

CONNECT

“Hey KCRM! What are you doing with my money?”

Each year, **Kansas City Rescue Mission** survives and thrives solely through donations from individuals, churches, businesses, private foundations and organizations. We don't receive government funding, choosing instead to rely on — and be accountable to — our donors.

We respect your right to know what we do with your money. So we asked several donors to submit their questions about giving.

What I'd really like to know about giving to KCRM is this: On the average, in a year, how many benefit from my gift? — Jeanne

In 2013, KCRM provided services to 2,677 men, women and children. Our kitchen served 84,006 meals, our dorms provided 31,342 nights of safe shelter and more than 100 men participated in our recovery program. Check out our annual report at kcrm.org to learn more.

With so many hurting people in need of help, it is important to serve them regardless of their faith. Do you share the love of Christ with your homeless guests? — Jean

Your question speaks to the very heart of KCRM. We do share Christ's love with our clients through our chaplaincy, counseling and compassionate action. That action takes the form of relief, recovery and re-entry services that offer freedom from the past and hope for the future. This is just one reason why we don't use tax dollars to fund our ministry.

What form of contribution is actually the most beneficial? — Don

Without a doubt, KCRM relies on the financial gifts of donors, but vital contributions come in many other forms too: planned gifts, materials and time spent in prayer, volunteerism and advocacy. Donors who faithfully and consistently invest in these ways become partners with KCRM, building a strong fiscal foundation, a strong staff, strong programs and strong results. So, the most beneficial contribution is the commitment one makes to really get to know KCRM, our guests, our residents and our needs, and form an intentional working partnership.



What percent of my money actually goes to help the needy at KCRM? — Harold

Out of each dollar KCRM receives, 78 cents go directly to helping our homeless guests and recovery program residents. That leaves 22 cents for administration, fundraising and public education. KCRM also receives thousands of in-kind gifts each year, including clothing, hygiene products, food, medication and more. These are all used to benefit our homeless clients at KCRM and, when there's an excess, at other shelters, too!

You can learn more about KCRM's stewardship practices at kcrm.org under "About Us" or visit gkccf.org to review our profile and Guidestar rating. And turn the page for more information about what we do with your money!

A New Life: Head to Toes

“That skin is just as fresh as when I was a baby and had never walked before,” Bill exclaims. “This is my first winter experiencing a new sensation!”

To say Bill is back on his feet would be a huge understatement. A year ago, he hobbled in to Kansas City Rescue Mission referred by a local hospital. He had been living in his truck when he suffered third-degree frostbite on his feet during a bitterly cold night.

The hospital sent Bill to KCRM with a note from a doctor that read, **“It is imminent that he will lose six of his 10 toes.”**

Liz Preston, KCRM’s nurse and health clinic manager read the note and immediately thought, “Not on my watch!”

“I took that diagnosis as a challenge,” Liz remembers. “I used all of my nursing skills to do everything I could to help Bill and believed that God would do something supernatural.”

And what happened next was nothing less than just that — supernatural!

For several weeks, Bill stayed at the Mission ... sleeping in the dorm, enjoying three meals each day in the dining hall,



Bill is glad to be on his feet all day at his new job, thanks in part to Nurse Liz’s expert care.

receiving guidance and assistance from case managers ... as Liz spent hours meticulously coaxing his severely damaged feet back to health. He got to know our staff and watched the lives of the men in our Christian Community of Recovery (C-COR), KCRM’s residential recovery program for men.

For the first time in his adult life, Bill began to read the Bible and felt a sense of hope that there might be healing for his heart as well as his feet.

“I began to see a miracle happening to my feet,” Bill recalls, “and I felt God near me like I never had before. I was reading the Bible and I was feeling something but I didn’t understand it. I wanted answers so I applied to join C-COR ... and I’ve found them!”

Today, after “210 hours of classes!” Bill is a graduate of C-COR, and has experienced the physical, emotional and spiritual healing for which he hoped. His feet are completely healed and, each morning as he walks to his new job, Bill is reminded that God has made him a new man while at KCRM — **head to all 10 toes!**

In a note from a volunteer: “KCRM is my home away from home. Serving third Sunday lunch and attending game night each month are true blessings for me!”

OVERHEARD

KCRM, how are my donations used?

ON ANY GIVEN DAY in 2014, we’ll use your gifts to provide ...

Relief

- 266 balanced and nutritious meals
- 120 safe, clean shelter beds and access to hot, refreshing showers
- 55 articles of clean clothing

Recovery

- 50-60 men and women with recovery programs
- 16 case management sessions
- 9 healthcare appointments

Restoration

- 18 chaplaincy counseling sessions
- 5 chapel services, Bible studies, devotionals
- 30-40 men and women in life-skills classes

Please note! Monday through Friday, our administrative office staff handles KCRM’s mail, inventory, purchasing, accounting, operations, record-keeping, IT, human resources and more. Our development department raises the resources to meet our annual budget — and the unexpected — along with developing tools for educating the public and our donors. For more information about KCRM’s administrative and development teams, contact Julie Larocco, development officer, at jlarocco@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643, ext. 141. Thanks!

How Can I Help in 2014?



May 2014: Change for Change

Our goal: \$3,000 for 2,000 bus passes

Here's your chance to empty the mason jar filled with pennies on your bookshelf ... the coffee mug overflowing with quarters on your desk ... or the pile of pocket change gathering dust on your TV stand!

May 1-31, donate your change to Kansas City Rescue Mission and we'll morph it into **The Metro** bus passes for homeless men and women. With no other option for transportation, bus passes for **The Metro** allow our homeless guests to make it to medical appointments, job interviews and work assignments.

Your **change** will help **change** their lives for the better!

Would you consider coordinating "Change for Change" in your workplace, church, neighborhood or group? Contact Julie Larocco, jlarocco@kcrm.org or Paul Masao, pmasao@kcrm.org to get started.



Top Critical Needs in 2014

You can never go wrong when donating these items our clients need every day! Drop donations at 1520 Cherry Street, Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Call Julie or Paul at (816) 421-7643 with questions or visit kcrm.org and click "Join with Us" for a complete list of critical needs. Thanks!

- New underwear, all sizes to XXXL
- New and gently used men's walking shoes, all sizes
- New and used men's jeans, all sizes
- Toilet paper
- Sanitary products
- Depends, small, medium
- Reading glasses, any strength
- Cold and flu medications, non-alcohol
- Frozen meat, lunchmeat
- Bus passes
- NIV Bibles, large print

OVERHEARD

From a KCRM employee talking to a desperate caller: "Tell your friend when he is ready for help, God is ready to help and so are we."

Above and Beyond!

Patty Shelhorn doesn't do anything half-way, which KCRM learned when she agreed to coordinate the Men's Center Christmas for residents and clients this past year. Patty, with her husband Sam and their son and daughter organized the preparation of 165 generous gift packages, handling everything from promoting needs to inventorying, wrapping — even last minute shopping!

"The Shelhorns personalized this event to make it more special for the guys," Volunteer Coordinator Kyle Kumer noted. "They provided special cookies and treats for stockings and even purchased matching devotional guides for the men on the program so they could study together!"

"Patty and her family helped make this one of the best Christmas celebrations we've ever had at the Men's Center."

Thanks, Shelhorns, for going above and beyond!



Kyle, left, with Patty, Sam and Spencer Shelhorn, Christmas Eve

CONNECT

with Rev. Joe Colaizzi

This issue of our newsletter is a report card of sorts — an opportunity to give you a glimpse of how your prayers, gifts and time impact people in need. **Thank you for all you've done!**

You may have noticed we've made a slight **and** significant change in our newsletter's name. Slight in that we've simply dropped a few letters from the word "Connection." Significant, because it reflects our commitment to actively "Connect," bringing you every opportunity for serving, giving and advocating for KCRM and our homeless guests and residents.

And you've obviously made a commitment to "connect" with us! In fact, I'm amazed at your creative compassion. But then, God often uses creativity to meet needs.

One of my favorite examples is found in Matthew 17: Jesus tells His disciple Peter, who has a need, to go to the sea and fish. He tells Peter to look in the mouth of the first fish he catches, where he'll find a coin to meet his need. Now that's creative!

Each of us can relate to Peter because we all have needs. But think about this: **sometimes we are like the fish!** Sometimes we carry the solution to someone else's crisis. **Sometimes we are the answer to someone's prayer.**



KCRM Executive Director Joe Colaizzi (far right) prays for Bill at his graduation.

I'm glad that, when Bill (see page 2) was in trouble, someone like Liz was in the right place at the right time. **And you were there, too!** Each time you've reached out to "connect" with KCRM, you've helped provide vital resources to men and women who desperately needed help. Like Peter's fish, God put you right where you were for a reason. What a comfort it is to know you're standing ready to connect with us. Thank you and God bless you!

From a KCRM Facebook fan on a bitterly cold night: "Flat tire, washer frozen from the cold, daughter has the flu, car won't start ... but we have a home! We'll pray for you."

OVERHEARD

What 2014 KCRM events should be on my calendar?

Women for Restoration:

Women Who Can for Women Who Can't

Tuesday, June 10, 11:30-1:30

This "for women only" event must raise at least 20 percent of the KCRM Women's Center annual budget! This year, we'll feature testimonies from women who've found hope at the Women's Center, a great raffle, lunch buffet, music and opportunities to give. We will also unveil our new Women's Center video!

Here's how to get involved:

- Host a table of "women who can" from your church or business
- Sponsor one or more seats at the event: a full table is \$5,000; half table — \$2,500; two seats — \$1,000, one seat — \$500
- Provide a raffle item
- Raise money and awareness by distributing WFR coasters to friends and coworkers

Contact Julie Larocco, chief development officer, at 816-421-7643, ext. 141 or jarocco@kcrm.org to learn more.

KCRM Awareness Month

July 1-31

Reserve a "Tour and Talk" for your church, business or group in July. *Tours will be at your convenience* — weekdays, weekends, day or night! Groups can tour one or both KCRM facilities, and hear testimonies from our residents and opportunities to learn about volunteering and giving. There's no better way to learn about KCRM than to meet with us face to face!

Contact Paul Masao, church and corporate relations, at 816-421-7643, ext. 136 or pmasao@kcrm.org to reserve your spot.

TP Tower Challenge and Rally

September 1-31, October 3

Build a **TP Tower** at your workplace, church or other location, snap a photo and turn in a "roll count." Then Friday, October 3, bring your TP donation and join us for KCRM's **Works in Progress Art Show and TP Rally** to learn if your group wins the prize!

Contact Juliann Hansen, event coordinator, at 816-421-7643, ext. 116 or jhansen@kcrm.org to join the challenge!

The **CONNECT** newsletter is a publication of KCRM

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