

CONNECT



Merry Christmas!



COMPASSION TO THE RESCUE

You have to lean in close to hear James speak, and from what he's revealed so far about his past to KCRM's staff, it's likely his smile isn't from happy memories.

James is shy. Confined to a wheelchair after losing part of his right leg, he's ashamed about his situation, and he finds it hard to look anyone in the eye.

James arrived at KCRM like so many others before him, quietly slipping up the street and to our door. The only thing that kept him from blending in was the dilapidated motorized wheelchair he rode everywhere.

Soon, he was a fixture around KCRM. Because of his immobility, he often needed a medical pass, which allowed him to stay in our Men's Center all day; before long, our staff was greeting him by name. Shelter Manager Larry Hansen and Jeff Love, our Men's Center receptionist, did all they could to accommodate James' special needs. Liz Preston, our clinical coordinator, tended his medical needs.

But in staff meetings, it became clear James needed even more help.

Liz shared that James desperately needed a

new, sturdier wheelchair. Facilities Manager Willy Houston and his crew repaired James' deteriorating chair, while our development team posted the need for a new chair on Facebook. Soon a nonprofit responded with a refurbished chair at an incredibly low cost,

which Case Manager Mary Blackmore was able to cover through a special fund.

Learning Center Coordinator Cordellia Clark talked to James about education and housing, and appealed to him to take more responsibility for himself. As his confidence improved, James began to consider what he'd once thought impossible ... a home of his own!

Mary located housing that could accommodate James' needs, and Cordellia helped him get his paperwork in order. Now James was all in!

With the help of "Team KCRM," James will soon move into his new digs and take to the streets in his customized wheelchair. This time his shy smile is filled with hope. That makes us smile, too!



James and Team KCRM (L-R): Cordellia, Liz, Mary and Willy.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

REV. JOE COLAIZZI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Several years ago an artist, who had once been homeless, gave me the drawing I'm holding in this photo. The sketch, depicting three homeless men who had come to worship the baby Jesus, always reminds me that the wisest of men and women are the ones who follow and worship Jesus, regardless of their status or circumstance ... and regardless of the difficult journey itself.

Today, as I looked again at this drawing, I thought of Rob and Erik*.

Erik's journey began when he found KCRM's Christ-centered recovery program online and applied, hoping to overcome his addiction and become the man he knew God wanted him to be.

As Erik waited to be accepted into the program, he noticed a disheveled, exhausted man sitting outside our Men's Center. Erik walked over and introduced himself, and the two quickly formed a friendship.

Erik didn't know that a few days earlier police had stopped Rob from attempting suicide. He didn't know Rob was still sore from being beaten by other homeless men in an abandoned drug house. What Erik did know was he had come to KCRM to get his life back together and he wanted the same for his new friend.

For weeks, after he joined KCRM's resident recovery program, Erik persisted and Rob resisted. Rob would show up each evening for a meal and a bed, and Erik would try to convince him that there was much more to life than that. "You can do this! Jesus is real! Let's do this together! I've got your back!"

Finally, Rob got the message and joined Erik on the journey out of addiction! He found what he didn't even know he was looking for ... a relationship with Jesus. A few months later, both men completed the recovery program and began new, hope-filled chapters in their lives.

Rob thrived, embracing a life of sobriety, maturing as a believer, learning new skills and finding a good job. But Erik soon stumbled back into debilitating habits.

This time it was Rob who wouldn't give up on his friend. Erik, who once coaxed Rob into a new beginning, was now being offered a hand up by the very man he had helped. Rob stayed in touch with Erik on Facebook: "I'm here for you, man. God loves

you! Come back to the Mission; I'll help you!"

A few days ago, Erik finally agreed. So Rob bought him a one-way bus ticket back to Kansas City and KCRM. All Erik had to do was go to the station and give them a password — "Jesus" — to pick up his ticket. And he did it!

Yesterday, my heart jumped when I received an email that read, "Please welcome Erik into the KCRM Christian Community of Recovery." Welcome back!

"Wise men still seek Him," so the saying goes. This Christmas I'm proud of the men and women living in our centers who are determined to follow Jesus and never give up!

**not their real names*



VISIT WILLIAMS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TO BENEFIT KCRM!

Beginning Thanksgiving, bring the whole family to witness over 40,000 lights set to music! Make a donation to KCRM while you enjoy this unique Christmas experience. Visit williamschristmaslights.com.

GIVE A GIFT OF

Christmas Joy

Christmas at KCRM is all about celebrating the birth of our Savior and sharing His love in tangible ways with the hurting folks we serve. Our guests and residents will enjoy Christmas services, visits from special "folks" like **KC Wolf**, music, crafts, parties and other activities.

Would you like to help KCRM bring Christmas joy to the homeless men and women we'll be sheltering during Christmastime? You can! Each man and woman staying at KCRM during the holidays will receive a brightly wrapped package containing gifts both practical and fun. Take a look at our gift list and decide how you'd like to help. Whatever you do, our guests and residents will be truly thankful. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kristen Ray at (816) 421-7643 or kray@kcrm.org to get started.

CHRISTMAS DAY GIFT LIST (new, please)

- 20 women's pajamas
- 20 quality women's hoodies
- 20 large Christmas stockings
- 20 women's slippers
- 20 *Life Recovery* Bibles
- 10 *Life Recovery* journals
- 150 men's thermal shirts
- 150 men's thermal pants
- 200 men's ski gloves
- 200 men's winter hats
- 200 pairs of men's insulated socks
- 200 men's hoodies
- 30 men's *Experiencing God* devotionals
- 20 men's devotional Bibles

GIFTS KCRM WILL USE ALL YEAR ROUND

Donate cash or the items themselves – we'll make good use of your donations! To learn more, contact Julie Larocco at (816) 421-7643 or jlarocco@kcrm.org. Thanks!

- New or gently used commercial charcoal grill: \$300-\$500
- Milk Fund for Women's Center and Men's Center: \$2,028 for 676 gallons annually or \$39 per week
- Churches to invite and provide scholarships for Financial Peace University for KCRM residents
- Work gloves, Pine Sol, boxes of rags for volunteer serve days
- Men's underwear, all sizes (must be new)
- KCRM Men's Center parking lot sealing project: \$1,800
- Institutional wardrobes, dressers, beds for Men's Center recovery program rooms: \$53,000 or \$5,300 per room



KCRM UNMASKED

Tuesday, October 4, the Mission presented **KCRM Unmasked**, a fundraiser at Arrowhead Stadium featuring Dan Meers (**KC Wolf**), Grammy-nominated R&B singer **Oleta Adams** and testimonies from graduates of our recovery programs. We're delighted to report the event raised more than \$100,000 for KCRM's recovery programs for homeless men and women!

We're deeply grateful to **J.E. Dunn Construction, Swope Health Services, McCownGordon Construction, Waddell & Reed, Demdaco, Clue Pursuit, Action Mailing and Printing Solutions, FedEx** and **Smith Transportation** for their generous contributions to our success. For more information about sponsoring a KCRM event, contact Julie Larocco, development officer, at (816) 421-7643 or jlarocco@kcrm.org.

JOVEE TO THE RESCUE

September 9, KCRM posted a desperate need for new or gently-used towels on its Facebook page. Marci Allen showed the post to her daughter Jovee, 6, and Jovee decided to help. Enlisting support from her Sunday school class at **Central Church of the Nazarene** and families in her neighborhood, Jovee collected 370 towels for KCRM! The family delivered the towels in late October and after a tour of the Mission, Marci emailed, "We had a great time today! Hopefully this experience will be something Jovee remembers and tucks away in her heart."

You are never too young (or too old) to make a positive impact on the lives of others! To stay updated about our most immediate needs, "like" us at "Kansas City Rescue Mission" on Facebook. You'll also find year-round and immediate needs on our website at **KCRM.org**.

YOUR YEAR-END GIFT TO KCRM

As 2016 comes to a close, KCRM offers the following year-end giving opportunities for you to consider!

Learning Center Challenge: KCRM is very close to completing a challenge issued by a local foundation: Raise \$147,093.50 for the establishment of the Learning and Fitness Center at the Women's Center and the foundation will donate \$147,093.50 to complete the cost. We are just \$48,000 from meeting the challenge and beginning construction on this incredibly important project! Your special year-end gift can help us reach the goal.

KCRM Endowment: A generous donor has established the KCRM Endowment Fund, providing the foundation for the Mission's financial health for years to come. You can contribute any amount to the endowment as a cash donation, bequest or gift of stock.

General Fund: Your unrestricted year-end donation to our general fund allows us to meet our most immediate

needs for the new calendar year. You may also designate your gift to the following programs: Women's Center, Men's Resident Recovery Program, Chaplaincy Program, Health Care, Learning Center Operations.

You can be confident in KCRM's stewardship practices. The Mission is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (**ECFA.org**) and a 4-star member of Charity Navigator (**charitynavigator.org**). Please direct requests for your 2016 Contribution Statement to Juliann Hansen, donor relations manager, at **jhanzen@kcrm.org** or (816) 421-7643.

*For more information about providing relief, recovery and reentry services for homeless men and women through KCRM, contact Julie Larocco, chief development officer, at (816) 421-7643 or **jlarocco@kcrm.org**.*

THEY'RE ON A ROLL!

Our competitors for the TP Tower Trophy meant business this year! October 8, six churches, families and businesses participated in our **TP Tower Rally**, donating enough TP for an entire year! Who won? **The Seasoned Saints from Bethlehem Lutheran Church** in Raymore, Missouri, took first place for the second year in a row! They wrote this message on our wall: "We TOIL to LET our People Go!"



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