

A man wearing a green jacket, blue beanie, and blue jeans stands with his hands in his pockets, leaning against a black silhouette of a fence. The background is a bright, textured sunset with a large orange sun. The title 'Connection' is written in large white letters at the top, with 'KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION' in smaller brown letters below it.

Connection

KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION

“See, I am Doing a New Thing!”

— Isaiah 43:19

Robert squeezed his eyes tight against the sunlight and tried to wish away the nausea building in his stomach. His body hurt, his head hurt ... the result of another miserable day on meth.

Glancing up, Robert realized he'd spent the night in the parking lot across the street from Kansas City Rescue Mission — the very place he'd found shelter, food and hot showers for the past several weeks. Mentally kicking himself, he thought, “I keep ending up in this same stupid mess and I can't do this anymore!”

Seconds later, Robert's friend Alan thumped him on the foot. “Get up!” Alan insisted. “Let's go in and get on this program!” Together the two men made their way into KCRM's dayroom and asked for James Kehoutek, director of the Christian Community of Recovery. As Robert passed through the door that read “There is hope for all who enter here” he thought, “I'm ready for something new in my life.”

Though only 25 years old at the time, Robert had been using alcohol, pot, meth and other drugs for nine years. “I grew up in a small California town where lots of kids partied to escape boredom. There were lots of broken homes and mine was one of them.”

Robert relocated to Ohio in 2006 and then to Kansas City in 2009, hoping to shake his addictions and depression, and the sense of failure that so often dogged his steps. Though he stayed regularly in KCRM's emergency shelter, he wasn't ready to commit to recovery until that morning wake-up call and Alan's urging in the parking lot.

Robert learned a bed would open up in the Mission's Christian Community of Recovery (C-COR) in two weeks. He spent that time in a nearby detox center, where he also learned more about addiction and relapse prevention. Once in C-COR, Robert gave his heart to Jesus Christ and began to learn new life skills that helped him stay straight!

“I began learning what ‘normal’ is,” Robert grins. “When I went to visit my family at Christmas, we had a great holiday. It was wonderful to be with my parents.”

As of this writing, Robert, now 27, has been clean for 17 months! A graduate of C-COR, he is earning his high school diploma in KCRM's new onsite high school under the supervision of Dr. Jerri Sapp (*see page 3*).

“I've learned I can't do things my way. I've learned to live my life Christ's way,” Robert says today. “God really is doing a new thing in my life.”



Executive Director Rev. Joe Colaizzi (left) chats with KU basketball coach Bill Self at a recent fundraiser for KCRM.

Connecting with Joe Colaizzi

As I prayed and planned and thought about 2011 at the Kansas City Rescue Mission, time and again the phrase: "See, I am doing a new thing!" passed through my mind.

Those words from Isaiah 43:19 are exciting but, I must admit, a little intimidating. I've never questioned that God cares about KCRM and has had a plan and purpose for the Mission since it was founded in 1950. In fact, I believe KCRM exists as an extension of the heart and hand of God to those in our community who are poor, homeless ... and often desperate ... without hope.

So when I sense God's prompting that He wants to do "a new thing" at KCRM in 2011, I'm humbled that He chooses to *use us* and filled with anticipation of how He *will*.

At KCRM, we are declaring this the year of new things! What *new things* will God do in the hundreds of neighbors in need that will turn to us this year? Last year, we served more than 1,500 who came to us hungry, without shelter, injured, sick, looking for direction.

What *new things* will be accomplished through our donors, volunteers and staff who help shoulder the load?

For years we've dreamed of opening a women's center to respond to the growing needs of homeless single women. Now, doors of opportunity are opening around us and it appears this dream of a *new thing* will be a reality in the months to come. I look forward to telling you more about this vital ministry as our plans progress.

As God reveals His purposes for us, I know two things for sure ... He loves the poor and He will supply every need. Please pray with me that we will be ready for the *new things* that await us in 2011.

Overheard...

- **In a phone call from a former KCRM guest:** "Please thank everyone for being there for me. I had no idea places like KCRM existed before two weeks ago. Thanks for helping me get home to St. Louis."
- **During a conversation between a case manager and client:** "I know I'll be able to sleep tonight because finally I have hope that things are going to get better."
- **In a phone call with an online donor:** "Your website and online giving page was so easy to navigate that it helped me choose KCRM for my Christmas donation."

KCRM is Proud to Announce...

After a year of prayer and teamwork, Kansas City Rescue Mission has been awarded "Certified Excellent" status by the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. To achieve this status, the KCRM staff reviewed, improved and, in some cases, expanded each department, practice, program and service and created a strategic plan for the future. We'd like to thank Allen Pickett, KCRM operations and facilities manager for his leadership in this effort.



You Shared Christ's Light at Christmas



"Christmas was a blur of activity, but our volunteers and donors were so generous! With their help, we were able to fulfill our entire wish list and bless 170 homeless men!" reports Volunteer Coordinator Juliann Hansen. Here, residents in C-COR enjoy opening Christmas gifts chosen especially for them.



KCRM's Theme for 2011:

God is Doing a New Thing!



As you might have guessed already, Kansas City Rescue Mission is revving up for an exciting year! On this page, we'll tell you why we're embarking on a new ministry for single homeless women and update you on an exciting new venture in our Learning Center. To learn more, contact Julie Larocco at jlarocco@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643. Be one of the first to get involved!

Single Women on KC's Streets

For several years, social service agencies have acknowledged a growing population of single homeless women struggling to survive on Kansas City's streets. Some suffer from multiple issues including mental illness and addiction. Those with "dual diagnoses" are doubly difficult to work with and often fall through the cracks.

Here's how single homeless women fared in Kansas City in 2010, according to the Hotline for the Homeless:

- Unduplicated single homeless women using the Hotline: 560
- Beds available for single homeless women on any given night: 64
- Calls single homeless women made to the Hotline: approx. 2,000 (ave. 5.5 per day)
- Callers left unassisted: 1,127 (ave. 3 per day)

KCRM hopes to provide 20 beds to address this need, increasing available bed space 33 percent!

In 2009 and 2010, Kansas City Rescue Mission conducted two studies to verify that single homeless women are still underserved, and our research confirms it.

Now KCRM is taking serious steps toward providing emergency shelter and long-term care for these hurting women. Please pray for them and for KCRM as we prepare to meet this vital need.

An Onsite High School for C-COR Residents!

Dr. Jerri Sapp enjoyed her position as Division Chair of Innovative Adult Education at MidAmerican Nazarene University. But she felt God calling her to a new position — helping KCRM's C-COR residents grow in academic and practical life skills. "So I took a sabbatical in 2005 to develop the Mission's learning center," she recalls.

In June 2008, Jerri resigned her position at MNU to become the learning center's volunteer supervisor. Now she teaches life skills, job search training and computer literacy. "I also help men who want to attend college apply for financial aid and I help others study for their GED or high school diploma." **High school diploma?**

Yes! Last year, Dr. Sapp began developing the KCRM Academy, an onsite high school for C-COR residents. "The GED is too difficult for some men who have been out of an educational setting for a long time," she explains. "If we can acquire a resident's high school transcripts, he can earn his high school diploma in far less time than it takes to achieve a GED."

Currently five men are enrolled in the KCRM Academy! To learn more, contact Dr. Sapp at jsapp@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643.



Dr. Jerri Sapp shows Dale, a KCRM Academy student, a new curriculum.

Easy Ways to Support **KCRM** in 2011



Royal's Hall-of-Famer John Mayberry stopped by to drop off a generous donation from the Royal's Alumni Foundation. Development Officer Julie Larocco was lucky enough to receive the check and a hug!



Jason Howard and Kevin Corlew of **Shook, Hardy & Bacon** drop off donations collected after an employee Jeans Day. The company also provided free legal support to KCRM as we trademarked **Community for Hope**™ — our giving partnership.



Members of the Clayton Family joined us Christmas Eve to pass out gifts to grateful KCRM clients.

Share a portion (or all!) of your income tax refund — You can apply that tax-deductible gift to receive an even bigger refund in 2012!

Sponsor a friend-raising gathering in your home — Invite three or four friends or couples to your home for a simple meal and get-together with Executive Director Joe Colaizzi and one of the members of our C-COR program. This is a wonderful way to informally introduce your friends to the work of KCRM.

Join Community for Hope™ — When you give a monthly gift using the electronic transfer of funds or your credit card, you can stop worrying about remembering to make your donation. Our **Community for Hope**™ donors help KCRM build a foundation of support we can count on all year long.

Donate real estate or other non-cash gifts such as business inventory, jewelry, antiques, cars, boats ... the list is endless! We'll sell your contribution and use the money to help the homeless; you'll get a tax deduction for the gift.

Leave a Legacy of Hope for the future — We are blessed that a growing number of our faithful donors are remembering KCRM in their last Will and Testament. If you feel called to remember the "least of these" in your Will, the following statement may be helpful: "I [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Kansas City Rescue Mission, Kansas City, Missouri, ___ percent of my estate for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Take the G2:10 Challenge! — We appreciate our wonderful church and business donors and volunteers who help collect urgently needed items, raise cash through Jeans Days and other fun activities and help with our special events. Contact Paul Masao, KCRM church and community relations manager, at pmasao@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643 to get involved.

Become a KCRM Core Volunteer — Pledge to work once a week in our clothing room, sorting, sizing and hanging donated clothing for homeless men in need.

To learn more about these and other ways to become a partner in KCRM's ministry, contact our development department at (816) 421-7643 or jarocco@kcrm.org.



How Do You Want to Hear from Us?

KCRM communicates with our supporters through:

- Regular letters from Rev. Joe Colaizzi
- Bi-monthly newsletters
- E-newsletters
- Our website at KCRM.org
- Facebook (search *Kansas City Rescue Mission*)
- Twitter (Twitter.com/kcrm)
- Tours and speaking dates
- Lunch 'n' Learns

If you'd like to join any of these lists (or would like to receive less mail), please let us know. Email jarocco@kcrm.org or call (816) 421-7643. Thanks!

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