

CONNECT

"SEE, I AM DOING A **NEW** THING!"

An Important Message from Rev. Joe Colaizzi, Executive Director

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN ONE — a roadside map with a red dot which proclaimed "YOU ARE HERE." It was a simple way to get our bearings and see a path to get where we needed to be.

When Kansas City Rescue Mission began in 1950, we were very much like a rest stop on the highway. For men who, because of bad breaks or bad choices had lost their way in life, KCRM was a safe place to stop and find a little rest and a little refreshment. And, as we presented the Gospel message — a road map of truth to find hope and home — KCRM was like a spiritual "you are here" red dot.

But over the last 70 years, our culture — as well as the needs of the people we serve — has grown more complex and challenging. Along the way, KCRM stretched and adapted to meet the challenges while steadfastly continuing to present a clear and simple Gospel message.

Today, KCRM provides not only hot, filling meals and a safe place to sleep, not only nightly chapel services ... but also health care, case management, educational opportunities, spiritual and mental health counseling, addiction recovery programs, transitional living, and career and job training resources.

And with even more opportunities just on the horizon, God's promise in Isaiah 43:19 rings true today: "*See, I am doing a new thing!*"

For several years now, as we've seen this evolution of change, we have sensed the need for a new identity to better convey who we are in this new season. Like the red dot, we asked God to show us where we were on the map, and where we needed to go.

Encouraged by KCRM's board of directors, we researched, we talked to Mission staff, we surveyed the community, and we asked ourselves difficult questions. Most of all, we prayed, and prayed some more.

We asked God to lead us to an identity that fit ... and then He surprised us. God brought us to a word so common in the world of homeless ministry that at first we wanted to overlook it ... but He nudged us to look at it again. And we did!

On the inside of this special edition of **CONNECT**, I want to share with you where this search has brought us, how we got here, and what it means for both the people we serve, and for those who help us serve them.

So please, turn the page with me to a new adventure!



WE HAVE BIG NEWS!

Kansas City Rescue Mission is becoming **Shelter KC**



A Kansas City Rescue Mission



Mission staff Virginia and Michael (left and right)
and Women's Center resident Dorinne (center)

THE IDEA OF "SHELTER" EVOKES CERTAIN IMAGES and feelings in our minds. A tornado shelter is a refuge during a life-threatening storm. A shelterhouse in a city park is a gathering spot for friends and family to share a meal and to celebrate. We think of someone who has lived a sheltered life as having been kept out of some of the chaos of life, at least for a season.

A **shelter** is a safe place, a place that stays steady in the struggle. A **shelter** is a serving place, where needs are met and help is found. A **shelter** is a sacred place, where truth is spoken and God is present. A **shelter** provides rescue, but so much more. A **shelter** is a refuge, a temporary home to recover, to strengthen, to heal, to learn, to find hope, to be restored.

As we complete our 70th year of compassionate service to our community, we're excited to tell you that Kansas City Rescue Mission will become **Shelter KC: A Kansas City Rescue Mission!**

Shelter KC – Q&A

Q. Why "Shelter KC?"

God is often described as a shelter. As we extend His love and compassion to our clients, we're an extension of His shelter into the KC community.

Q. How was this decision made and when is it official?

Following several years of evaluation, a strategic plan in 2015 highlighted the need to refresh our name. We will officially become **Shelter KC** on September 10, 2019.

Q. Who made this decision?

The KCRM board of directors approved the name change in June 2019. The rebranding process was led by our executive director, Rev. Joe Colaizzi and a branding committee at KCRM.

Q. Will Shelter KC remain committed to the Gospel of Jesus?

Yes! As we have since 1950, **Shelter KC** will continue to provide "freedom from the past and hope for the future" that is only found in a relationship with Jesus.

Q. How can you help?

1. **Pray for us.**

2. **Please support the Mission financially.** A gift of any amount is a huge help and vital to our lifeline of support. We don't receive any government money and rely on gifts from compassionate individuals, like you.

3. **Help us spread the word** that God is doing new things here! To find out how to get involved, email social@kcrm.org.

4. **Donate supplies.** Go to kcrm.org and click **Immediate Needs** to learn more!

We need your partnership like never before!

"God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

– Psalm 46:1 GNT

"The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."

– Psalm 9:9 NLT

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

– Psalm 91:1 NIV



A SPRINGBOARD TO GREAT THINGS

"YOU'RE A FINISHER."

"You give me so much hope because you're doing this."

"You've got it girl, you're going to make a difference in the world because you've made a difference in *this* world."

As each encouragement was spoken, a chorus of "umm humm" filled the room at the Women's Center. A crowd full of house mates, staff and friends had gathered in the meeting room to support Jennifer on her graduation day.

Several months prior, Jennifer had arrived from Florida broken, hurt and out of options. Friends from Kansas City had found the KCRM Women Center's recovery program and suggested she give it a try. She applied for our trauma recovery program, was accepted, and within weeks began experiencing transformation — it changed her life. As she walked through the steps of recovery, she found healing and renewed hope in Christ.

"This place is an oasis, a springboard to great things," Jennifer said as she gave her testimony. A few days later, she returned home to Florida.

To close out her graduation ceremony, the women formed a circle in the middle of the room with arms around one another's shoulders. Stereo speakers began blasting the popular song "Lean On Me," as the women began to sway and sing along. With open hearts, wide smiles and tears streaming down their faces, they unified under the anthem. It was a reminder that no matter what they've been through, there's hope for all who enter here.



MADELINE'S GARDEN PARTY

KCRM DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS gathered for the Women's Center's fourth annual Madeline's Garden Party on Sunday, June 9th. The beautiful spring day was perfect for a walk along the garden path and tours of the facility.

An exuberant song of praise by the Center's residents was accompanied by a soft breeze stirring the trees around the garden. Delicious homemade cobbler were created and served by 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, turning what was once a drug house into a garden for prayer, meditation and beauty.

Madeline's hope is that this garden is a place of peace, restoration and growth for the residents of the Center. Her hope is fulfilled every day! To schedule a walk through Madeline's Garden and a tour of our Women's Center, please contact Nicholas Franklin at nfranklin@kcrm.org.

CHLOE'S KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

LOOK WHAT 10-YEAR-OLD CHLOE did to help fill our bins and our hearts this summer!

*"I want to help people. I hate the thought of people suffering."
— Chloe, age 10*

Chloe and her family arrived at the KCRM Men's Center with more than 180 men's undershirts, bottled water, tooth brushes, toothpaste, jeans, shorts, flip flops, shampoo and soap. Her friends, family and church members from **Excelsior Springs Church of the Nazarene** came together to help her gather donations and funds to care for our homeless friends. When asked why she led this, Chloe said, "I want to help people. I hate the thought of people suffering."

Thank you, Chloe, and all of those who supported her! You've inspired and blessed us!

FOLLOW CHLOE'S LEAD TO KCRM! Serving hundreds of homeless and hurting people each week, we have needs that never go away.

We can **always** use new, travel-size packages of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, antiperspirant (or your financial gift!) ... and right now we especially need large sizes of men's summer clothing (XL - 4XL). Bring or send your donations to the Men's Center at 1520 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. Thank you!



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