

## TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION

# 2017 CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST

**WOMEN/TEEN GIRLS:** Jeans, shirts or hoodies (Jr. 0 – 17, Misses 2 – 18, Plus 2 - 5x)

**MEN/TEEN BOYS:** Jeans (size 30 -50) (especially sizes 30-38), shirts, hoodies, socks, boxers, stocking caps and gloves, plus size clothing (2 – 5X) and sports team logo items

**BOYS AND GIRLS:** Educational or toys/games for ages 8-17, jeans, shirts, hoodies (5 – 20), boxers

**INFANT & TODDLER:** Shirts, tops, jeans, winter clothing (Newborn – 4), onesies and diapers sizes 2 – 6, pull-ups all sizes

**MISCELLANEOUS GIFT ITEMS NEEDED:** Bath gift sets, cologne gift sets, twin XL blankets, F, Q & K sheet sets, twin flat sheets, pots and pans, small appliances, coffee makers, toasters, 4-5 qt. crock pots, small adult gifts, bath towels, cooking utensils, tool sets, wallets, shaving bags, teen gifts, men's gifts, hair brushes, mini flashlights, sports team logo items (Hats, duffle bags, etc.), art sets, sports balls, nice razors, any teen gifts, gift certificates for local stores

**DONATION INFORMATION:** As we make plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission, we are happy to receive donations of new Christmas items for our guests and for community distribution. ***It would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by December 7th.*** This allows time for us to get the gift area set-up. *However, we will gladly receive donations beyond this date as well.* We ask that, for Christmas, gifts be new items and unwrapped. Please also consider a year-end gift to Topeka Rescue Mission.

### PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO:

Donation Center, 206 NW Norris:  
Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM  
Saturday 8:00AM – 3:00PM

Questions?

Please call 785-357-4285.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF  
THE TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION!***

## CURRENT NEEDS LIST

### FOOD ITEMS:

Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee / Sack Lunch Items (*i.e. Pudding Cups, Fruit Cups, Snack Crackers, etc.*)

### SUPPLY ITEMS:

Baby food and formula / Hotel size & large shampoo, conditioner, lotion / Bath Towels, hand towels, wash cloths / Diapers & Pull Ups – size 3 and up / Dish Soap / All Purpose Cleaner / Pinesol / Arm & Hammer Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nephth Laundry Soap / Purex Crystals / Sheet sets: (twin, full, queen & King sizes) / Twin size flat sheets / Twin Blankets and all sizes / Portable heaters

### CLOTHING:

Winter Clothing for Men, Women & Children (clothing & shoes can all be used) / Men's & Women's Shoes – All Sizes / Plus Size Clothing – Men & Women

### FURNITURE (*in good condition*):

**Furniture** – *i.e.* Couches, Recliners, Loveseats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses etc.

**Large & Small Appliances** – *i.e.* Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Freezers, Refrigerators & Microwaves

# TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2017

Topeka Rescue Mission • 600 N. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, KS 66608-1240

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

**FACILITIES: 785-354-1744**

Hope Center for Women & Families #8

Men's Shelter #0

Distribution Center x366

Thrift Store 785-235-9094

TRM Boutique on the Blvd 785-478-5744

Children's Palace 785-730-8810

**PROGRAMS: 785-354-1744**

Dining Services x322

Food Distribution x366

Education & Mentoring x338

Volunteer Services x393

**COMMUNITY:**

NET Reach 785-783-2535 x106

Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

**DONATIONS:**

Monetary: 785-354-1744 x316

Material: 785-357-4285

Food: 785-357-4285

website: [TRMonline.org](http://TRMonline.org)

email: [trm@trmonline.org](mailto:trm@trmonline.org)



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# WHY YOU MATTER





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***I started at the Mission seven years ago as a volunteer and helped answer phones in the office. I spoke with all the people who had missed the community deadline to be adopted for Christmas. All of them were disappointed to hear they had missed the deadline.***

I took every name down, in the order they called in, and carefully recorded the ages, genders and sizes of their children and their wish lists. Many of those wish lists were simple items we often take for granted—socks, underwear, a coat for a child who had no coat. I had never seen so much need—so many hungry kids and families. God broke my heart every day for the people we had a chance to adopt and encourage.

I told callers that we would

help everyone—as long as donated gifts and food were available. Day after day, I talked with people who were hoping to be adopted for Christmas and every day I saw donations pouring in from our community. On Christmas Eve, after sunset and with most area buildings closed, the last mom pulled up to get the gifts for her family. We loaded her gifts in her car and apologized that the gift one of her sons most wanted hadn't come in. We substituted

something we hoped might be close. At that moment, another family pulled up and said, "Everything is closed. Where do we donate this item for a kid for Christmas?" It was the very item that little boy, in the very last family who called in, had requested. God had abundantly met every need and more. Of course, through tears, we gratefully accepted the donation and immediately sent it home with a very overwhelmed mother, who now had two gifts for

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## EXCITING NEWS:

### TRM's Children's Palace is open!

We are thrilled to share that the Children's Palace has opened its doors.

There are already many wonderful children, who are currently or formerly homeless, enrolled and attending daily classes.

More and more little ones enroll each day. Thanks to you and this community's support, these children are not only becoming prepared to successfully enter elementary school, they are learning every day that Jesus loves them.

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her son for Christmas. I knew I wanted to be a part of a team that God was working through like this. I'm grateful God broke my heart for people who are hurting so badly—people with broken hearts who a kind word, encouraging smile and the hope of Jesus' sacrifice for all means the world to. And I am grateful for our tremendously generous community who share gifts and food this time of year, so everyone can have a gift and a Christmas meal to eat.

We can't help people without your help—your donations of food and money keep the doors open and hungry people fed. Our staff, who work so hard, covet your prayers—especially this time of year. Last year, partnering with the Christmas Bureau at United Way, our two organizations adopted more than 8300 people for Christmas—*8300 people from this community who wouldn't have had gifts or a warm Christmas meal at home without you.* Your support helped make that happen.

Recently, our kitchen staff had planned to serve biscuits and gravy for a Wednesday breakfast. They scheduled that meal knowing that we had some

of the supplies to serve hundreds of people a hot breakfast and understanding that we still needed more food to get everyone fed. They faithfully prayed, asking God to provide the remaining food in time for the mid-week meal.

The day before biscuits and gravy were on the menu, Westar Energy had their annual "Your Gift, Your Choice" employee giving campaign kickoff, where more than 90 charities are featured, including 19 in Topeka. At the end of the event every year, they generally donate the leftover food to help us feed people here. That Tuesday morning, just as they have for years now, they donated the leftovers and you guessed it—they had served biscuits and gravy! Their donations—combined with the supplies we had on hand—provided exactly what was needed to feed every hungry guest a hot, filling breakfast that next morning

Through your donations, God has provided so much for the hungry and hurting of this community. We are humbled and grateful; thank you for your support. †

– **Mark DeGroff**



*Doc operates a forklift at TRM's Distribution Center*



# A HEART TRANSFORMED BY GRATITUDE

***Doc came to TRM as a guest after experiencing a devastating loss in his personal life. He came to us a bitter, angry man whose life had spiraled into addiction. He was living outdoor homeless for more than 10 years prior to coming in to the Mission.***

Over time, Doc began to understand the importance of God's love and he accepted the Lord's saving grace. Doc became a leader among his peers and invested a year learning to walk daily with Jesus and cultivate a servant's heart. Those of us who had the privilege to work with Doc could clearly see how God

was using him to encourage everyone he encountered.

Doc faithfully worked in the Distribution Center for several years even after he was diagnosed with cancer. He showed up for work—despite his pain—and refused to let his illness define how he approached each day. One evening, Doc ran into Barry Feaker at the Distribution

Center. Earlier that day, Doc had been to the dentist and had all his teeth pulled; it was necessary for him to begin long-term treatment for his cancer. When Barry asked him how he was doing, he admitted he was hurting, "But, you can take a pill to make this pain better." With a slight smile, he continued, "There's a pain you can't

take a pill for that is much worse than this...that's the pain of a broken heart." Choking back tears, he shared about the love he had found here from so many. He said their love healed what he never believed could be; and, because of their love and the love of God, he could face whatever was before him with confidence.

Doc's favorite holiday was Christmas. Before he got sick, he worked tirelessly at the Distribution Center to help pull all the supplies together for Christmas adoptions. When it became apparent Doc probably wouldn't make it to Christmas, our team threw him a combination surprise birthday/Christmas party in October, even helping his brother travel into town to reconnect with and see Doc. The line of people who came to celebrate him and remind him they loved him stretched down the hall and around the corner. Doc went home to be with the Lord not too long after his diagnosis. While he was here, his grateful heart encouraged and was a witness to the transformative power of Christ. Thank you for helping us change Doc's life; we are privileged to be a part of God's work in this community. †



*Employee team at TRM's Topeka Rescue Mission Run (Doc on far Right)*



*Doc receiving his diploma from TRM's Servants in Training program*