

Connection

meals & miracles

Why do they come to the Kansas City Rescue Mission?

Do they come for the meals? Yes. For the shelter? Absolutely. But there are other ways to get food, and guys get resourceful on the streets. Talk to the homeless and you quickly learn all the hotspots for free meals in town. Some have favorite dumpsters, some beg at the back doors of restaurants for leftovers at the end of the day, some don't bother to eat, choosing to drink their hunger away.

"When you are on the street, you can get a hot meal from the food van that drives through the parks," says Ronnie*. "Or you can go to one of the drop-in centers around town," says Jim. "Or shoplift or just go without."

"If you are a country boy like me, you can eat from the land," says Dominic. "I've eaten squirrel, grasshoppers, berries and nuts for weeks. If you've got a pan and a dollar or two, you can make something good."

So why do they come to the Kansas City Rescue Mission? Why do they tell each other about it ... even brag about it? Because at KCRM you find **more** than just a meal, more than shelter. You will be welcomed, encouraged, invited to receive free medical care, spiritual guidance, help with ID. You will be handed a fresh towel and clean underwear before stepping into a hot shower. You will be given respect and an opportunity to feel respectable once again. You will be cared for.

These things may sound simple, but for those with nothing — absolutely nothing — they are priceless. And they open the door to a miracle ... the miracle of a changed life.

"Miracles happen," Arthur attests. "I found my miracle down here on Cherry Street. I was just looking for shelter, to get out of the elements. But I received a LOT more than that!"



*actual names not used

Connecting with Joe Colaizzi



One of my favorite stories of Jesus is the one about the loaves and fish. You know the one. Jesus is surrounded by a multitude of people who are away from home — temporarily homeless — and it is getting late. Some say He should just send them away because taking care of so many is a lot of trouble, but He doesn't want them to go away hungry. So He takes what someone gives — just one small meal — and feeds them all. ***And a meal becomes a miracle.***

I love that story because I see it happen again and again at the Kansas City Rescue Mission. A man with nowhere else to turn, turns to us. He's hungry and tired of fear-filled nights in alleys or parks or by the river. He decides to take his buddy's advice and come to the Mission for a hot meal, a refreshing shower and a comfortable bed. And time after time, I've seen that man stand and testify a few months later about the new life and new hope he's found ... and a meal becomes a miracle.

I wonder what it was like to be in that huge crowd when Jesus began to pass out just five small loaves and two fish. How wonderful and amazing it must have been to see the bread and fish just keep coming and coming. For every tired, hungry face that night there was enough. More than enough, even. I'm amazed at the Lord's compassion and creative generosity.

I also wonder where and when the miracle will happen next. But, make no mistake, it will happen. Somewhere someone will give a gift even though he or she might not feel it is very significant. That gift will provide a meal, served with care and warmth, for a person who is hurting and hungry. And from that meal he will begin the miraculous journey of hope and restoration.

If anyone you know ever questions that miracles really happen, bring him to the Kansas City Rescue Mission. I'll be happy to introduce him to a few.

Critical Needs

Please help us with these urgent food needs. Bring donations to 1520 Cherry Street any day of the week. Thanks!

- Canned vegetables
- Eggs, milk
- Bacon, sausage
- Grits
- Canned pie fillings
- Cake mixes

Overheard . . .

- From a former homeless client's voice mail to Lead Case Manager Sarah Thibault: "This is Herman, Several days ago you gave me a phone number that led to an immediate job. I just called to say thanks."
- From one volunteer to another: "We had a good time at game night ... I don't know when I've laughed so hard. The guys were NOT going to let the new guy win!"
- From a youth pastor from Edmond, Okla., after a missions trip to KCRM: "What a trip! I know it's cliché, but I feel we received more blessings than we imparted."

KCRM Wins Network Partnership Award

Tuesday, September 14, **Harvesters Community Food Bank** recognized network agencies, individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations for outstanding contributions to hunger relief in the Greater Kansas City area during its Circle of Hope Awards reception.

KCRM Food Service Manager Tara Richardson (pictured) accepted the Network Partnership Award, acknowledging the Mission's dedication to feeding increasing numbers of homeless individuals seeking assistance through our Free Meals Program. We are honored to be chosen and want to thank you, our faithful donors, for partnering with us to serve more than 90,000 meals to the hungry in the past 12 months.



Thanks to Your Hands, Hearts and Minds



“Many hands, hearts and minds generally contribute to anyone’s notable achievements.”

— Walt Disney



We provide an average 250 hot, satisfying meals for the hungry and homeless every day of the year — that’s more than 90,000 meals a year!

Thanks to you ...



Malnourished homeless guests get the balanced meals they need to build strength and heal. Pictured right, volunteer Donna Vinson prepares to hold an employee drive for canned veggies and cash for KCRM’s Free Meals Program.



Our caring kitchen staff uses your donated foods, Harvesters offerings and items purchased with your generous financial gifts to create menus that provide the nutrients our hungry guests need.

Thanks to you, KCRM was able to meet a record demand for meals in summer 2010. During the warm weather, the number of hungry guests coming for meals normally drops. But this summer, extreme temperatures coupled with the poor economy meant more people at our dining tables almost every night!

KCRM Grocery List for One Day

- 20 loaves bread
- 5 pounds coffee
- 30 lb. sandwich meat
- 30 lb. salad
- 90 cans vegetables
- 8 gallons milk
- 180 eggs
- 10 lb. cheese
- 160 lb. chicken
- 22 dozen cookies

take the
challenge
G2:10

Take the G2:10 Challenge! Would you like to help supply our kitchen with food for breakfast, lunch or dinner? Contact Paul Masao, church relations manager, to get involved at pmasao@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643. Or, head for kcrm.org to learn about other **G2:10 Challenge** activities for your church, business or group.





Kids Loved our Sept. 3 **Works in Progress**

Around 150 guests joined Kansas City Rescue Mission and the Crossroads Arts District for our September 3 **Works in Progress Art Show**. Kids and parents alike enjoyed a variety of art displays, face painting, clay and leather crafting, a moonwalk, and live music by LightWalker and the Hymnuts!

To learn more about the artists and musicians featured at **Works in Progress**, visit kcrm.org.

Thanks to "Hope's Heroes" from KCRM!

Dozens of companies stepped forward to help KCRM with special projects throughout the summer months. Kudos to **Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Key Bank, Boone Brothers Roofing, Westside Church, Bank of America, Century Link, Cedaridge Roofing** and so many others who gave generously to provide a safe, comfortable and secure environment for KCRM's homeless guests, residents and graduates. To learn more about these donors, visit kcrm.org and click on **How You Can Help/Hope's Heroes**.



Four **Specific** Ways to Help Right Now!

We encourage you to choose one of these specific ways to help, then note your choice along with your gift amount on the enclosed reply coupon. Thanks for meeting these important needs! To learn more about how your money is used at KCRM visit kcrm.org and click on Who We Are/Annual Report or contact Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643 or jlarocco@kcrm.org.

FOOD

Help meet our food needs October through December. During those months, we'll provide around 22,500 meals valued at more than \$46,000. Thankfully, in-kind donations of food and offerings from Harvester's help keep our costs down to just over \$33,000 a year so we'll be able to stretch your contribution further!

WATER

It's the most basic need humans have next to air! And it flows continually throughout KCRM as we minister to an average 140 men each night. This year, KCRM will spend just over \$15,500 to pay to keep faucets running and the toilets flushing. Your gift to this utility will ensure a clean, safe environment for our homeless guests.

HEAT

Winter weather can be brutal in Kansas City—especially for those who don't have a home or adequate clothing to protect from the cold. November through March, KCRM will provide an estimated 11,885 warm beds for homeless men, along with hot nourishing meals, refreshing showers and clean clothes. Keeping our guests warm will cost approximately \$16,000 this year. Every winter relief service we supply to our homeless guests depends on our ability to pay our gas bill!

LIGHTS

When the lights are on, it means someone is home! That's why it's imperative that KCRM keeps the lights on for the weary, lost wanderer searching for a hot meal, warm bed and message of hope. Without electricity, the lights go dark in our dorm, case management offices and healthcare clinic. We cannot operate our kitchen equipment, washing machines, or computers. To provide these and other necessities requiring electricity, the Mission budgets almost \$27,000 each year.

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