OUR PROGRAM MEMBERS THANK YOU!

Each Thanksgiving season we feature a few quotes from our homeless friends. They are thankful to God and our wonderful donors for providing love, hope, and a path forward.

"I am blessed to be at the Rescue Mission, have a roof over my head, and to be clean and sober." ~ Johney S.

"I am grateful for pastor Greg. I have never read the Bible or been to a Bible study before. When I have questions he lets me come to his office and ask questions and learn." ~ Mohamad A.

"I am thankful to have food so I don't go hungry, a bed and warm blanket to sleep at night, running water for a shower and clean cloths, and the staff team who provide guidance and direction" ~ Tanya



Johney



Mohamad



Tanya



WE WANT TO SHARE LOVE THIS THANKSGIVING

As Thanksgiving approaches, the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake is once again preparing to serve a community banquet for the homeless — but we can't do it without you. This year, we are seeking to provide thousands of meals to our homeless friends and neighbors. But more than just food. Your support enables us to offer not just a meal, but the opportunity for spiritual renewal through the message of Jesus, and a chance at a new life.

Hot Meals & Dignity: Your generosity will help us serve over 30,000 meals this Thanksgiving season.

Spiritual Hope: Volunteers and staff will share the Gospel with banquet attendees, and we are praying for 100 professions of faith.

Ongoing Support: Our comprehensive programs offer banquet attendees life-changing opportunities for faith, employment, and recovery so they can leave the streets behind.

$50,000 YEAR-END MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

We have happy news and a challenge to share!

First, the happy news: A generous donor has pledged a $50,000 end-of-year matching gift to help the Rescue Mission feed, shelter, and clothe people in our community who are struggling most this holiday season.

Now, the challenge: We need your help to meet this generous donor's challenge! Every gift you make between now and the end of the year will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $50,000. That means your generosity will go twice as far. A gift of $50 becomes $100, and $250 becomes $500, providing even more help to those who need it most.

Please give today and help us make the most of this $50,000 matching opportunity! Use the enclosed card, scan the QR code in this newsletter, call **801.746.1006** to make a secure donation over the phone, or visit **OgdenRescueMission.org**.



OGDEN RESCUE MISSION
November/December 2026
OgdenRescueMission.org

RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

Thirteen months ago, I had a choice to make. I had just spent a year in jail and was finally off probation. I could go wherever I wanted and do whatever I wanted. I could return to my past life of using drugs and selling them, or I could try to get help. By God's grace, He showed me that I didn't want to go back to the life I had been living.

I had already seen where a life of being a gang member and using drugs would take me. When I was 13, I was shot with a gun for the first time. During my youth and due to gang activity, I was involved in five different incidents where I was shot, and one of those incidents left me in the hospital and nearly paralyzed.

FINDING THE HELP I NEEDED

When I got out of jail last year, I could have gone back to that life. Instead, a friend told me about the Ogden Rescue Mission. Surprisingly, I have lived in Ogden my whole life, but I had never heard of the Rescue Mission. When I came to the Mission, I knew I needed something different.

At first, I wasn't sure I was going to stay. I had never been homeless before and the faith-centered atmosphere was unique to me, since I didn't grow up going to church or reading the Bible. I thought about leaving the Mission during my first couple of weeks.



God has helped George Alejandre become sober, find a rewarding job, and grow into a better father.

But something began to change. The Mission gave me the opportunity to work and interact with people. I started a work therapy assignment at the security desk. That experience helped me see that I could live differently. I found that I could talk to people who were struggling with homelessness. I was able to share about the Ogden Rescue Mission's ability to help them get off the streets. I realized that I wanted to spend my life doing something that helped other people.

The biggest change, though, was my relationship with God. I believe I always knew God was real, but I didn't have a relationship with Him. Through the Mission, I began learning more about God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. I started

Please see George on page 3

CREATING THANKFUL DREAMS WITH AN EYE ON CHRISTMAS

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, I am reminded that gratitude is about more than recognizing the blessings we already have. Sometimes, it is about discovering that there is still something to look forward to. It is about finding hope, setting goals, and realizing that God has a purpose for our lives.



When people come to the Ogden Rescue Mission, many have been through so much that they have stopped dreaming about the future. They may have lost jobs, homes, relationships, and years of their lives to addiction or other struggles. Sometimes, they have simply reached a point where they cannot imagine things getting better.

That is why I am so encouraged by George's story in this newsletter. After years of drugs, gangs, and incarceration, George faced a choice. He could return to the life he knew, or he could take a chance on something different. Through the Mission, he began building a relationship with God, discovered the satisfaction of helping others, and found meaningful employment. Today, he is looking forward to graduating from our program, moving into his own place, and continuing to grow as a father to his two sons.

Perhaps most importantly, George has something to look forward to. He has goals. He has hope. And he has learned that his past does not have to determine his future.

That is what we want for every person who comes through our doors. We want to meet immediate needs with food, shelter, and care, but we also want to help people see beyond their current circumstances. Through the love of Jesus Christ, we want them to discover that life can be different and that there is a reason to dream again.

As Thanksgiving gives way to the celebration of Christmas, we are reminded of the greatest reason for our hope: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His love makes new beginnings possible.

Thank you for making this work possible. Your generosity provides more than a meal or a safe place to sleep. It helps people find hope, set new goals, and begin building lives they can be thankful for. Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ and give people a reason to dream again.

Chris D. Croswhite

Executive Director

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: MINISTRY-WIDE STATS THROUGH OCTOBER

Professions of Faith	Meals	Family Food Boxes	Nights of Shelter	Clothing
353	226,368	1,528	57,116	55,706

Hygiene Items	Day Service	Jobs Obtained	Housing Obtained
60,714	27,627	58	45

The Restored Lives newsletter is a monthly publication of the Ogden Rescue Mission. Newsletter Editor: Brady Snyder

George: Continued from the Front Page

understanding things that I had never understood before. When I looked back at my life, I began to see that there was a reason God had brought me through some of the things I had experienced. There seemed to be a God-ordained reason I went through my past. That realization helped me start a real relationship with God.

GOD GAVE ME A NEW LIFE

Today, I read my Bible at night before I go to bed, and I go to church each Sunday. I don't understand everything, but I am learning. I especially enjoy my church in downtown Ogden. I can be myself there. I don't have to act or dress in a certain way. I hear the Word of God, and people care for me, instead of judging me.

When I moved to the employment phase of the New Life Program, God provided. I had previously met a Mission volunteer who ran a business that helps formerly homeless men and women furnish their apartments. This volunteer hired me and, after saving some money from my first few months on the job, I had $1,000 to get my driver's license back.

Now I work full time as a delivery driver for the volunteer's nonprofit organization that delivers furniture to people who need it. We go into people's homes and help furnish their apartments. Sometimes formerly homeless people and families are sleeping on the floor when we first meet them. When we leave, they have a home instead of an empty apartment. I love my job because it is rewarding and fulfilling.

I'm also grateful for what has happened with my two sons. My oldest son is doing well, and I talk with him all the time. My youngest just got a scholarship to Weber State and I am so proud of them both. I was happy to attend my youngest son's scholarship banquet as a sober father. I used to have the mindset that my job as a father would be over once my sons turned 18. Now, I realize my job as a dad is never done. Whatever I lacked as a father before now, God has prepared me to commit to moving forward.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Today, when I have trouble, I can give any anxiety, anger, and fear to God and move forward. I believe in and trust Him. The Mission has given me a place to rebuild my life, but it has been more than a place to stay. It has helped me learn how to work, how to serve others, how to grow in my faith and how to look toward the future.

As I prepare to graduate and move out of the Mission into a place of my own, I'm grateful for how far God has brought me, and I'm thankful for the people who helped make this new beginning possible. This includes both the staff of the Ogden Rescue Mission, and you, the generous donors who keep the doors open and provide a faith-centered shelter for people like me who need help.

As I transition out of the Mission, please pray for me and ask God to help me live for Him each day. Thank you!

WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

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Instagram@ogden_rescue_mission

Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

SCAN OUR QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE TODAY

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