

CONNECT

OUT OF HEARTBREAK, INTO HOPE

AS YOU READ THIS there is a very good chance that John is either in class ... or studying ... or working. Though it may not sound exciting to you, this is hope becoming reality for a young man who had all but given up only months ago.

John is attending a ministry training school, preparing to become a youth pastor, and working almost full time as a food truck sous-chef. "I have a testimony that I believe can help young people," he says, "and I know God has called me to minister to them."

He knows well the traps that are laid out for a young person. "I started drinking around age 13," John recalls. "I grew up in a small town and drinking was simply what you did to fit in. At first it made me feel like the life of the party, but in my high school years drinking became my identity."

Not long after graduating, John did something else that seemed natural for a teenager in a small Kansas town — he married his high school sweetheart. "I wanted to be a good family man and work hard and do the right things," John says. "I stopped partying like I had through high school, and we decided the best way to be grown ups was to have a baby."

But tragedy jolted the young couple when their infant daughter was stillborn just weeks before her due date.

John spiraled out of control in his grief. His marriage fell apart and he escaped back into alcohol and even into cocaine. Heartbroken and lost, John eventually found himself alone, addicted and discouraged.

But, finally, he quit.

Sitting alone in a motel room in Kansas City, out of money and options, John quit trying to fix his life and asked for help. He came to KCRM and, after a short time as an overnight client, John joined our recovery program at the Men's Center.

"At first I still wanted to bargain with God," he remembers, "but one day in class I just dropped to my knees and cried out to God and told Him I was willing for Him to take all of me. And He did!"

In the months that followed, John's life has changed. Even in the heartbreak of losing a child, hope has taken hold in his heart. John completed the program and is pursuing his passion to serve God by loving others, especially young people who need to find an identity in Jesus, rather than in drugs or drinking.

"I've found my purpose!" he says. "I'm excited to begin again."



Share Your Gratitude with

9-DAY CELEBRATION OF THANKS



NOVEMBER 18 AND 19, KCRM and its volunteers will prepare, pack, and deliver 200 food boxes to struggling families. Each box contains the ingredients for an abundant Thanksgiving meal.

Then, Thanksgiving morning, KCRM volunteers will deliver Thanksgiving dinners to the homes of elderly, disabled and other vulnerable people, with or without. With each box and meal, we'll include a message of love of God.

NOVEMBER 19-27, churches and other groups are invited to host a Thanksgiving Men's Center during our nine-day *Celebration of Thanks*. KCRM is planning to serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal. How can you provide food for our Thanksgiving Day meals a few months ahead?

BE A KCRM THANKSGIVING PARTNER!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kristen Ray at (816) 421-7643 or kray@kcrm.org for information about the opportunities below. Call soon — these positions fill very fast!

- Adopt-a-Box! Provide one or more of 200 food boxes for *Operation Family Feast*. Call for a list of food items or sponsor one or more boxes for \$51.
- Thanksgiving morning, help deliver meals to hundreds of low-income homes around Kansas City. (Call for special requirements and availability.)
- Create handmade Thanksgiving cards with your little ones. We'll include them in each box and meal. We need 700 altogether! Contact Kristen for a digital card to print and decorate.



Extraordinary Meals, Extraordinary Love – by Rev. Ray

How long does Thanksgiving last at your house? Maybe your answer is “Not long enough!” or maybe if you're ready for company to go home, it's, “Too long!” Well, how about nine days?

At KCRM, our *Celebration of Thanks* is a nine-day feast that men on the street look forward to all year long. Each evening has a unique menu, and it's all delicious!

Why do we do it? Just as Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday season, I've witnessed many times a new season begin in the life of a man who

came to KCRM for an evening because he found himself in need of love. That is the simple reason for today and hope for tomorrow.

As you take a moment to think about your food list and other opportunities, please ask you to please support us with a financial donation. There is a great need for extraordinary love, and I am thankful for you.

Executive Director Joe Colaizzi prays for a man graduating from KCRM's recovery program.

Help Your *Neighbors* in Need

OPERATION FAMILY FEAST

Volunteers will team up with local churches to assemble boxes for families living in poverty. Each **Family Feast** box includes a Thanksgiving dinner with plenty of leftovers.

Volunteers will deliver 500 piping-hot Thanksgiving dinners to often isolated individuals who would otherwise go hungry. Volunteers will also create handmade cards that share a message about the importance of family.

Volunteers will provide special dinners at the KCRM Thanksgiving Dinner of Thanks! Then on Thanksgiving Day, volunteers will provide a Thanksgiving feast at lunch and dinner. Can you help? Please contact us and help fill our pantry shelves for the winter months.



OPERATION FAMILY FEAST FOOD LIST

Your donations of the following foods will help fill 200 boxes and provide food for struggling families this Thanksgiving season. Bring items to **1520 Cherry Street, KCMO**. Make sure to note your donation is for "Thanksgiving." **Thank you!**

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 200 | Turkeys and/or hams | 200 | Large canned yams or sweet potatoes |
| 200 | Stove Top-type stuffing mix | 200 | 1-lb. brown sugar |
| 200 | Boxed instant potatoes | 200 | 1-lb. butter or margarine in tubs |
| 200 | Packaged gravy mix | 200 | Sets picnic salt and pepper |
| 200 | 15-ounce canned corn | 200 | Pumpkin pies |
| 200 | 15-ounce canned green beans | | |
| 200 | 15-ounce canned fruit | | |
| 200 | 15-ounce canned cranberry sauce | | |

THANKSGIVING DAY FOOD LIST

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 80 | Turkeys and/or hams | 60 | Lb. russet potatoes |
| 50 | #10 cans corn | 50 | Lb. butter |
| 50 | #10 cans green beans | 100 | Packages brown and serve rolls |
| 50 | #10 cans sweet potatoes | 75 | Pumpkin or fruit pies |

by Joe Colaizzi

an extraordinary meal, and stayed in a room surrounded by extraordinary people. The power of KCRM: comfort for the night, hope for the tomorrow. Food, sleep and love.

As I went to scan the Thanksgiving menu, I'm going to boldly support KCRM this holiday season and the power of prayer. The extraordinary love continues each day, and I'm grateful for your extraordinary friendship.



KCRM PRESENTS KCRM UNMASKED

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 6:30-8:30
ARROWHEAD STADIUM
EAST TOWER



A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION

WHAT KCRM UNMASKED MEANS TO US

KCRM has had a lot of “firsts” in the last five years! We held our first-ever capital campaign to fund our first-ever women’s ministry — the KCRM Women’s Center. Our budget grew to over \$2 million for the first time so we hired our first financial manager to handle all the income and out-go associated with operating two facilities and a larger general fund.

Now, we’re initiating a new first ... a fall fundraiser to help increase KCRM’s funding capacity, adding \$200,000 to our annual income and new contributors to our donor base.

KCRM Unmasked will be more than a great night of music from **Oleta Adams** and motivational talk from the Kansas Chief’s **Dan Meers** (KC Wolf) — though we admit both are pretty awesome! This is your chance to help take KCRM to the next level. To introduce business associates, your church leadership, family and friends to the transformative work of KCRM. To help us grow!



This special evening will feature the powerful testimony of Dan Meers (above) and music from the incomparable Oleta Adams (left). Don’t miss this wonderful event!

Visit kcrm.org/unmaskedevent or contact Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643 or jarocco@kcrm.org to learn more about **KCRM Unmasked** and your opportunities to buy tickets, sponsor the event and invest in the incredible work God is doing in the hearts and lives of once hopeless and homeless men and women.

YOUR WILL: DON’T PUT IT OFF

by Julie Larocco, development officer

August 1, the media reported that Anton Yelchin, the actor portraying a young Chekov in *Star Trek: Into the Darkness*, died without leaving a Will. His estate, estimated at \$1.4 million would go into probate leaving his family to wrestle with what they believed might have been his intentions. Other celebrities with much larger estates have made the same mistake, but large or small, their families are the ones that suffer.

The truth is millions of American adults die without leaving a Will. According to *Forbes* and other sources, 54 percent of Americans over 55 don’t have a Will or estate plan (62 percent if you are 45-54). That’s a big mistake— one that in this day and age can be easily and inexpensively corrected through sites like LegalZoom.com. If you don’t have a Will, give a gift to your family this upcoming holiday season and get one.

To include KCRM in your Will or for great resources on creating estate plans, contact Julie Larocco, (816) 421-7643 or jarocco@kcrm.org.



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

1520 Cherry • Kansas City, MO 64108-1530
(816) 421-7643 • kcrm.org • info@kcrm.org