be living this homeless lifestyle. She told me about a shelter where I could stay at in Ogden. I went there and stayed for a short time. While I was there some people told me about the Ogden Rescue Mission. They said I could get help to get off the streets there.



Kylan Hunt found sobriety, employment, housing, and a new life at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

## JOIN US IN REACHING THE HOMELESS THIS SPRING

*This Easter will be an especially exciting one at the Ogden Rescue Mission. For the first time, we will be heading to a community park (Marshal White Park) and holding an Easter Banquet outreach for our homeless and low-income friends.*



I am excited for this great opportunity on Good Friday, April 15. One key reason we will be able to do this outreach is because of a partnership with Second Baptist Church of Ogden. Their church parking lot abuts Marshal White Park and we can put port-a-potties and hand

washing stations and other operational logistics there, while serving in the park. Many logistics (health department regulations, park reservations, garbage control, etc.) support this event and it would be hard to pull it off without Second Baptist's help.

As we continue to grow our outreach in Ogden and help more of our homeless friends off the streets and into faith, sobriety, employment, and housing, we need more partners. We are always looking for churches or community/business groups to come alongside us and reach the poor among us.

One big need is for small groups to come to the Mission and help serve our evening meal to the homeless. If you have a group or even if it is just you or your family we would love to have you help serve food and bless our homeless friends. Please call Eddrena at **801.621.4360** to schedule a time.

Also, if you have a desire to help the homeless but don't know where to start, give us a call. We can help direct food drives, clothing drives, and donations drives that will make a difference in the lives of the poorest people in Northern Utah.

Right now, our biggest need is for help at our Easter Banquet. If you read our Easter Banquet article in this edition of *Restored Lives* you can see that we have big plans. It will be exciting to see how God uses this outreach to reach people with the hopeful message of Jesus's resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is at

the heart of everything we do here at the Ogden Rescue Mission. Because Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, we can share that all people who trust and believe in Him can have this same eternal life in Heaven.

So please consider how you can work with us to reach the homeless here in Ogden. There are countless ways we can work together to impact the lives of the least-fortunate members of our community.

Thank you in advance for your future partnerships as we continue to help more and more men, women, and children get off the streets in Northern Utah.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite  
Executive Director

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

OUR STATS	2022 Totals (through January)
Professions of faith	52
Meals	12,025
Family food boxes	88
Nights of shelter	2,841
Clothing	1,198
Hygiene Items	4,580
Day service	1,400
Jobs obtained	3
Housing obtained	-

## CONTACT US

### Web & social:

[OgdenRescueMission.org](http://OgdenRescueMission.org)

[facebook.com/RescueMissionOgden/](https://facebook.com/RescueMissionOgden/)

[instagram.com/ogden\\_rescue\\_mission/](https://instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission/)

### Contacts:

[info@OgdenRescue.org](mailto:info@OgdenRescue.org)

801.621.4360

### Send mail to:

PO Box 1227 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1227

### Location:

2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah

## Kylan: Continued from the Front Page

I lived at the Ogden Rescue Mission for a few months as a guest and felt a lot better. I got a job and moved out of the Mission, thinking my problems were behind me. But I soon lost my job and became homeless again. I went back to the Ogden shelter where I had started. During the day I would go to a nearby park and spend the day doing really nothing at all. One afternoon some homeless people befriended me and asked me if I wanted to smoke marijuana and drink alcohol with them. I agreed and soon I was drinking and using marijuana every day.

## FINDING THE HELP I NEEDED

One day we were at the park and in quick order I drank a whole gallon of vodka. The people I was with, who were all homeless and struggling with addiction, looked at me stunned. They said, "You have a problem. You need to get help."

Their comments shook me. I thought, "wow, if these people think I have a problem. I must really have a problem." I swallowed my pride and returned to the Ogden Rescue Mission. I asked if they would help me again. They told me if I truly committed to their full 13-month New Life Recovery Program they would welcome my return. I made a promise to commit to the full program and that promise has made all the difference.

At the Rescue Mission I felt and saw God work in my life. By going to the Bible studies, counseling sessions, and connecting with Second Baptist Church of Ogden, I was able to stay sober. I could feel God helping me.

When I was a kid I thought God was like magic. A genie in a bottle that you could ask for wishes. But then, when I would ask for things and they wouldn't happen, I doubted whether God was listening.

Now, I reflect on how I ended up at the Rescue Mission. I think about how that bus driver befriended me and recommended that I go to a shelter, where I eventually learned about the Ogden Rescue Mission. I see God's hand in that, causing me to get on that bus and putting that bus driver in my life. I even see God's hand in the homeless people at the park who told me I had a problem. As I look back at all the steps I took, even steps that seemed negative at the time, I can see God guiding me so that I would eventually walk through the doors of the Ogden Rescue Mission. God led me to a place where I could learn about Him and start a relationship with Him.

Having a relationship with God has truly been a blessing. Beyond sobriety, God has changed me from that disrespectful kid I used to be. I now have a great relationship with my dad and talk to him regularly. My grandma (who once kicked me out of her home) is so proud of me she bought me a car that allows me to drive back and forth to work.

## EMPLOYMENT AND A NEW LIFE

About six months ago I started the job phase of the New Life Program. This phase of the program allows a person to continue to live at the Mission while working and saving money. The plan is to allow a person to save enough money so they can have a damage deposit, along with first and last month's rent for an apartment, as well as some savings.

I was blessed to get a good job at a packaging company that is capitalizing on America's love for dogs (so I guess you can say I am in the dog business). It's a good job and I have a great crew to work with. I have been able to save up enough money for first and last month's rent and should be able to move into my own apartment later this month.

I want to thank the supporters of the Ogden Rescue Mission. I am proud to graduate from the New Life Program as a brand-new person. Your support created the place God led me to so He could change me. Please pray that God would continue to keep me sober and employed. I do long to return to Southern Utah some day to be closer to most of my family. However, I realize I want any return to be in God's timing, so pray that I would be in tune with God's will for my life. Again, I cannot thank you enough for your support and the way your generosity has changed my life.

## CONNECT ON SOCIAL

We have great content on Facebook and Instagram, including video testimonies and more. Check us out on the platforms you use.

[Facebook.com/RescueMissionOgden/](https://facebook.com/RescueMissionOgden/)  
[instagram.com/ogden\\_rescue\\_mission/](https://instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission/)