

There is hope
for all who
enter here

← It's Still True!

KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION

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CONNECT

To celebrate Kansas City Rescue Mission's 65th anniversary of compassionate services for our city's homeless, you will find excerpts from Executive Director Joe Colaizzi's book **Takin' It to the Streets – Again** throughout this issue. As you'll discover, times have changed, but hearts remain burdened and hurting when bad breaks and poor choices have blown a person off course. That includes KCRM's founder, Dr. Jarrette Aycock, who found himself lost and alone on a very pivotal day:



At 8 years old, Jarrette was chewing tobacco and rolling his own. He was the youngest of eight children, the favorite, pampered by the family. They tried their best to steer him straight but his knack to find trouble led to fights and mischief most of the time. By the time he was a teen he was constantly in trouble and rebellious at school. At 15, he was drinking whiskey.

After seven attempts at seven different schools, Jarrette Aycock sold everything he owned, went to the town water tank and waited for a freight train to anywhere. For years he drifted around the country,

"Go in, lad. You might hear something that would do you good."

hopping freights from city to city. An alcoholic and a wanderer, sometimes a tramp, he gambled and drank.

One night, a bitter and dejected Aycock walked along Skid Row in Los Angeles, cigarette hanging from his lips, the fumes of whiskey on his breath. The sound of a gospel song stopped him cold. There, between two open saloons, he saw the Union Rescue Mission. "Go in lad," a stranger said, "you might

hear something that would do you good." As he walked through the doorway, a sign that read "There is hope for all who enter here" caught his eye.

Takin' It to the Streets — Again

Dr. Aycock founded KCRM in 1950 with the desire to bring hope to the hurting and lost in Kansas City's Skid Row. He made sure the words of encouragement that had first welcomed him to a rescue mission would also greet each one who turned to KCRM. Today if you approach KCRM for help, you'll find those words printed right on the client entrance: ***There is hope for all who enter here. And it's still true!***

Pictured above: Rev. Burt Hotchkiss, who became KCRM's director in the late 1950s, shows a new guest the message.

Joe Colaizzi

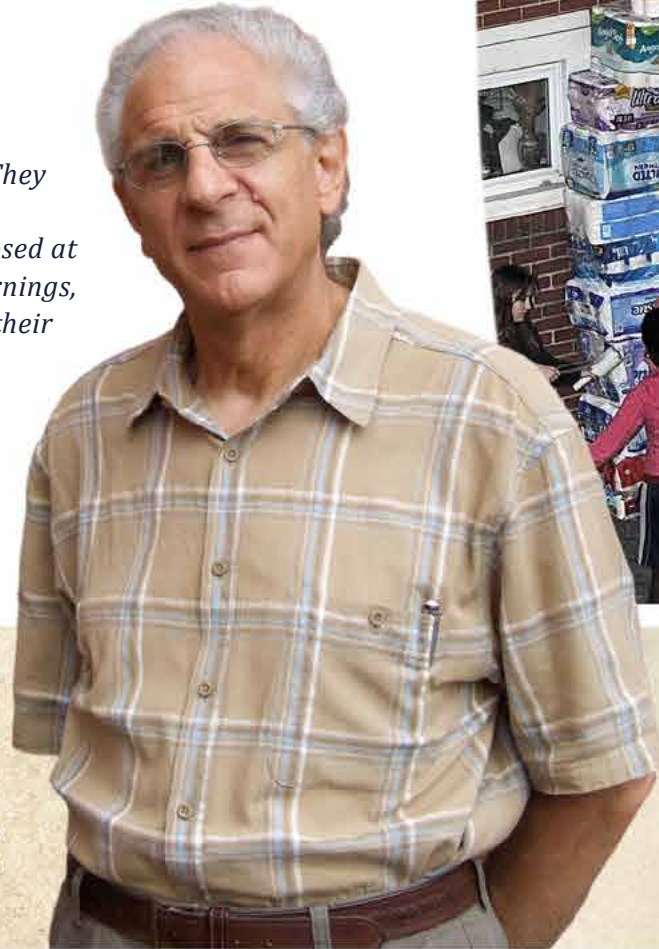
Executive Director

Almost half. It seems hard to believe when I look down at those words, but it's true. I've served as executive director of Kansas City Rescue Mission for 30 of its 65 years of existence. That's almost half – well, 46 percent for you sticklers. I thought you might enjoy a few lines about our early days from my book about the history of KCRM, **Takin' It to the Streets – Again**.

The 49ers were playing the Dolphins that year in Super Bowl XIX. Miami kicked off at 3 P.M. just about the time I officially kicked off my career as executive director of the Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM). Marilyn and I were excited. Even if I was the only paid employee, and even when the discussion at my first official District Properties Committee meeting centered on the question, "Should we sell the building and shut down the ministry?" We saw no problems, only opportunities.

A deteriorating turn-of-the-century building had been home for the Mission for more than 22 years. It was a three-story brick structure with a basement, located in the River Market area of Kansas City. Only the basement and first floor were in use and usable.

The ministry, focused primarily toward homeless men, offered hope in Christ through daily chapel services as well as food, shelter, and clothing. A crew of six formerly homeless men lived there full-time and handled daily chores — cooking, cleaning, and laundry. They'd take turns answering the only phone in the place. They all assisted with crowd control during the busy times; these occurred daily. Every evening 20 or so homeless men converged on the Mission just before the doors closed at 7 P.M. when the gospel service began. Then came dinner, a shower, and sleep. Mornings, after breakfast, the overnight guests would leave, and the crew went to work on their chores. A noble plan that, at times, played out somewhat as described but lacked supervision, accountability, and leadership. And that fact energized me. It gave me purpose beyond the books, a tangible outlet to combine and apply New York experience and textbook theory. Through hands-on ministry opportunities to preach, teach, counsel, administrate, dream, and grow, the Mission provided fulfillment. School no longer overwhelmed me. KCRM was a gift.

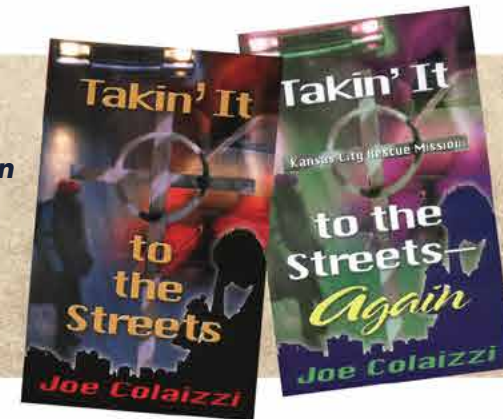


Although I've had the privilege of witnessing the meals served, the hope offered and thousands of lives changed over the last 30 years, it has been you and your family and your neighbors and your church and your coworkers – and the many KCRM staffers who have labored and given generously over these years – who have been the hands and feet of true compassion. Thank you, my friends.

— Joe

Joe Colaizzi's two books are available for \$5 each. **Takin' It to the Streets** features Joe's personal testimony of his season of homelessness and his search for God. **Takin' It to the Streets – Again** tells KCRM's story and Joe and Marilyn's early ministry here.

For more information, call (816) 421-7643, ext. 110 to speak with Alisha. You can also read chapter two of the second book by clicking on Joe's note on the kcrm.org home page.



May-September 2015 Calendar of Events

To participate in or learn more about any of these great events, contact our development department at (816) 421-7643 or jlrocco@kcrm.org. Thanks!

May 1-31 Change for Change

Empty those mason jars and mugs and donate your change to KCRM! We'll turn your pennies, nickels and dimes into bus passes and prescription medications for homeless men and women at KCRM. Contact us to coordinate a drive at your workplace or church, and we'll fix you up with a large container, labels, brochures and more to make your drive a success!

June 9 Women for Restoration

The fourth annual WFR luncheon will raise at least \$100,000 to support the KCRM Women's Center, which opened July 15, 2013. During the event, you'll hear testimonies from residents who are determined to change their lives for good! Contact us to learn more about sponsoring this event, hosting a table or reserving your seat.

July 1-31 KCRM Awareness Month

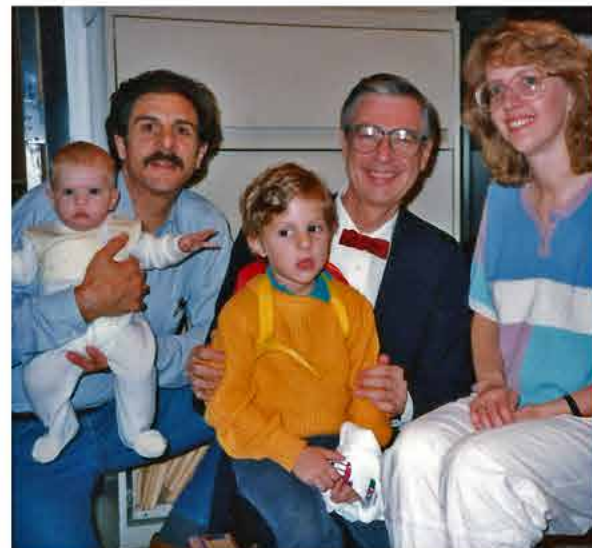
KCRM hopes to give a tour every day in July! Reserve any day of the week for a tour of our facilities – we'll even treat you to lunch at our Men's Center or Women's Center. Call or email to schedule your tour.

August 1-31 TP Tower Challenge

This drive is a blast for kids and adults alike! Accept our challenge to build the highest tower or win the ultimate prize – a TP trophy for the most TP collected. Contact our development department to get in on the action.

September 4 Works in Progress Art Show and TP Tower Rally

KCRM will join the Crossroads Art District for a First Fridays art show with activities for the whole family! We're looking for local artists who'd like to participate, along with music groups and kids who love art. During the art show, we'll take time out to judge the TP Tower Challenge and award our TP trophy. Call or email to get involved.



Did You Know?

Joe Colaizzi worked with **Mister Roger's Neighborhood** as a young man. Joe will tell you that Fred Rogers was as kind and gentle in person as generations of children knew him to be on television.

Joe and Marilyn's daughter Janna, currently completing a Ph.D. in developmental psychology, recently interned at Sesame Street, following in the early steps of her dad!

A visit to "The Neighborhood" – Janna, Joe, Joey, Fred Rogers and Marilyn



Critical Needs

- New underwear for men and women
- Twin-size blankets, sheets
- Large cans or cases of vegetables
- Family-size cans of low-sodium soup
- Non-alcohol flu and cold medications
- Coffee

For donation drop-off information, call (816) 421-7643. Thanks!

Raising the Bar, Fueling the Future

In this last excerpt from Joe Colaizzi's book, *Takin' It to the Streets – Again*, he writes about the need to increase the excellence of ministry to the poor and homeless:

Our objectives were clear. Constantly demonstrate the love of God. Treat clients with respect and dignity. Empower, don't enable them. Encourage them to leave their past behind, seek forgiveness and reach for a hope-filled future in Christ.

In 2015 and beyond, our passion to raise the bar in quality of care and impact of ministry continues to grow. To learn more about what KCRM is doing to fuel the future of compassionate service to the poor and homeless, log on to kcrm.org/excellence.

There you can watch a series of short videos from staff and volunteers telling how the Mission is increasing quality of care in client ministry, residential programs, nutrition, health services, safety and more!

kcrm.org/excellence



Homemade **HOT**-spitality!

Legacy Christian Church held a chili cook-off and asked ladies from the KCRM Women's Center to be the judges! In the photo at the left, Danielle is taking her responsibility very seriously as she tastes several samples from a muffin tin. Below, Doretta, Jessica and Angie are just having a good old time at the event.

Thank you Legacy for spicing up our clients' day in such a creative way!



A Small Premium, A Great Gift!

One of the simplest legacy gifts you can give to Kansas City Rescue Mission is to name the Mission as beneficiary to a small life insurance policy.

"Many people have small policies through their workplace," says Julie Larocco, chief development officer. "An employee who has already invested in a much larger policy might ignore the small one the company has provided as part of a benefits package. But imagine how many homeless people that \$10,000 policy could feed and shelter at KCRM."

Naming KCRM as beneficiary in a small life insurance policy can impact and improve the lives of the homeless for years to come.

For more information or to let us know of your life insurance gift, please call Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643, ext. 141 or email jarocco@kcrm.org.



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

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