

CONNECT

FOLLOW THE SIGN

"I WAS WALKING UP CHERRY STREET to get to Truman Road so I could get on the bus," Eugene recalls. "I had two handguns and I was going to kill everyone in that house as soon as I got there. I had it all planned out."

Then a sign attached to a chainlink fence caught his eye. "The words on the sign said *FREEDOM* from the past, *HOPE* for the future, and it just stopped me in my tracks. I started to cry uncontrollably. There was no one else out there, just me and that sign. Then something came to my mind, and it sounded just like the voice of my wife who had died a year earlier: *You gotta get rid of those guns, and you gotta come back here and get help.* And that's exactly what I did."



A NOTE FROM JOE COLAIZZI

SOME STORIES JUST CAN'T BE TOLD within the space of a newsletter*, but I wanted you to read about the life-changing moment when my friend Eugene came to KCRM for the first time. The photo on the left above shows Eugene with the sign that grabbed his attention, and the photo next to it shows when I was privileged to pray for him on the day he graduated from KCRM's Christian Community of Recovery (C-COR).

That sign says a lot about KCRM. Our message is **FREEDOM** — there is help, no matter how desperate a situation may feel, and our message is **HOPE** — love and compassion can open the doors to a wonderful future.

THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON, Eugene will be with his C-COR brothers at KCRM, encouraging hurting, hungry and homeless men as they walk past that sign and up to our door, hoping for a hot meal and safe shelter. And just like Eugene, many will need to hear, "You are not alone. There is hope. God can change your life!"

Friend, on the back of this special edition of **CONNECT** you'll find a summary of KCRM's Thanksgiving season outreach. We need as much help as we can get this year with food donations and financial gifts. **A gift of just \$2.07 puts a hot, filling meal in front of one of our nightly guests, and a \$25 donation will provide enough meals to fill two tables in our dining hall, with the excellent care KCRM is famous for.** Take a quick look on back and together let's make this Thanksgiving one to remember!

"I WAS HUNGRY, AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT."

– Jesus



KCRM will provide 240 delicious meals in our dining halls each day and will deliver 1,750 to hungry neighbors who cannot come to our tables.

Tables of Grace... THANKSGIVING AT KCRM

THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON, KCRM's staff and volunteers will prepare and serve around **240 nutritious, well-balanced meals each day**. Out on the street, KCRM has earned the reputation as the place that serves filling portions of delicious food, where every guest is treated with dignity, respect and love.

Throughout the holidays, we expect a full house every single night, and in our dining rooms no one will be forgotten, no one will go hungry.

Kansas City's homeless and hungry will come to us, but **1,750 isolated and poverty-stricken men, women and children will receive delicious holiday feasts delivered right to their doors by KCRM volunteers!** This includes 500 single-serving meals and 250 food boxes, each with enough food for an abundant Thanksgiving feast for a family of five with plenty of leftovers for other meals.

We are excited to join many compassionate Kansas Citians to provide tables of grace, hope and laughter to our neighbors in need, both at KCRM and throughout the community. Would you join us? Here's the BIG food list! If you have questions, contact Development Director Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643, or jlarocco@kcrm.org.

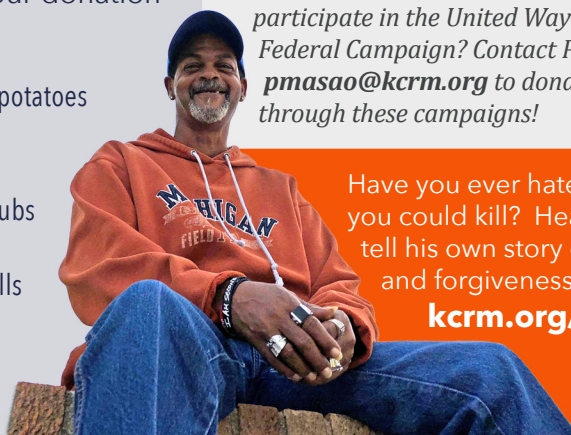
You can make a financial gift this Thanksgiving season safely and easily at kcrm.org, or with the enclosed reply slip.

KCRM'S THANKSGIVING FOOD LIST

Bring items to 1520 Cherry Street, KCMO. Make sure to note your donation is for "Thanksgiving." Thank you!

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| 280 Turkeys and/or hams | 250 Large canned yams or sweet potatoes |
| 250 Stove Top-type stuffing mix | 80 Lb. russett potatoes |
| 250 Boxed instant potatoes | 250 1-lb. brown sugar |
| 250 Packaged gravy mix | 250 1-lb. butter or margarine in tubs |
| 250 15-ounce canned corn | 250 Sets picnic salt and pepper |
| 250 15-ounce canned green beans | 250 Packages brown and serve rolls |
| 250 15-ounce canned fruit | 300 Pumpkin pies |
| 250 15-ounce canned cranberry sauce | |

Visit kcrm.org or find us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, immediate needs and to give online. Does your company participate in the United Way or Combined Federal Campaign? Contact Paul Masao pmasao@kcrm.org to donate to KCRM through these campaigns!



Have you ever hated so much you could kill? Hear **Eugene** tell his own story of hurt, hate and forgiveness at kcrm.org/eugene