

# Salt Lake City Mission

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Charitable Giving: More Important Than Ever**

**During this economic upheaval most of us will make certain adjustments in our daily activities, such as: cutting spending, lowering gas consumption, shopping at second hand or bargain stores. People of most economic levels have to make changes. People on the fringe or (paycheck to paycheck) are on a thin wire. If they lose their job, with no reserve, they'll wind up in the street. This is happening as we speak. Those of us who serve the homeless are not in the position to cut back. We will see more people coming to us for help! We are the net below the safety net. If we cut back, the people we serve will find themselves in dire circumstances.**

**Looking at statistics we see there are more than 5,000 people across Utah who are homeless each night (more than 11,000, if you include children and young people who couch surf, stay with friends or other family). Sad to say, the fastest growing population is individuals less than 21 years old. This group has increased more than 60% in the last 10 years. 14% of the homeless are with no permanent place to live because of disabling physical and/or mental conditions. One-third of these are veterans who have already sacrificed so much for our country. Another 35% are families with no place to call home.**

**So who are the people we call homeless? They could be neighbors, friends or relatives. All of us know someone who has been touched by poverty, alcoholism, low income, injustice, substance abuse, death of a loved one, etc.**

**The homeless are not mere stats on a printout. They are individuals with hopes and dreams of a good life, just like all of us. Looking at the economy today we may be a lot closer to being in this number than we would like to believe. Truth is, we all need each other. We can help each other reach our full God-given potential if we see each other as we see ourselves. People matter and people make a difference.**

**A recent news report mentioned that thrift stores have seen a major increase in shoppers to their stores. People are flocking to these businesses like never before – People from more upper incomes than normally would visit consignment or thrift stores - The only problem - the thrift store shelves are emptying fast because donating is way down. More people are holding on to items they might have otherwise given.**

**God tells us if we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly. However, should we sow liberally (generously) we will reap liberally (generously). With the same measure we give it shall be given to us. The true key to prosperity during tough times – is giving to God and taking care of His chosen ones – the poor, homeless (many recently homeless) and destitute. During the 2002 Winter Olympics the Salt Lake City Missions' services to those in need more than quadrupled – We were financially on a thread! We did not cut back or waver – instead we continued to serve those in need. We were amazed by the generosity of people. It wasn't easy - it wasn't fun - it's what had to be done!**

**The Salt Lake City Mission is a non-denomination Christian Church / Mission offering services to anyone in need. The Mission provides the homeless, disadvantaged and chemically dependant people in the Intermountain area with long-term recovery programs such as The Second Chance Ranch and UpWord Motion programs for men. We also provide food & clothing, as well as biblical counseling, guidance and most importantly, a way out.**

**Administration Offices: 320 West 200 South, Suites: 110B & 120B**

**Men's Home: West Valley City, Utah  
Mission Ranch: Lucin, Utah**