

CONNECT

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Endurance Runner

“It’s hard work, running. Especially when you first start out, when you’re not used to it. But it’s cool when you run with others, and they encourage you along the way if you start to fall back. I wanted to share that with my brothers here at KCRM.”

Amos is grinning big as he explains why he’s been encouraging the guys in *C-COR to run with him. In fact, he and 17 other KCRM men recently participated in a 5K run together (*see photo, next page*).

“Running is like facing sobriety, doing something you’ve never done before. You begin to realize, ‘Hey, I can do this! I just conquered that hill!’ And we help each other; we’re right beside each other the whole way.

“Most of us who are addicts or alcoholics don’t know how to have fun while sober,” Amos explains. “But I watched every one of those guys at the 5K having so much fun! I was running back and forth, taking pictures, thinking, ‘Thank You, Lord! That smile, right there! That’s what it’s all about!’”

Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

– Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

The encouragement and camaraderie of running is something Amos is leaning on as he faces his own addictions more seriously than ever before. “I’ve gotten sober before, but I’ve never in my life had my heart change the way it has here at Kansas City Rescue Mission. I have a relationship now with Jesus that has changed me,” he says. “I have a 9-year-old daughter who needs a daddy and being here is helping me get ready for a life with her.”

As Amos prepares to graduate from C-COR soon, he recognizes that living sober — and even more, being a father — is a marathon, not a sprint. But he is determined to run with endurance, keeping his eyes on Jesus ... and enjoying the journey!



Connecting with Joe Colaizzi

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a **cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

— Hebrews 12:1 NKJV



Christian Community of Recovery residents, along with those who came to cheer them on, gather to pray before they begin their 5K run together.

A frustrated staff member at the Mission asked the other day, “Can someone please explain the cloud?!”

The “cloud” is a popular term in our internet culture, yet I’m not sure any of us knows exactly how it works! But there *is* a cloud I know something about ... Hebrews 12 calls it a “cloud of witnesses.” Have you ever taken off on an airplane on an overcast day? As you rise higher off the ground, the plane is enveloped by the clouds until finally it bursts up into sunshine.

That’s how it is at KCRM. A broken, hurting person comes to us, desperately trying to get his or her life off the ground. That’s when staff and volunteers and other clients begin to surround — encouraging him that he can make it, giving her tools to make a lasting change — until light and hope break through.

You are part of that “cloud of witnesses” too! **Each gift, each donation, every moment of time and prayer given** becomes **encouragement** to those who turn to KCRM. To **encourage** means to **put courage in**.

When Amos (*page one*) wanted to do something significant during his stay at KCRM, he went to the clothing room and found that someone had donated a pair of running shoes that fit perfectly. That gift, from someone like you, **put courage in** his heart to begin to run again, and likewise, Amos began to encourage the rest of the men to run with him.

When Danielle was ready to begin a new chapter after months of study, prayer and counseling at the KCRM Women’s Center, Grace Church **put courage in** her heart to go back to work by surprising her with a new car on Mother’s Day. And the cloud of witnesses who generously give to supply the ongoing needs of KCRM helped change embarrassment to **encouragement** for Tommy (*below*). I bet his big smile in the photo on the right will tell you just what you did for him.

That’s the cloud I know about. People loving people, surrounding each other with encouragement and generous help. **Thank you for being part of this great cloud for KCRM. We need you!**



What a Difference!

“Nurse Liz is kind of a mom to all of us,” C-COR graduate Tommy explains. “She goes out of her way to help us all. She noticed I didn’t smile much because of my teeth, and told me she was going to help me get dentures. I never asked her about it after that, but one day she came and said she had it all set up. She took funds from her budget and had a doctor all ready to take care of me! I am so thankful to Nurse Liz and everyone who gave. I just walk up to people now and ask them if they want to see me smile!”

Answers to Your Planned Giving Questions

Donor: I would like to donate several collectibles to Kansas City Rescue Mission. Will your organization determine their value for my income tax deduction?

KCRM: Around 90 percent of Americans' wealth is in non-cash assets like those you want to give. By law, KCRM cannot appraise your collectibles or establish their value on your behalf. To receive an acceptable fair market value for tax purposes, I recommend you take your collectibles to a reputable appraiser (the IRS will not accept an insurance appraisal) before making your donation. At tax time, you will need both the donation receipt you receive from KCRM along with a professional appraisal.



Julie Larocco

For more information about giving non-cash assets to KCRM, contact Julie Larocco, chief development officer, at (816) 421-7643 or jarocco@kcrm.org.



Fill the Freezer

In June, a generous donor provided the money for a chest freezer for our Women's Center. Now we'd like to fill the freezer with lean meats that will provide more protein and less fat! If you'd like to help, contact Kristen Ray, (816) 421-7643 or kray@kcrm.org. Thanks!

Have You Entered Our **TP Tower Challenge?**

Churches and businesses will compete throughout **August** to see who can raise the most packaged toilet paper for KCRM! Then **Friday, September 4, 6-7:30 p.m.**, the groups will rally at KCRM's Main Office, 1520 Cherry Street, to build their towers and sculptures, enjoy a finger food buffet and hope to win the 2015 TP Trophy!

Wanna join the challenge? Contact Kristen Ray, volunteer coordinator, at kray@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643.

Please note: The KCRM *Works in Progress Art Show* scheduled for First Fridays, September 4, has been postponed until further notice.



Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene wins the coveted TP Trophy for 2014.

Did You Know?

The **TP Tower Challenge** saves KCRM \$6,000 each year – money that can be used to provide other programs and services to our homeless clients!

Help Complete Our Prayer Garden this Summer

Two years ago, the lot behind the KCRM Women's Center boasted a decrepit two-story house where a continuous stream of people shopped for drugs. After a donor purchased the lot for KCRM, we knocked down the eyesore, preparing for the day we could add a gracious garden offering our residents a place of peace, security, recreation and growth.

That day has come and we're inviting you to get involved! Visit kcrm.org/garden where you'll find opportunities to sponsor trees, bushes, flowers, benches, tables – even a fountain! If your gift is in memory of a loved one, we'll add a plaque in his or her honor. To learn more about KCRM's garden, please contact Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643, ext. 141 or jlarocco@kcrm.org.

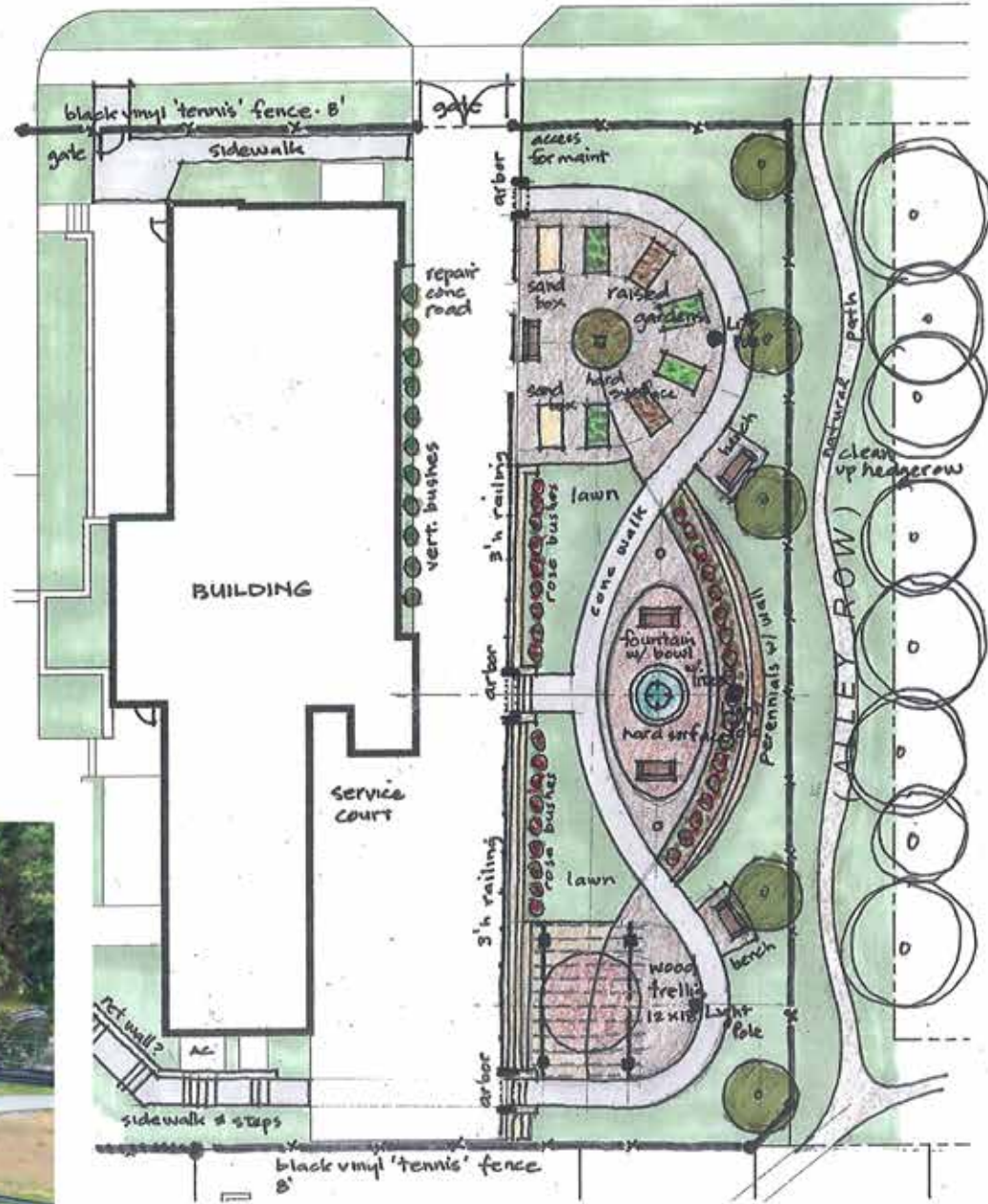


Photo and artist's rendering: A walking path, soon to be surrounded by flowers, trees and raised beds, winds through the Women's Center garden.



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In 2005, Dr. Jerri Sapp began volunteering at the KCRM Men's Center, and only God knew all that would come from that commitment. In the 10 years since, Dr. Sapp has revamped the library, and created a media center and a learning center. She's developed life- and job-skills training and KCRM's own high school.

At the recent **Women for Restoration** event, Dr. Sapp was presented the 2015 Volunteer Service Award. Thank you, Dr. Sapp, for the hundreds of lives you have changed!