

HELP THE HOMELESS RISE, RENEW, AND REJOICE THIS EASTER

As Spring begins to peek around the corner, we will be encouraging our homeless friends to Rise, Renew, and Rejoice at our annual Easter Banquet (the afternoon of Easter Sunday).

At our Easter Banquet, our homeless friends will appreciate the loving atmosphere, while receiving a delicious hot meal, free clothing, and the ability to join our New Life Program so they can leave the streets behind. And most importantly, they will hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter – Jesus’ resurrection!

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 donate. Here are some specific ways to help:

Easter Prep. We need volunteers to come to the Mission to help with meal preparation and serving food. Please call Judy at **801.621.4360** to volunteer.

Pray and give. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change lives of our homeless friends and donate 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 Rise, Renew, and Rejoice in the love of Jesus, even as they experience difficult life circumstances.

To give, please send a check using the enclosed envelope, Scan the QR code on this newsletter, 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** to donate online.

Easter is a blessed time to help our hurting friends Rise above their difficulties, Renew their life and Rejoice as they become the people God truly intends them to be. Thank you for your support that keeps our doors open every minute, every day!

Below are pictures from our Christmas banquet two months ago. We hope our Easter banquet will bring similar joy, and create the spark our homeless friends need to begin a new life.



RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

I came to the Ogden Rescue Mission after an Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P) officer suggested the New Life Program could help me and keep me out of jail.

That recommendation changed my life in so many ways. It has allowed me to become clean and sober for 14 months now, and has helped me reunite with my two sons, ages 19 and 16, and my ex-wife, who is their mother. Before I came to the Rescue Mission, none of them wanted anything to do with me. I was even able to attend my oldest son’s graduation from Ogden High School and enjoy playing online video games with my sons. Their mother and I get along again and spend time together repairing and refurbishing older phones and computers. It’s been a radical change since I was arrested and charged with two felonies in the fall of 2022.

BECOMING HOMELESS

My life had been going well up until my arrest. I was working as a welder at a Northern Utah company that makes quality outdoor equipment like basketball hoops and picnic tables. I had my own apartment, which was important for me, since I have struggled with homelessness on and off since the age of 22, when I first started abusing alcohol and drugs.

But then something strange happened. I contracted COVID and I don’t know or not if I started using drugs or alcohol again, but I lost about a week from my memory. The next thing I remember was being arrested for breaking into a restaurant. To this day, I am not sure why I broke into the restaurant. I don’t know if I was seeking shelter or wanted money or food.

I was charged with two felonies and lost my job and my apartment. That’s when the AP&P officer suggested I get



Brandon Rucker is sober, has a good job, and has restored relationships after coming to the Rescue Mission.

WE THANK GOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Here at the Rescue Mission, we are blessed that God has granted us favor with so many community partners, allowing us to provide complete life change for so many in Northern Utah.

We meet immediate needs (food, shelter, clothing) and bring people into a life-changing relationship with God and His Son Jesus. Spiritual transformation is at the heart of what we do and the beginning of change for any person. Our primary focus rests in the New Life Program, a life-skills and education program with one-on-one support and individualized plans for life change. We additionally help people create resumes, teach interviewing skills,

obtain employment, independent housing, and so much more than I can list here.

And while we do so much in-house, I appreciate how God blesses our ministry and the people we serve through our community partners. In my nearly 20 years at the Mission, we’ve had several people diagnosed with cancer. Local medical providers have been key in helping these men and women – and many others with serious medical needs – find quality charity care.

The legal system works with us and we appreciate public defenders, Adult Probation and Parole officers (as you can read in Brandon Rucker’s life story that he shares in this newsletter), and others who keep people out of jail and get them into the Mission’s

New Life Program as an alternative to incarceration. So many churches volunteer here and perform chapel services to encourage our homeless friends each night. Many in the food industry regularly supply us with meals or staples to keep our kitchen open. Individuals and business volunteer for clothing and food drives, or special projects around the Rescue Mission.

For those who need quick access to medical professionals for help with mental health or other issues, we provide referrals to our mental health collaborators. Additionally, there are several agencies who connect with us when those we serve need dental work to look more presentable in a working environment.

Maybe most critical of all is your support. Thank you for allowing us to not only provide comprehensive services at our facilities, but also to have a great reputation in the community, affording us the ability to connect with so many organizations that provide things the Rescue Mission cannot, such as medical care and prescriptions. As an unashamedly faith-based organization we do not receive any government funding and your support is what allows us to continue to freely share God’s love within our program and be a light for the homeless here in Northern Utah.

God bless you,

Chris D. Croswhite

Executive Director



Brandon: Continued from the Front Page

help at the Ogden Rescue Mission. He said they had a 13-month program that could help people like me who had struggled with homelessness, addiction, and had legal issues. While I had lived in and around Ogden since Fourth Grade, I knew nothing about the Rescue Mission, but faced with the choice of jail or prison, I chose the Rescue Mission.

THE HELP I NEEDED

At the Mission, the Genesis Process educational curriculum helped me communicate things that I had buried inside for a long time. Deep hurts that I now believe were the reasons I turned to drugs and alcohol to cope. Even when I couldn’t speak about some of my wounds, the curriculum allowed me to write things down. I was able to write things that I wouldn’t tell anybody and getting that out on paper helped.

As I went to Bible studies and other classes at the Mission, I discovered that I was not the only one going through the same things. Before, I was leaving myself alone on an island because I thought I was the only one struggling with painful past experiences. The Mission helped me realize I wasn’t alone. I came to understand that keeping things inside was more painful than sharing them with others who could relate.

The Bible studies at the Mission were not like anything I was used to in the church I attended as a child. I still feel like I have a lot to learn about God and the Bible,

but I do feel like God has helped me so much. It’s hard for me to express exactly how God has helped me, but I see the evidence of His help in my restored family relationships and sobriety.

EMPLOYMENT AND A FUTURE

For my two felonies I spent no time in jail and my AP&P officer is recommending early probation termination so I can be released from supervision and eventually have my charges expunged. I have been able to save up about \$2,500 working as a mechanic during the employment phase of the New Life Program, however, I am looking for a more stable job now. It will be hard for me to find an apartment, given my two recent felonies, but I am working towards finding a place of my own and getting my driver’s license and a car.

Please pray that God would lead me to the right place to live and the right job and that He would continue to guide my steps as I prepare to leave the Rescue Mission in the next few months. Thank you so much for supporting the Ogden Rescue Mission, which has helped so much to restore my life, my family relationships, and enabled me to talk about my past hurts. Please know your support does not help just me, but the lives of so many others who I have seen come through the Mission’s doors during my time on the New Life Program.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR 2023 STATS



Professions of Faith

100



Meals

88,630



Family Food Boxes

782



Nights of Shelter

17,105



Clothing

11,004



Hygiene Items

25,061



Day Service

3,165



Jobs Obtained

8



Housing Obtained

8



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

OgdenRescueMission.org

Facebook/OgdenRescue

Instagram@ogden_rescue_mission

Email: 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

Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah