

OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM MEMBERS ARE THANKFUL FOR
YOUR SUPPORT & GOD’S HEALING!

CINDY

When I first came to the Ogden Rescue Mission, I was broken, addicted, and had no hope for a future. The ladies on the program took me in, showed me love, understanding and patience. I am in recovery alongside a family that loves and supports me.



ANGELA

The New Life Program has taught me to be humble and obedient. God has taught me to ask for my daily bread through prayer, to humble myself and He will meet my needs, and for this I am truly thankful.



VICTORIA

I am thankful to be surrounded by love, grace, and happiness. I am also thankful for a warm place to rest my head, meals to eat, and clothes on my body. I am thankful for all the blessings I have receive.



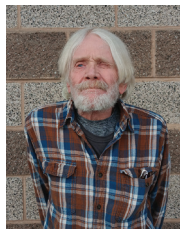
SHAUN

I am thankful for all the hardships throughout my life, and the opportunity to become a wiser and more grateful person, in the learning process of overcoming those hardships – with the greatest teacher ever known, Jesus.



DAVID

I am thankful: For God guiding me to the Ogden Rescue Mission and helping me find my way back to Him, for those at the Mission who help each other through our problems, for smiles, and for each new day!



SCOTT

I am thankful for the support I receive from everyone in the New Life Program and the classes that are taught. They have opened my eyes to a whole other world. Thank you!



HELP US MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A BLESSED
THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS

We are still in need of many items for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquets. **Our biggest needs are hams, turkeys, and warm winter clothes such as coats, hats, long pants, and gloves.** Donations and support for these items would be greatly appreciated. Through November and December (and really the entire winter) we see a huge demand for food, shelter, and clothing. With uncertain economic conditions, we expect this winter’s demand will be especially high. Please help today! You can give using the enclosed envelope, scanning our QR code, calling our donor relations office at 801.746.1006, or by going online at OgdenRescueMission.org.



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission



Alex Schmidt spent two months in jail, struggling, wondering if God was real. Then he saw a sign and received some advice that changed his life. Today, he is sober, employed, and connected to a local church.

I know it was God who led me to the Ogden Rescue Mission, after I saw the writing on the wall and a cellmate at the Weber County Jail recommended it to me.

As a teenager I struggled with depression. After I graduated high school, I found that opioid pills and fentanyl seemed to make my life more enjoyable for short periods. So, during some weekends, I would use drugs to make me feel better about myself.

Soon what started as a once-or-twice-a-month experience grew to an everyday habit. I had a good job— working from home as a customer service agent—made good money, had my own apartment, car, and a girlfriend I loved.

But my life came crashing down when, seemingly all at once, my roommate wrecked my car, the people closest to me, including my girlfriend, found out about my addiction, and I lost my apartment. With no place to live, I had no place to work. Interest waned from everything else in my life. All I cared about was fentanyl. I started stealing to get money to buy drugs. I was in and out of jail four times within the span of six months. My life was a mess.

After my last arrest, I was sentenced to five months in the Weber County Jail. It was hard for me to sleep as my body adjusted to not having fentanyl in my system. I spent the first two months tossing and turning, wanting to fall asleep but not being able to. Towards the end of that time, I cried out to God to show me a sign that He was real.

LET’S REVERSE THE TREND OF EVER-INCREASING HOMELESSNESS

First of all, Happy Holidays. I hope this season is filled with thankfulness, and the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

And while the holiday season brings happiness to many, it is also a reminder that more and more Utahns are spending the holidays alone on our streets. The economy is impacting individuals and families as this past year over 8,600 people in Utah became homeless for the first time. Moreover, according to the best data points we have there has been a 14% increase in homelessness from 2020 to 2023:



- > In 2020 – 9.6 out of every 10,000 people in Utah were homeless,
- > In 2023 – 10.9 people of every 10,000 people in Utah are homeless.

At the Ogden Rescue Mission, we are helping to address this growing issue. Our New Life Program provides education, life skills, and faith-based support to address the life-defining issues that cause a person’s homelessness. The program brings education, life-skills, and healing and helps people return to employment, a home of their own, and self-sufficiency. If there are services we don’t have in-house, we partner with other agencies, such as medical and mental health treatment providers.

We also deliver emergency services like meals, safe shelter, clean clothes, hygiene items, and a place that people can call home (e.g., receive mail, charge a phone, store a backpack, use the restroom, and take a hot shower). By providing a stable home, we seek to remove the chaos of the streets from a person’s life, so they can reach a stable point, feel God’s compassion, and strive toward restored life.

As a privately funded faith-based organization, the Ogden Rescue Mission does not receive any federal, state, or city funding. Everything is wholly supported through your generous, tax-deductible donations. Plus, 88% of every dollar given goes directly to programing to help people in need. The other 12% is used to pay costs to run the organization itself.

Thank you in advance for supporting our work this holiday season. As you can see, we need your help more than ever! We cannot do it without you. You provide a faith-based place where the increasing number of homeless men and women on our streets can find the true help they need.

God bless you,

Chris D. CroswHITE

Executive Director

Alex: Continued from the Front Page

At that exact moment I noticed someone had scratched, “God is here” into the cell wall near my bed. I was amazed that the very sign I had just asked for somehow appeared on the wall for me. Even though I realized those words had probably been there the entire two months I had been struggling, I had never seen them. I remember thinking, “this is literally the sign I just asked for.”

After that, I began asking for a tablet each day. The jail had tablets, like iPads, that some inmates could have in their cells and watch a limited list of programs. I knew some of the programs were recorded Bible sermons. The jail did not have many tablets because inmates would often break them out of spite or anger, but I was persistent in asking. Eventually, I started receiving a daily tablet that I could check out for the day and return before lights out.

I watched many sermons and became a follower of Jesus. When it neared time for my release, I grew nervous, wondering if I could stay sober on the outside. That’s when my cellmate happened to tell me about the Ogden Rescue Mission. When I was released from jail, I came straight to the Mission. I shared that I had heard about their Christ-centered New Life Program and that I needed help from a long-term program to stay sober.

I joined the New Life Program and went to classes, Bible studies, and nightly chapel services. I started reading the Bible and taking notes. As I went through the program, God changed my life.

Even though I still struggle with depression at times, I

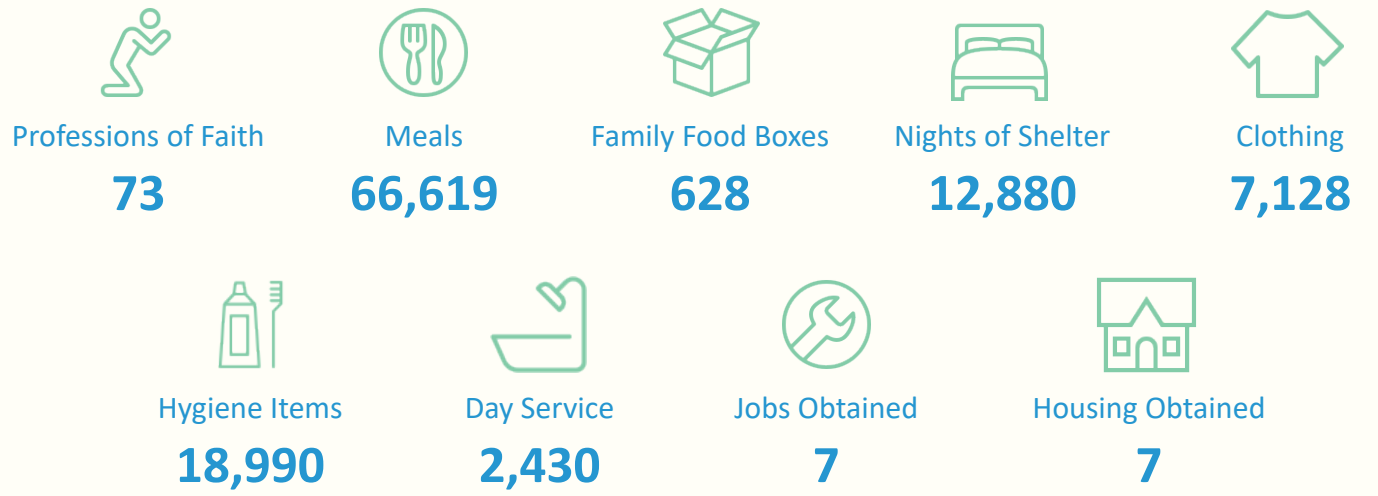
feel positive about the things I am doing. I am serving three years’ probation, but my probation officer told me I am doing the best of all the people he is working with and should be eligible for early probation termination. I will also be eligible to have my felony charge dropped to a misdemeanor, which will open new employment opportunities.

I did have a hard time securing employment when I moved to the job phase of the New Life Program, given my background, but God has blessed me with a job at a fast-food restaurant that pays well, so I am extremely grateful. As I am working, I am saving up money to pay off fines and other debts I incurred while I was living in my addiction.

My relationships with family members have greatly improved and my family wants to be a part of my life. I also have a good church family at The People’s Church in Ogden. I look forward to getting back into things like graphic design, which I have a talent for and gave me joy prior to my addiction.

Thank you for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission. There are so many people here in Northern Utah who are struggling with opioid addiction and need a place to come for help. Your support not only provides food, clothing, and safe shelter for the homeless, but also faith-based programs that can help people get off the streets and into sobriety, employment, and housing. Thank you again!

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR YTD STATS



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Facebook/OgdenRescue
Instagram@ogden_rescue_mission
Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

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Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah