

CONNECT

"IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO SMILE THAN TO SCREAM, NOW." Darceil has been at the KCRM Women's Center less than two months when she sits down to talk a little about her journey so far — a journey of healing that began when her adult children sat her down, told her how much they love her, and that it was time to face her addiction to alcohol, and the reasons behind it.

The "scream" in Darceil's life had mostly remained under the surface for many years. It was muffled by alcohol and her determination to protect her children from abuse she and other family members had suffered by a relative. Separating herself and her kids from extended family, Darceil raised them on her own, and coped the only way she knew how — surviving without a thought for her own happiness.

THE **COURAGE** TO BE **HAPPY**

"I didn't know there was a difference," she admits. "I didn't know I had the smile in me. When you're broken there is always that wound that won't heal; it breaks back open over and over. It always hurts."

Then, even as she remembers her pain, Darceil smiles. "But when you get the opportunity to begin to heal," she says, "eventually you have the courage to be happy."

Daily, Darceil is gaining courage at the Women's Center. "The staff here know how to customize what they teach. They know we all got here in different ways so they don't treat everyone's problem the same way," she explains. "They listen to hear, not just to respond. So when they tell me something that's hard to hear, I know I can trust that it is helping me heal."

"I thank God for KCRM!" she continues. "They have introduced me to me. I have finally met Darceil! I used to be afraid to fall asleep at night because I was so sad and lost I didn't know if I would ever wake up. But now I can't wait to go to bed so I can wake up each day and welcome the breath of a new dawn."

"If I hadn't come to KCRM, I don't know where I'd be today," Darceil says quietly. "I don't even want to think about that." Then she smiles, "This is my time and I'm very happy to be me."



MAKE
SURE YOU
**CHECK THE
ENVELOPE**
FOR YOUR



Garden Party
INVITATION!

MEET **T.H.E.** TEAM

THERAPY, HOME AND EDUCATION

OVER THE LAST FOUR

months, three women have joined forces as **T. H. E. Team** to form a highly relational, highly accountable environment for healing and recovery at the KCRM Women's Center (WC). This three-fold cord includes therapeutic counsel and activities, varied and targeted educational plans, in a setting that demonstrates a healthy home.

Pictured here left to right, Pastor Letiah Fraser oversees the **HOME** environment of the WC, while Cordelia Clark-Bailey coordinates **EDUCATION** and Beth Russell directs the **THERAPY** program. All three share a passion for the Women's Center to feel less like an institution and more — much more — like home.

"These women have not experienced a stable home," Letiah explains, "so they need to learn what it looks like to live in community, what following rules looks like, what being in relationship with others looks like. Home should be both a healthy social and spiritual place, nurturing a relationship with themselves, with God and with others."

"People are hurt in homes and hurt in relationships, and they are also healed in relationships,"

Beth adds. "It's about attachment and bonding. Addiction is an attachment to something unhealthy, and to break that attachment, we have to increase healthy attachments."

"We've increased the amount of time the residents learn together — classtime, group activities and chapel — to 30-40 hours each week," Cordellia says. "There is less downtime than ever, minimizing isolation and spending time together as a family."

Maybe most important of all, **T. H. E. Team**, along with all the WC staff, has committed itself to demonstrate what a healthy home looks like. "I found a five-year study of 14 organizations serving the same exact population as we are serving," Beth says. "The main complaint in every one of those organizations was that the equivalent of these three areas could not get along with each other. We've decided to turn that weakness into a strength."

"We don't want to feel like a regimented clinical hospital," she continues, "where each area of care has to stay in its own lane. We want a therapeutic home environment where education helps therapy and therapy encourages social and spiritual growth in the home, so we may all thrive as a family!"



Rev. Joe Colaizzi has led KCRM as executive director since 1985.

HOME IS WHERE **THE HEALING** IS

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME at the KCRM Women's Center! In the **T. H. E.** model (read above) we are learning that the home environment can be a place where education and therapy occur naturally. As a result, we've become intentional about not institutionalizing therapy and education, but homogenizing them within a home environment.

In their home – our WC – residents have an opportunity to learn and grow, wrapping around each other, nurturing one another. **But we need your help!** Would you commit to pray for these amazing women? And to learn practical and creative ways to get involved, join us at our **WC Garden Party on June 3!** Together, we can help foster an environment where women find lasting healing, and are never again **home-less**. I'll see you at the party!

WOMEN'S CENTER EXPANSION

COME VISIT OUR NEW EDUCATION AND FITNESS CENTER

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, join our third annual **Women's Center Garden Party and Open House** and get a firsthand look at our new Education and Fitness Center!

Completed in March at a cost of just over \$300,000, the center will provide 35 hours of class time and fitness each week, and houses a multipurpose room, two fitness areas, computer lab, library, warming kitchen and restrooms. We're deeply grateful to all who supported this exciting expansion project.

Pictured below, WC staffer Abby gives a sneak peak of the new warming kitchen, but you'll have to come visit to see the rest!



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FOR YOUR



DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!
YOU WON'T WANT
TO MISS THIS!

WC SUMMER NEEDS

AS SUMMER APPROACHES, the KCRM Women's Center needs clothing for warm weather! Drop donations at 1520 Cherry Street, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Saturday and Sunday afternoons. **LEARN MORE:** Contact Julie Larocco at jlarocco@kcrm.org or call her at (816) 421-7643, ext. 141.

- Camisoles, tank tops and t-shirts
- Short-sleeved blouses
- Jeans, shorts and capris
- Summer dresses
- Business casual clothing for interviews
- Sweatshirts and sweatpants
- Shower shoes and flip flops
- Tennis shoes
- House slippers (new, please)
- Underwear and bras (new, please)
- Summer pajamas



HEALING WITH HORSES

ONE OF THE FAVORITE

therapeutic tools Beth Russell uses to help someone connect with herself is to have her talk ... to a horse. "Horses survive by learning who to trust," she explains. "They look to form bonds, but they also read deception very well and will let you know if you're not being honest! They can help us get real, and heal."

When Shalise, a resident at the WC, went to "horse therapy" as she calls it, "I just knew I would get the ugliest horse there, because I'm ugly. And sure enough, I got Cloud, who is blind in one eye and very old. Beth helped me learn how to connect with Cloud, and I wanted that so much because I feel ugly and nobody loves me, and he's ugly and no one wanted him.

"The closer I inched to him, he would move closer to me until finally he just laid his head on my shoulder. I began to cry, and I could feel the release of never being loved in 48 years. It was so powerful ... it was so exhilarating. This horse made me feel like there was nothing ugly about me and I saw that God created me the way I'm supposed to be. From that day I've changed the way I thought about myself. In the past I didn't want to live because I felt so unloved, but Cloud has helped bring me back to life!"



Shalise and Cloud

The WC Clothing Boutique

WHAT'S COMIN' UP AT KCRM!

JUNE 3 WOMEN'S CENTER GARDEN PARTY AND OPEN HOUSE

See postcard enclosed with this issue of **CONNECT!**

JULY 29 MEN'S CENTER OPEN HOUSE AND CHRISTMAS IN JULY

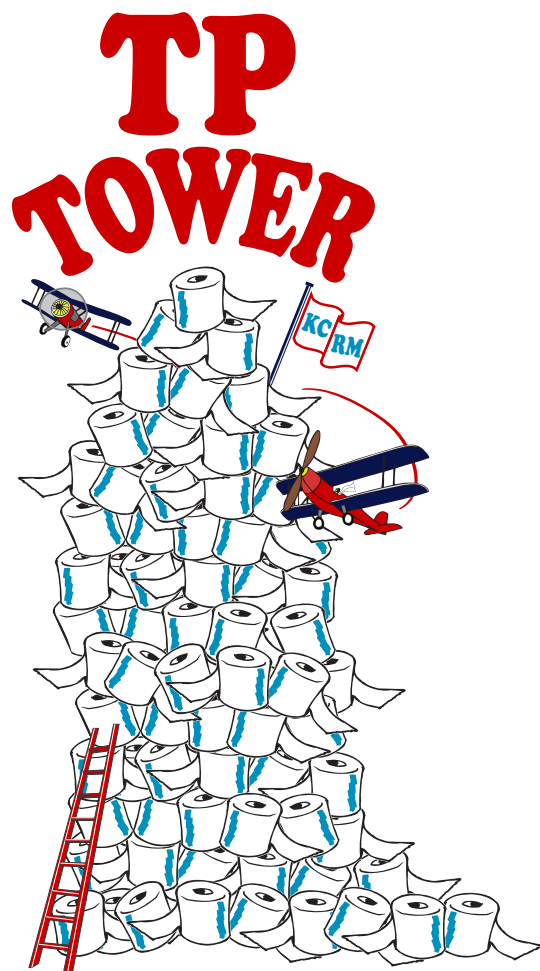
Escape the heat and join KCRM's staff and Christian Community of Recovery residents for a meaningful and fun experience at our Men's Center. Photos with Santa, a "Walk to the Manger," crafts for kids and great food for everyone! Learn more at kcrm.org/ChristmasinJuly or contact Development Officer Julie Larocco at jarocco@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643, ext. 141.

AUGUST 25 SERVEHOPE SPIKETACULAR

No matter your skill level, head for Volleyball Beach in South Kansas City and "serve hope" for homeless men and women at KCRM. Last year, this benefit raised \$7,000 for new beds for our Men's Center dorm. This year, our goal is \$20,000 to cover the costs of shelter for the homeless. Learn more at kcrm.org/servehope!

SEPTEMBER 29 TP TOWER RALLY

Help KCRM wipe out the \$6,000 we spend each year to purchase 10,000-plus rolls of toilet paper for our Men's Center and Women's Center. Compete August - September to see who collects the most TP, then attend our **TP Tower Rally** September 29 and enjoy food, TP games and find out who wins the coveted TP Trophy (yes, it is a REAL trophy!). Email Kristen Ray at kray@kcrm.org to get started. **Please note:** This annual event provides TP to poverty-stricken families and individuals in the community, too!



THIS SIMPLE ADDITION MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

PROVIDE FOR KCRM'S MINISTRIES for Kansas City's homeless by adding this simple codicil to your will:

I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Kansas City Rescue Mission, Kansas City, Missouri, [percent or amount] of my estate for its unrestricted use and purpose.

KCRM also welcomes your gifts to our endowment fund, providing financial stability for the Mission's future. To learn more about planned giving opportunities at KCRM or to request our free brochure, contact Chief Development Officer Julie Larocco at jarocco@kcrm.org or (816) 421-7643, ext. 141.



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