

# CONNECT



## SERVING TOGETHER

**Matt came to KCRM because he knew he couldn't do it alone.** "I knew what I had to do," he recalls. "I needed help with my addiction to alcohol, and the Mission was exactly what I needed. At KCRM, God gave me a stable community where I could take the time — where I could stop running and worrying about life — and learn what a relationship with Him is."

When Matt (pictured right) graduated the Mission's recovery program, he moved into KCRM's transition dorm, entered college and began working again. But he knew he needed more. He needed a new community where he could continue to grow.

Around that time **Church of the Resurrection Downtown** (COR) opened its doors just three blocks away from the KCRM Men's Center, purchasing a building in the Crossroads district that once housed a nightclub. Soon members came knocking on KCRM's door, asking how they could serve.

Pastor Scott Chrostek (pictured left) is the lead campus pastor at COR's downtown location and says the church has been built on a passion to serve.

"As neighbors in a community," Pastor Scott says, "we want to learn how to help each other and learn from each other. We want to do life together with KCRM and with our other neighbors."

Matt decided to visit COR one weekend and instantly knew he had found a home.

"At Resurrection, God gave me a place to continue growing in the relationship I began with Him at KCRM," Matt says. "They don't just have services on Sunday. I can go to Bible studies and small groups during the week, and they've given me a place to serve!"

"KCRM isn't a retirement home," he continues. "It's a program that helps you get your life back together. They want you to take every advantage of what they offer and be successful. And then you leave so somebody else can come in and get the same kind of help you received. But you have to have a church network when you leave here or you won't have anything."

"What I think Matt has found," says Pastor Scott, "is a safe place at Resurrection to grow in a new community of friends who will carry him forward. And I've watched him grow!"

"Recently when we had a capital campaign to help build our new building, Matt stepped up in a meeting and shared why he was giving and even, without being asked, shared how much he was giving. His vulnerability totally transformed our capital campaign!"

"Because of KCRM and now Resurrection," Matt smiles, "I feel like a normal, working part of society. I feel as accepted sitting next to a business man as I do next to a homeless man. I'm part of something for the rest of my life and I have a lot to offer!"

# A CUPPA JOE

## WITH ... ME!

by Rev. Joe Colaizzi, executive director

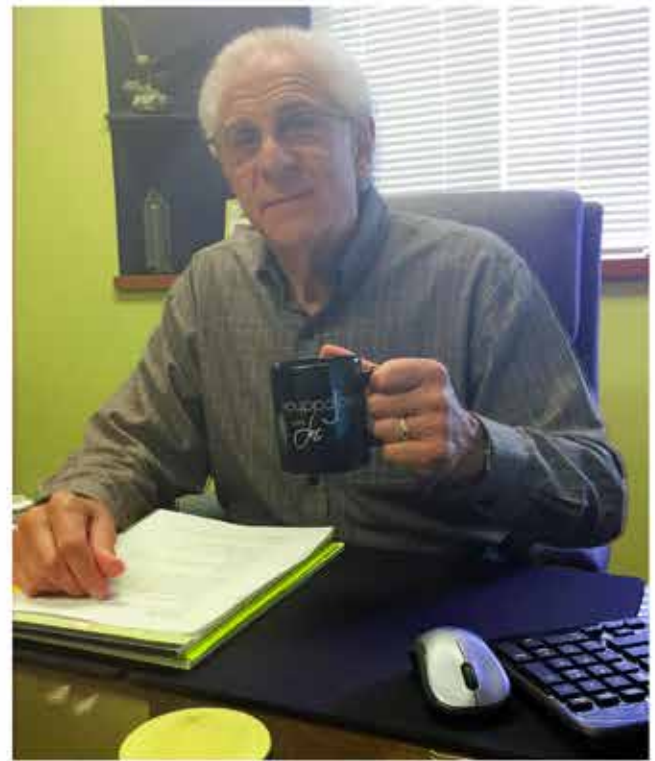
**About a year ago**, our development team came up with an idea that has opened the door for me to meet many of our donors personally. When I first heard the idea — inviting folks to have an early morning **Cuppa Joe with Joe** — I wondered two things:

1. Would anybody come?
2. What would I say when they got here?

Now after meeting dozens of our donors, volunteers, city officials, potential givers and just plain folks with lots of questions about what we do, I am really excited about **Cuppa Joe with Joe!** We never invite more than 15 people, and the small group setting is perfect for informal conversation and Q&A.

**Cuppa Joe** has given me the opportunity to break bread with KCRM friends, share our story through testimonies, simple videos and photos, bring them up to speed about what we are working on currently and inform them about our vision for the future. But what's most meaningful for me is learning how much our KCRM friends really care!

At our May **Cuppa Joe**, I got to meet Bob Tamasi. He and his wife Sally have been givers for many years, but I'd never met them face to face. Bob was delighted to hear the testimony of one of the men in our Christian Community of Recovery and asked a number of great questions. Later he said this to KCRM Development Officer Julie Larocco: "I had a very nice time and was delighted to meet all



of you, and especially Joe. I was impressed with your facilities and the neighborhood. **Cuppa Joe** confirmed our commitment to KCRM. I believe our Father in heaven is shining his face on KCRM, as it says in Numbers 6:24-26."

Though this event was designed to tell *you* about KCRM, it's been a joy and privilege for *me* to learn more about KCRM's ministry partners. We've scheduled six more **Cuppa Joe** events over the next 12 months, and I hope I get to meet you personally at one of them!



## YOU GET TO KEEP THE CUP!

**July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**, we've scheduled six **Cuppa Joe with Joe** events. These hour-long, informal meetings, held at our main office at 1520 Cherry Street, include:

- Light breakfast with fruit, pastries, juice and Roasterie coffee
- A talk with Rev. Joe Colaizzi, KCRM's executive director for 31 years
- Live testimonies from residents at our Women's Center and Men's Center
- A video or slide presentation of current and future projects
- Take-away literature, including how you can get involved
- A tour of our facilities upon request

For a schedule of upcoming **Cuppa Joe** events, please visit **KCRM.org/CuppaJoe** then contact Paul Masao at (816) 421-7643, ext. 136 or **pmasao@kcrm.org** to make your reservation. We can also schedule special **Cuppa Joe** meetings for your group or business.

# NEWS & NOTES



*Cream, sugar and other condiments are just one example of the kinds of items you can donate to KCRM. If you use it in your kitchen, chances are we need it, too! Go to [KCRM.org](http://KCRM.org) and click "Immediate Needs" to learn more.*

**After their beloved friend Mae Risley** passed away, members of **Faith Presbyterian Church** organized a garage sale of her belongings. "We knew Mae would want the money to go to something meaningful, and I knew just the thing," said KCRM volunteer Susan Barker.

Around Easter time, Susan had discovered that the morning coffee at the Men's Center was made the night before in a giant soup pot! Our food service staff was delighted to receive a 100-cup coffee pot inscribed with Mae's name, and plenty of coffee to go with it – the perfect way to honor their friend.

**This spring, employees at Continental Disc** in Liberty, Missouri, chose KCRM as a charity of choice and contributed \$11,000 toward a challenge grant issued by a local foundation, doubling the gift's impact! Here, Joe Colaizzi (left) thanks Jay Longbottom, acting president of Continental Disc and CEO of its parent company, after receiving the company's very generous contribution.



## PASSING THE BATON

**Back in 2005, Dr. Jerri Sapp** took a tour of KCRM's Men's Center and decided it was missing something. It didn't take long for her to convince Executive Director Joe Colaizzi that the Mission needed a Learning Center — a place where men in our recovery program could improve their education, learn life skills and even apply for jobs. Since then, hundreds of men have benefitted from Dr. Sapp's dream — and the almost 7,000 hours she has put into it over the years.

In May, KCRM's new fulltime Learning Center coordinator, Cordellia Clark (pictured left), stepped in to learn from Dr. Sapp and to eventually take the reins. A former "Parent Professional," she's an experienced trainer, advisor and mentor who brings enthusiasm, creativity and encouragement to her role at both the KCRM Men's Center and Women's Center. "It's exciting to see all that has been accomplished already," says Cordellia, "and I'm excited to see what the next level looks like!"

To learn more about Cordellia and our expanded Learning Center program for residents, visit [KCRM.org/learningcenter](http://KCRM.org/learningcenter).

**TAKE NOTE!** KCRM is just \$15,000 away from raising funds to operate the expanded KCRM Learning Center for two full years! If you'd like to help close the gap, please visit [KCRM.org](http://KCRM.org), click "Make a Gift" and designate your gift to "Learning Center."



# A GRAND CELEBRATION

THE KCRM WOMEN'S CENTER DEDICATES ITS PRAYER GARDEN



**Around 100 donors, volunteers and other friends** of KCRM attended **Madeline's Garden Party and Dedication**, Monday, June 5.

The sunny, breezy day was perfect for a walk along the garden path, tours of the facility, a concert by the Center's residents and delicious refreshments courtesy of volunteer Melanie Watts and her friends.

The garden is named after Madeline Tollefson – she and her husband Allen funded the purchase of

the property the garden occupies. "My hope is that this garden is a place of peace, restoration and growth for the residents here," she says.

To schedule a walk through Madeline's Garden and a tour of our Women's Center, please contact Kristen Ray at [kray@kcrm.org](mailto:kray@kcrm.org) or 816-421-7643. Visit [KCRM.org/garden](http://KCRM.org/garden) to watch a video timeline showing our beautiful prayer garden rise up where a drug house once stood.



**During the short program, Rev. Joe Colaizzi asks Madeline about her name.** "I've always loved the name Madeline," she responded. "In the children's book, Madeline sings, 'I'm Madeline, I'm Madeline, and though I'm very small; I'm Madeline, I'm Madeline, and inside, I'm tall.' Being very small myself, I've often felt like that. And I want the women to know that, through a relationship with Christ, they can be tall, too."

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

1520 Cherry

Kansas City, MO 64108-1530

(816) 421-7643

[kcrm.org](http://kcrm.org) • [info@kcrm.org](mailto:info@kcrm.org)

