

HELP US GEAR UP NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It’s hard to believe but in two short months, our homeless friends will pour into the Rescue Mission for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet. As the day approaches, we are already gathering the supplies and support we will need to serve over 1,000 of our “street-famous” turkey dinners.

It takes a lot of resources and support to pull off the event. Besides hot Thanksgiving dinners, there will be God-honoring music, free warm clothing, showers, and hygiene items, along with haircuts and vaccines for those who want them. Our staff members and volunteers will be showing love to our homeless friends and, where needed, they will provide crisis care to the weary and downtrodden. Most importantly we will be sharing how much God loves them, how much we love them, and offer friendship and care.

Our goal is to create an experience so wonderful that our homeless friends will stay and join our New Life Program, which provides a pathway off the streets into faith, employment, and permanent housing. When one of our Thanksgiving guests makes the decision to join our New Life Program then we can truly say that their restored hope began with a meal.

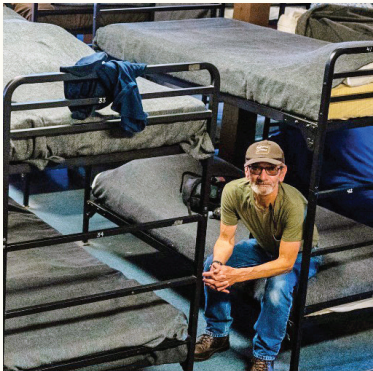
Besides are sit down meals in our dining room, we will be providing Thanksgiving Family Food Boxes to the working poor, so they can celebrate with loved ones at home. So please support our Thanksgiving Banquet and our upcoming busy holiday season.

Give Use the envelope included with this newsletter or scan the QR code in this newsletter, You can also call our finance office at 801.746.1006 for secure credit card donations over the phone, or visit OgdenRescueMission.org to donate through our website.

Donate We are also in need of warm clothes, winter boots, and other items (visit our website for a more complete list). We do not want to turn anyone away this holiday season and want to make sure no one will go hungry.

Volunteer Email or call our volunteer coordinator Natalie Lanza at N.Lanza@RescueSaltLake.org or 385-354-8165.

Please help today!



Our homeless friends enjoyed safe shelter, ate hot turkey dinners, and received warm clothes at our outreaches last year. We don’t want anyone going hungry this Thanksgiving!



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

It was just before the COVID pandemic hit with full force that I started looking for a new job. I was living in Las Vegas and being paid well, but my work was spotty. Sometimes it was busy, other times my boss would call me and say he had nothing for me to do that day.

As I searched for more steady work, I connected with an Ogden Company that built booths for trade and convention shows and then transported and installed the booths at various locations in Utah. The job fit my skill set and they told me if I could move to Weber County they would put me to work on a full-time schedule right away.

I had a little money in the bank. I found a place to live and paid my first and last month’s rent and deposit. I spent a significant amount on the specialized tools I would need to build the booths and presentation stands. Then I paid to have my possessions moved up to my new place in Northern Utah.

By the time I was done, I had very little money left, but was optimistic, looking forward to a new, dependable job and a new situation.

I went to work the first day. It was good and it seemed like I was a fit for the work we were doing. The next day the COVID pandemic dropped on the whole community. I, along with my coworkers, showed up to work and the building was closed and locked. We had no notice and I ended up receiving a check from the company for one day’s work.

With no money and growing resentment, I sat alone in my apartment. In a new town I connected with some people I shouldn’t have and started spending the last bit of money I had on prescription pain pills and other opioids. Most of the time I sat in my new place and felt sorry for myself. I figured I would stay there until they kicked me out.



Brandon Stratton has gained faith, sobriety, employment, and has reconnected with his family after finding help at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

Please see Brandon on page 3

FACING TRAGEDY - GOD’S LOVE STORY

People often ask me about making sense of tragic events, which frequently push people into addiction and homelessness. When looked at independently these events are awful – the death of a child, a divorce, a wildfire that kills hundreds. Often events are simply just evil, like physical or other kinds of abuse, murder even.



These tragedies, which we all face, can only make sense in light of God’s Love Story.

First, God created us in love, to have fellowship with Him, because He simply wanted to have a relationship with us. God created us in His image. He designed us to live forever and not face death, pain, and suffering.

Second, we (beginning with the first two people He created) turned our backs on God and broke off fellowship and relationship with him through sin, which in its simplest form is us wanting to be God of our lives, instead of letting God be God of our lives. This brought death and tragedy into the world (e.g., Judges 17:6— many do whatever is pleasing in their own eyes.)

Third, despite our fall from relationship with God, He reached back to His people. He sent his Son Jesus to live perfectly and then take God’s wrath for our fall on Himself, by dying a terrible death. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus provided healing and elimination of the consequences of sin, pain and death, for His people. God did not leave us in a state

of brokenness but reaches out to heal us. Fourth, God provides re-creation for people. Here on Earth God is changing His people, helping them overcome the sins they struggle with and follow His commands—so that it is joyful to follow Him, instead of cumbersome. Ultimately, when Christ returns, He will do away with all sin and evil and those who have trusted in him will be free from tragedy forever.

Our human story, then, only makes sense in view of God’s Love Story. God did not intend death and tragedy. The good news is that when mankind walked away, God did not leave His people as lost children, but sent rescue and a pathway into a new home with Him.

At the Rescue Mission, we model this heavenly reality on Earth. We provide rescue and a pathway off the streets into faith, sobriety, housing, employment, and new life. Let us not underestimate the impact of tragedy on our lives but let us also not understand tragedy through a lens that is absent of God’s Great Love Story!

Thank you for your support that has been allowing the Rescue Mission to share God’s Love Story with the victims of tragedy for over 50 years.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE
Executive Director

Brandon: Continued from the Front Page

When I was finally evicted it was summer of 2020 and I packed a big backpack full of most of my possessions, like my laptop, clothes, and identification. I walked outside and discovered a local homeless shelter, which required me to store my backpack in a shed if I was going to stay there. The next day when I went to get my backpack it was gone, and no one there knew what had happened to it.

I started living on the streets of Ogden with nothing. Sometimes, especially during winter, I would find quick low wage jobs and earn money and use the money to bounce from cheap hotel to cheap hotel while spending whatever I had left on drugs.

It was winter of 2021 when I was at rock bottom. I was taking shelter at a semi-enclosed bus stop from a blizzard that was blowing snow sideways. At the time, I had no idea what the Ogden Rescue Mission was, where it was, or what it did. By God’s providence, a person who was passing by saw I was in trouble. He stopped and told me that there was a place just two blocks down the road that could help me.

I went to the Mission that night and the next day joined the New Life Program. Since that day, my life has changed. Before I came to the Mission, I probably had picked up a Bible twice in my life, and that was just to move it from one place to another. In the New Life Program, I engaged in the classes and found I could understand what the Bible said. When I found out the meaning behind the words, I discovered I could enjoy the Word of God.

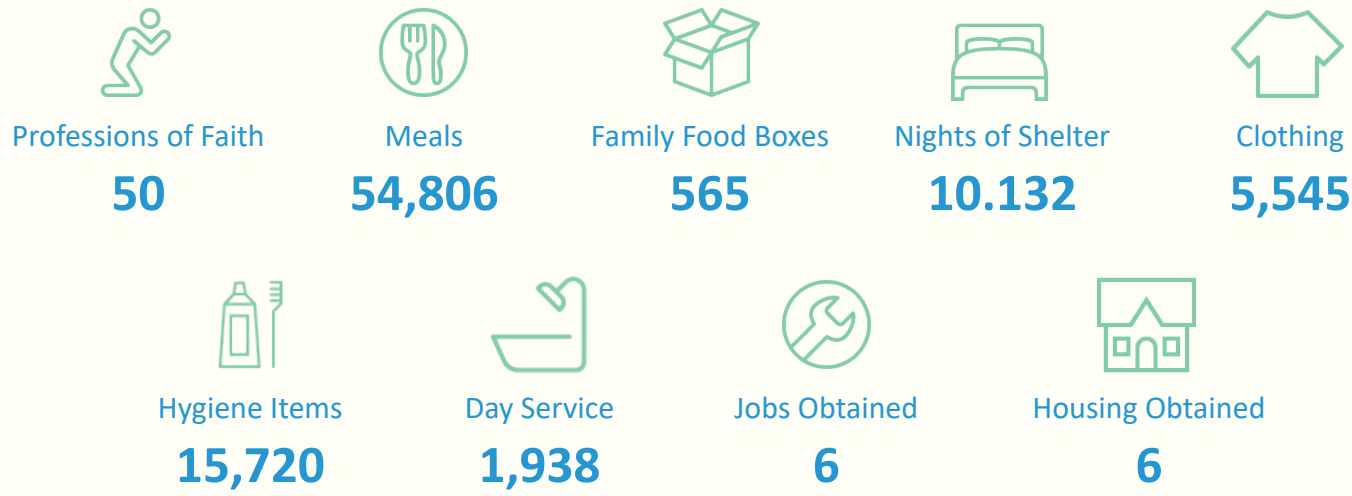
Now, when I get negative thoughts in my head, I open the Bible and find truth there that helps change my thinking. The work therapy part of the program helped me overcome the laziness I had grown into as a homeless person. Through the classes I received, I have been able to get sober and reconnect with my parents and siblings, who didn’t know what had happened to me for several years.

I have worked to get a new ID and Social Security Card back and have secured a job at a local business down the street from the Mission. The business owner has several different parts of his business so one day I might be working at the skating rink he owns and the next day I might be delivering a hot tub for the home spa part of his company.

I am saving up money and hope to be able to find a place to live soon. I have applied at several places, but (likely because of my eviction during COVID) I have not been accepted yet. I know, however, that God’s timing is perfect, and He will provide me with the right place to live at the right time.

Thank you so much for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission and for allowing people like me, who may have no other place to go during a winter blizzard, to find a place that will take them in and offer life-changing help.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS



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instagram.com/ogden_rescue_mission
Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

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