

# CONNECT



## “I knew it was a **miracle,**”

Debra exclaims. “I found out I could come stay at the KCRM Women’s Center on November 4 last year, which was right before it turned so cold. I got off the street just in time, and I knew God made it happen!”

Debra has been sober since that day — a full year! “I’ve been clean before,” she recalls, “but this time something has lifted off me. It’s just the Lord!”

Debra is generally a quiet woman, watching and taking it all in. She isn’t given to talking a lot, or talking loud, but today ... in her own way ... she is bursting.

“I’m really honored to get a chance to tell you — to tell everybody — how great this place has been for me! I’ve learned so much from the classes they have here and the structure they provide. And I don’t have to worry about where I’m going to sleep or finding my next meal; I’ve been able to just take the time to learn and grow and change.”

Debra began drinking when she was 15, maybe as a way to cope, she thinks, with a difficult early life in foster care. Alcoholism drove a wedge between her and her family until she found herself living on the street for several months.

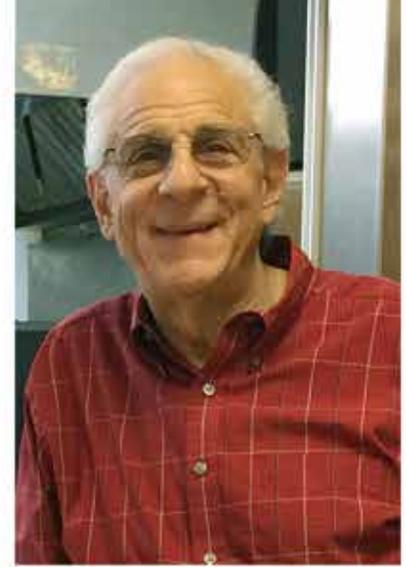
“I was pretty much hopeless before I came here. I didn’t care what happened to me. But now ... I’m full of hope! I might be 56, but I’m even thinking why not start new. I might have a career ahead of me! I can be a success!”

If success is marked in renewed relationships, Debra is off to a great start. Last Christmas, not long after coming to the Women’s Center, she knitted her son a blanket. “He was so proud of it that he put it up where nothing can happen to it! He sees a real change in me, and I want to make him proud.”



# Cheering for **Comebacks**

Rev. Joe Colaizzi, Executive Director



**I'm not one to complain** but it's not an easy assignment to sit down to write about the holiday season on the day of a World Series parade! **There's a buzz around the KCRM Men's Center right now because just three blocks away thousands of people are lined up to cheer and congratulate the Kansas City Royals.** You can feel the excitement all through the city.

1985, the year the Royals won their first World Series trophy, is the same year Marilyn and I began to serve at KCRM. Thirty years between championships is a long time, but this year's team has sure made it worth the wait.

What I love most about this team is this: **they are the Comeback Kings!** All through the playoffs, it seemed like they were coming from behind to win. In fact, they set a record by coming back to win after being down by multiple runs in seven different games. Wow!

**We know something about comebacks at KCRM, too.**

Addiction recovery is a difficult journey and sometimes just when it seems like one of our residents is making a breakthrough, they have a setback. It's frustrating, maybe even disheartening.

But Proverbs 24:16 is a wonderful reminder: "For a

righteous man may fall seven times and rise again." God is a God of second chances ... and third chances ... and fourth ... and more.

Believing in comebacks doesn't mean we take lightly the damage that addiction and relapse can do to addicts and those who are close to them. KCRM values the power of tough love. But we are convinced that God doesn't give up, and if we are following His example, we won't give up either.

Throughout the playoffs, when the Royals would fall behind, players and coaches reported that there would always be someone in the dugout saying, "It's not over! Don't quit! We've got this!"

At KCRM, **the same encouragement echoes through counseling sessions, classes, chapel services and even across the dining table at supper.** "You can do this! Don't give up. You're ready for a comeback!"



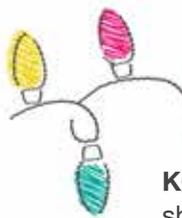
## Sydney's Thanksgiving Gift to KCRM



**Sydney Phillips is a high school junior** with a big vision to help the homeless. For the second year, Sydney coordinated several Thanksgiving drives, bringing in more than 2,500 pounds of food!

### **Sydney's thoughts on why she gives to KCRM:**

*My journey with Kansas City Rescue Mission has not only taught me organizational and preparation skills, which I will later use in my business and public relations career, but also spiritually opened my eyes to make a difference. Through a little luck, a little faith and a lot of hard work, I have learned that anything you put your mind to can be accomplished. One person can make a difference, and with an army there's no telling what the capabilities are.*



# HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

KCRM is preparing special Christmas activities that share God's love and compassion, and give our guests and residents the sense of home they miss. Individuals, families and groups will deck our halls and supply holiday meals and cookies while churches provide special programs. To join the fun, call Kristen Ray at (816) 421-7643, email [kray@kcrm.org](mailto:kray@kcrm.org), or go to [kcrm.org](http://kcrm.org) and click "Christmas Opportunities."

## Women's Center gift packages

- Bathrobe
- Slipper socks
- **Jesus Calling** devotional
- \$25 Wal-mart gift card
- Fun tote bag
- Lotion

## Men's Center shelter guest gift packages

- Backpack
- Rain poncho
- Composition notebook and pen
- Hoodie
- \$5 Cosentino's card
- New Testament (NIV or MSG)
- Ski gloves (water resistant) and hat
- Thermal socks and underwear
- Pocket planner
- Pocket flashlight

## Men's Center C-COR resident gift packages

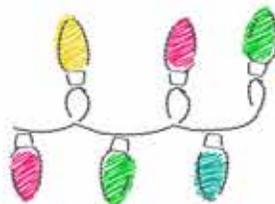
- **Experiencing God** devotional
- **The One Year Bible**
- Zip-up hoodie
- \$25 Wal-mart gift card
- Bound journal and pen
- Reading glasses

## Gifts that Give Year-round

*These are gifts that will remain KCRM property so they can be enjoyed by all of our homeless guests and residents!*

*Call us for details.*

- Nintendo Wii systems and games
- Large storage cabinet
- Cash gifts for new dining hall dishes
- Under-the-bed rolling storage units
- New packaged underwear and socks
- Large jugs of Lysol and hand sanitizer
- Travel mugs
- Towels and wash cloths
- New or used winter coats



## The Awards Keep Coming!

For the second time since 2013, KCRM's food service team has received the Harvester's Circle of Hope Award for its quality service to the community. Tara Richardson (right), seen here with Harvester's President and CEO Valerie Nicholson-Watson, heads up KCRM's food service team, well known for serving the best food in a Kansas City shelter! "Our partnership with Harvester's and the generosity of our donors make it possible," says Tara.

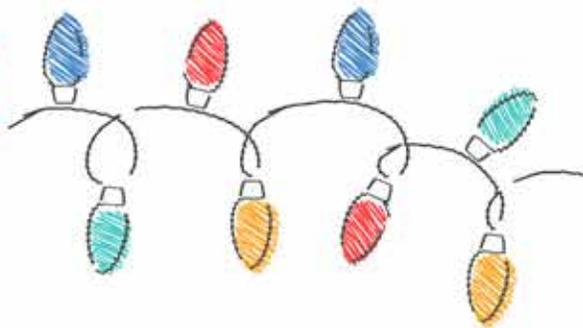
## A Reunion Selfie!



*Left to right: Charlie, Rosanna, Thomas, Marilyn and Joe*

**On a recent trip to Florida**, Joe and Marilyn Colaizzi caught up with Charlie Green. Charlie graduated KCRM's recovery program a decade ago and later worked for the Mission before starting his own successful business. "It was encouraging to see Charlie doing so well, and to catch up with his wonderful wife, Rosanna," says Joe. "But maybe best of all was meeting Thomas, their whirlwind, two-year-old son!"

# NEWS AND NOTES



## Madeline's Garden

In October, this beautiful fountain, donated by **Christ Church Anglican**, was installed in the Women's Center garden, and will be surrounded by flowering trees, roses and perennials this spring. As a tribute to the KCRM supporter who donated the land, the garden is being named Madeline's Garden. Thanks to so many generous donors, it is now fully funded, and we look forward to a grand opening in April or May!

## A Big Night Out for a Great Cause!

Throughout the month of December, KCRM will be **The Melting Pot's** charity of choice. When you purchase the "Big Night Out" and make a donation to KCRM, the restaurant will discount the price of your dinner. What a great way to end a day of Christmas shopping on the Plaza! Visit [meltingpot.com](http://meltingpot.com) to learn more.



Julie Larocco, development officer

## KCRM or IRS?

Between **October 1 and December 31**, KCRM hopes to raise 50 percent of its total annual income. How we end 2015 will tell us a lot about how financially healthy we'll be the rest of the year.

Your year-end gifts of cash, stock and other assets mean a lot to us—and to you, too. Consider whether you want to support the needs of your homeless neighbors in need with a final tax-deductible gift in 2015 OR whether you'd rather pass that wealth on to Uncle Sam in 2016.

When you give to KCRM, you can provide generally for our annual budget or designate your gift to a special project or program you love. To learn more, contact [jlarocco@kcrm.org](mailto:jlarocco@kcrm.org) or (816) 421-7643.

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## Why You Can Give with Confidence

- ➔ KCRM does not sell, rent or trade your name to anyone ... ever!
- ➔ KCRM has a 4-star rating with stewardship watchdog Charity Navigator and is a member in good standing of the BBB.
- ➔ KCRM has a reviewed profile at [gkccf.org](http://gkccf.org).
- ➔ KCRM is completely transparent—you'll find our independent audits and 990s on our annual report at [kcrm.org](http://kcrm.org).