



Thank you for 75 years of transformed lives!

1950




Dr. Aycock becomes superintendent of the Kansas City District Church of the Nazarene and founds Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM) eight years later.

1985



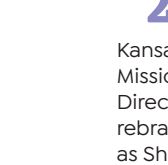
Joe Colaizzi becomes executive director of Kansas City Rescue Mission.

1991



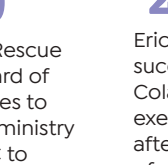
Kansas City Rescue Mission purchases the current property on Cherry Street. Hundreds of individuals, churches, businesses and foundations contribute expertise, labor and materials to complete renovations to the four-building complex over a 10-year period.

2013



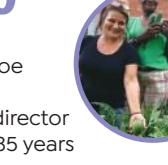
The Women's Center opens as a 20-bed residential facility offering homeless women a secure environment where they can heal, learn, and grow.

2019




Kansas City Rescue Mission's Board of Directors votes to rebrand the ministry as Shelter KC to reflect the new things God is doing in the ministry.

2020



Eric Burger succeeds Joe Colaizzi as executive director after Joe's 35 years of service to the Mission.

2024



Shelter KC opens the Renew Mental Health Shelter and Respite Program as part of the Transformations Campaign's initial phase.

Calling all summer volunteers!

Summer is a busy season at Shelter KC, as the soaring temperatures bring more people through our doors. That's why we would love to have your help!

Individual volunteers and groups are all welcome, and opportunities include everything from serving meals to sorting donations to landscaping and grounds maintenance.

For more information, please contact us at (816) 421-7643. We hope to see you soon!



DONATE. VOLUNTEER. CONNECT. ShelterKC.org

Here's my 75th anniversary gift to change more lives this summer!





☐ \$25

☐ \$55

☐ \$75

☐ \$_____ to help as many people as possible

☐ Bill my credit card

☐    ☐ 

☐ Make this a monthly gift

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CIV/SEC# _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

DONATE FASTER ONLINE:
ShelterKC.org

Point your
smartphone
camera here
to give now



Shelter KC
P. O. Box 270047
Kansas City, MO 64127-0047


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CONNECT

Summer 2025 | Vol. 24 | Number 2



"I died three times."

When Ricker tried to end his own life, he died three times on the hospital table before they managed to bring him back to life.

Then a wise woman told him, "You've been doing things your way all these years. Why don't you try doing things God's way? He kept you alive."

She helped him find Shelter KC, where your support provided him with a brand-new life.

Read more of Ricker's miraculous story inside...

What you'll find inside:

- Thank you for celebrating with us!
- "God is here. I've felt His presence."
- \$75K for 75 Anniversary Challenge
- Leaving a Legacy



DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE

Eric Burger,
Executive Director



Thank you for
celebrating with us!

The course of history can change in a moment.

For Shelter KC, that moment came 75 years ago when our founder, Dr. Jarrette Aycock, brought this ministry – then known as Kansas City Rescue Mission – into being.

There's no way he could have known what impact this work would have on people's lives. He couldn't have foreseen the huge number of men and women who could come to know Christ through this ministry and have their lives restored.

All he knew was that God had called him to start this work, and he acted in obedience to that calling.

It's a good reminder to all of us that one simple act in this life can make a world of difference.

When you pray for Shelter KC and the people who are served here, when you volunteer your time, or when you donate, you may not feel like you're doing something significant.

But believe me, you are!

Those simple acts of kindness and generosity are why Shelter KC has been able to change lives for as long as it has.

Thank you so much for all you do for the men and women who are served here and for joining us as we celebrate 75 years of changed lives. God bless you!

Eric Burger

“God is here. I’ve felt His presence.”

Born in St. Louis, Ricker experienced extreme trauma at a young age.

“My mom was killed when I was 10. That’s when my dad got us and took us to Arkansas where he lived.” But his father was abusive and went to prison when Ricker was only 14, so he was sent to live in foster care.

Years later, his life took a turn for the worse when he suffered a stroke and began using drugs at the age of 30.

“My son’s mother sold my house and my truck and shut down my bank account. I couldn’t use half of my body because of the stroke, but I had the will to get out of the hospital. I went straight to my sister’s house because I knew she had dope.”

Ricker started smoking meth and stayed in that for 10 years. “I was isolated from everyone in the world. I just worked to get high so I wouldn’t feel anything. That was my world.”

Suffering from constant pain due to degenerative disc disease, Ricker was put on painkillers in addition to drugs for anxiety and depression. “I started needing more and more painkillers to the point I didn’t care anymore. I just lost the will to live. That’s when I tried to kill myself.”



“Shelter KC
saved
my life!”

“The first time I came through the doors here, I felt a presence,” he remembers. “I didn’t know what it was. I knew there was a God because I had grown up in church, but I had never felt that kind of presence before.”

Besides growing in his faith, Ricker has been able to forgive those who hurt him in the past, including his father and the man who murdered Ricker’s mom. “It was like a shackle that I got released from,” he says. “That’s how it felt, like a shackle had been released. But the best thing I got freed from was the hatred I had for myself.”

“I owe it all to this place. They’ve helped me get my will to live back.”

Today, Ricker helps serve our homeless guests and ministers to them.

“This place has given me motivation, a will to live,” he says. “I don’t want to get high anymore. I want my recovery to work. I’ve also joined a home church, which I’ve never done before. I’m going wholeheartedly. God saved my life, and I just want to help.”

Thank you so much for making a difference in Ricker’s life through your partnership!



Leaving a Legacy

For 75 years, generous friends like you have touched so many lives through your support for Shelter KC.

If you’d like to extend your compassion well into the future – and enjoy certain tax savings at the same time – then please consider giving to Shelter KC through your will or other estate plans. Doing so is a flexible and effective way to leave a legacy of care.

For more information, please contact Kara Feitz at (816) 421-7643 or at KFeitz@ShelterKC.org. And if you’ve already included Shelter KC in your estate plans, please let us know so we can properly acknowledge your generosity. **Thank you!**

\$75K for 75
Anniversary Challenge

As we celebrate 75 years of changed lives, we’re asking faithful friends like you to help us with three major goals that, if met, will have a huge impact this summer.

75 Nights of Shelter: During the next 75 days, we’ll need to be ready to provide safe shelter for men and women each night, as well as 22,500 meals, plus clothing, hygiene, and other forms of essential care.

75 Paths to Recovery: We’ll also need to be able to support 75 men and women who will be enrolled in long-term recovery programs this summer to overcome addictions and rebuild their lives.

75 Steps to a Fresh Start: Finally, we’ll need to be ready to invest in case management services and life skills development so that our guests can have the tools they need this summer to start new pathways out of homelessness.

Your support for the **\$75K for 75 Anniversary Challenge** will provide men and women with essential services and have a lasting and even eternal impact on their lives.



Mail your gift today or donate online at ShelterKC.org.
THANK YOU!

