

## HELP ENSURE OPERATION HYDRATION BRINGS COLD WATER AND LIVING WATER TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

It's getting hot and many of our homeless friends will not have access to enough clean water this summer. Without fluids, dehydration sets in, and our homeless friends can suffer sun poisoning, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. To help, we've launched Operation Hydration again this year.

Our mission is to supply cool, clean water to our homeless community while sharing God's message of redemption. We are purchasing water bottles and have water coolers in our kitchen and foyer. Additionally, we're opening our air-conditioned chapel as a respite. Besides cool air and water, our homeless friends receive hats, sunscreen, reusable water bottles, lip balm, cool showers, clean clothes, along with kind words and love. Here's how to help:

- 1. Collect supplies** – We need reusable water bottles, hats, sunscreen, lip balm, socks, and lightweight, long-sleeve shirts. Buy or collect these supplies and donate them to the Mission so we can put them in our Care Kits that we share with our homeless friends. Or better yet, you can assemble the kits yourself and bring them down to the Mission so we can share them with those struggling on the streets during this hot summer.
- 2. Give** – You can donate by using the enclosed envelope, give online at **OgdenRescueMission.org**, scan our **QR Code** in this newsletter, or call **801-746-1006** to make a secure credit card donation over the phone. Help our homeless friends this summer! Your support can help save a life from being lost to extreme heat and introduce a homeless person to Jesus!

Thank you for restoring lives and ending homelessness in partnership with the Ogden Rescue Mission!



Cold water can be the catalyst that gets people out of camps and into places like Ogden Rescue Mission where we provide love, cold water, cool air, refreshing showers, and a pathway off the streets and into faith, sobriety, housing, and employment.



July/August 2023  
OgdenRescueMission.org

# RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

When I came to the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake four years ago, I didn't believe in God. Today, with over four years of sobriety under my belt, I depend on Him regularly to help me and guide me through this often difficult world.

I came to the Rescue Mission as a broken woman, who had suffered through many traumas. I was escaping an abusive relationship, but even before that, my heart had broken.

## A DIFFICULT 15 YEARS

In 2003, as a young mother with little support, I decided to place my son, who was 18 months old, for adoption to keep him away from an abusive father. While I believe this was the best decision for my son, it broke my heart to part with him.

Five years later my mother was killed in a head-on collision where her bones were broken from head to toe. I felt like God had taken her in such a hard and brutal way that I stopped believing in Him. I didn't see how He could allow something like that to happen.

In 2013 I was married and had an eight-year-old daughter, but my husband was using drugs so often that I decided to leave him. I was also using drugs at the time and eventually had to sign away my parental rights, allowing my daughter to be adopted.

It was 2014 and I felt like a failure. Before she died, I had made my mother a promise that I would do everything I could to keep my daughter (her granddaughter) with me. In my heart, I believed I had failed not only my dead mother but my daughter too.

As I spiraled into deeper despair, my life fell apart, into addiction and homelessness. I was using meth and my day-to-day life consisted of, "what can I do to get some meth today." I slept in fields or wherever I could find a place for the night.



Two years after graduating from the Ogden Rescue Mission's Transitions Program, Kim Hunsaker is sober, employed, and living in Southern Utah.

Please see Kim on page 3

## RECORD-SETTING HOMELESSNESS IN UTAH

You might have seen in media outlets recently that Utah's 2023 Annual Data Report on Homelessness indicated Utah's chronically homeless population has nearly doubled (96% increase) since 2019.

A chronically homeless person is someone who has been homeless for at least a year, either continuously or in four or more instances within the last three years. The increase in chronically homeless people, which likely has many contributing factors, was blamed largely on Utah's lack of "deeply affordable" housing, Ksl.com reported.



Here at the Ogden Rescue Mission, I am thankful to say that your support enables us to be one of

the only remaining deeply affordable housing units in downtown Salt Lake. Not only are we "deeply affordable" we're free, because of your support.

We're free to people like Kim Hunsaker who shares her life story in this month's *Restored Lives*. Kim was homeless before she realized she needed help. Kim, has gotten sober, addressed life issues, connected to local recovery meetings, secured a good job, and reconnected with her family.

While Utah's Homelessness Report counts people living in temporary housing shelters like the Ogden Rescue Mission as "homeless" we are more than just a shelter. We link people with healthcare partners. We connect people with local churches. We teach

people the Bible and share the Gospel. We introduce people to our on-site, spiritual and life skills mentors. We help people find jobs and long-term housing. We enable people to address their life crises and become self-sufficient members of our community. We feed, clothe, and care for people, just like a family sharing a house would.

We don't want to be anyone's permanent home, but it's a fact that while people are with us, they have one.

Inflation, housing costs, food costs, increased addiction, and declining mental health due to the pandemic, and the general population increase in Utah have likely all contributed to the increase in chronic homelessness since 2019. But please know your support is helping people and allows us to reach this population in a faith-based way that other organizations can't.

We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we work to restore broken lives while record numbers of our homeless friends come to our door. With your backing, we trust that God will use this ministry to help those who seek our assistance off our streets and into self-sufficiency.

God bless you,

*Chris D. CroswHITE*

Executive Director

## HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS



Professions of Faith

**42**



Meals

**41,011**



Family Food Boxes

**435**



Nights of Shelter

**7,639**



Clothing

**4,147**



Hygiene Items

**12,368**



Day Service

**1,317**



Jobs Obtained

**4**



Housing Obtained

**4**

## Kim: Continued from the Front Page

Then, four years ago, I decided to seek help at the Ogden Rescue Mission. Something clicked in me. I was tired of life. I was tired of doing the things I was doing. I asked the Mission if they could help me, and they welcomed me in.

### A CHANGED LIFE

Since coming to the Ogden Rescue Mission, God has changed my life. I was able to learn how to work again, doing work therapy jobs inside the Mission. I helped our homeless female guests check in and obtain beds and other resources. I felt like my work was making a difference, but I also saw how hard it was for women living on the streets and knew I never wanted to go back.

Through the counseling and Bible studies I came to believe in God. I learned He didn't hate me, but had always been there to comfort and console me through my heartbreaks. I opened my heart and started praying to Him, asking Him to take my sorrows away and keep me sober for one more day. Then I prayed the same thing the next day.

As I depended on God and His Son Jesus, I found I could stay sober and could even have joy, despite my past pains.

Still, when I was just about to graduate from the Rescue Mission's program, my father was hit and killed in an auto-pedestrian accident. Through my time of sobriety at

the Rescue Mission I had rebuilt my relationship with my brothers who lived in Hurricane, Utah. I called them and said I couldn't live in Ogden any longer. There were too many bad memories for me there.

I was blessed when they said I could come live near them and have their support. Today, I live with my older brother in Hurricane. My younger brother along with many of my nieces and nephews lives a short distance away and are a great joy to me.

I have a good job at a popular truck stop and regularly attend recovery meetings that help me address ongoing issues and stay sober. I have reached out to both my son and daughter, who are both adults now, and hope to have them be a part of my life in the future. Still, I understand their hesitancy to have a relationship with me but trust God will heal those relationships when the time is right.

Please pray that I would continue to stay sober, stay on track, and be able to reconnect with my children. Thank you so much for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission and providing a place where God could change my life. I don't know where I would be today without your support.



#### WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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

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

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

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

#### SCAN OUR QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE TODAY

#### PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.621.4360

Donor Relations – **801.746.1006**

Mail: PO Box 1431 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1431

Volunteer: Email Natalie at [N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org](mailto:N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org)

Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah

