

"You alone created my inner being. You knitted me together inside my mother. I will give thanks to you because I have been so amazingly and miraculously made. Your works are miraculous, and my soul is fully aware of this." – Psalm 139:13-14

KID'S KORNER!

AS UNIQUE AS EVERY SNOWFLAKE

Have you ever seen photographs of a snowflakes when they are magnified? Each one carries a unique beauty that cannot be duplicated by any other. The delicate patterns and designs are each one of a kind because there are no two identical snowflakes! This same thing is true for you and me - there is a role in life that God has made especially for you and you are the only one who can fulfill it. You are a unique and special one-of-a-kind creation! As you begin this new year that is as fresh and clean as an early morning snowfall, think about what God wants to do with your life. What do you think is your special purpose? †



TRM KIDS ART GALLERY

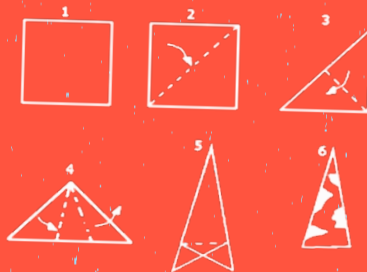
Children at the Hope Center made snowflakes that each reflect a unique pattern and beauty. Have fun doing the same!



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Talk with your family about what makes you special. Make your own special snowflake as a reminder that you are a one of a kind and write on it what makes you unique.

1. Take a piece of paper and fold it in half at a diagonal.
2. Next fold the triangle in half.
3. Fold 1/3 of the triangle to the front and 1/3 of the triangle to the back.
4. Trim off the points at the bottom.
5. Cut into the folds and experiment with different shapes.
6. Carefully unfold your creation and hang it somewhere special.



FAMILY VERSE:
1 Corinthians 7:7

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2016

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Facilities: 354-1744

Hope Center for Women & Families opt 8
Men's Shelter opt 0
Distribution Center x366
Thrift Store 235-9094

Programs: 354-1744

Dining Services x322
Food Distribution x366
Education & Mentoring x338
Volunteer Services x393

Community:

Neighborhood Empowerment &
Transformation (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
email: info@trmonline.org



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WHAT IS **GOD** UP TO?

Part One: 2015 at a Glance

"O Lord, I will honor and praise Your name, for You are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now You have accomplished them." – Isaiah 25:1 (NLT)

WHAT IS GOD UP TO?

Part One: 2015 at a Glance



A new year is upon us and once again we look back in amazement at all God has done over the past twelve months. Not only has He continued to supply for every need, He has also expanded the borders of our ministry to further reach those who are hurting and in need within our community. Because we know there is no way to contain all we have to report, we will be publicizing brief snapshots from 2015 as well as plans for 2016 in three segments. In this newsletter, we are delighted to share some highlights from the year to give you a glance into all that has been accomplished through your compassion and giving. Next month we will look ahead at what we see on the horizon for the new year and in March we look forward to sharing actual numbers that reflect accomplishments of 2015 in our Annual Report. Before we introduce those demographics, however, we feel it's important to share insight to what exactly those numbers mean. Thank you for partnering with us to help others. We look forward to what God has in store for our community in the months ahead!

Meeting basic needs through SHELTER SERVICES

Both our Men's Shelter and Hope Center for Women and Families continued to operate at or beyond capacity for most of 2015. A code variance from the City continued to help us meet needs through the placement of cots on the floor. However, though our numbers remained high, we did see a reduction on many nights in the number of people served in comparison to recent previous years. Numbers still climbed to over 300 individuals on some nights but those nights were less frequent than the prior year. We do not know fully the reason for this reduction but we are hopeful that some of it was in direct correlation with the educational and neighborhood initiatives we have in place which were developed in part to reduce recidivism and the need for shelter.



Feeding the hungry through FOOD SERVICES

Providing food for the multitudes is no small feat but through a dedicated staff and volunteer base, along with the favor and grace of God, we have continued to be able to do just that. Individuals and families join us daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner and many others who have difficulties making ends meet receive meals in the form of food boxes. Our hope is that with each meal served, nourishment is received along with the knowledge and awareness that somebody cares.

Supplying practical support through DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

Our distribution services have continued to reach out to those in need within our community in multiple ways. Supplies for the guests of the Mission and participants of NET Reach are regularly provided. Outreach through our food pantry, clothing bank and household distribution have also continued to aid a multitude of individuals and families in need throughout other areas of our city. Our retail branch of distribution further expanded this year through the development of an online sales venue (www.topcitytreasures.com). This new outlet along with our Thrift Store, warehouse sales and publication sales

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have helped to provide operational funds as well as work training opportunities for guests of the Mission. The release of our first children's book, "In Darkness, a Light Still Shines ... for Kids!" was also announced which will provide revenue for the upcoming Children's Palace.



Bandaging wounds through our MEDICAL CLINIC

Whether it was through the application of a bandage to a small wound or a referral to a specialist for a more severe condition, each guest of our medical clinic

received love and support this past year. Volunteer nurses and doctors continued to sacrificially give of their time to operate this small clinic that makes a huge impact on the lives of many.

Expanding outreach to some of our most vulnerable through STREET REACH

Our street outreach component of the ministry continues to be a viable part of reaching out to the unsheltered homeless of our community. A training period took place this past year to help our outreach and shelter operations become more effective in working together to assist people coming out of street homelessness. Because of the unique circumstances of those living outdoors, we wanted to become better equipped across the board to most effectively minister to this unique population. Collaboration with multiple agencies also continued to grow over this past year to better assist individuals in receiving needed support.

Neighborhood empowerment and transformation taking form through NET REACH

When NET Reach began in our community's Highland Crest neighborhood in 2013, we knew very little about the extent of the task we would be embarking. Now, nearly three years later, we stand amazed at all that has unfolded and continues to unfold before us.

Our community-based Dare-to-Dream mentoring

program has grown to include 50 adults and nearly 100 children. These participants have been paired with mentors who are helping to support and encourage them in a journey they once walked alone. Though this past year was marked by gunfire and loss of life, the community has rallied together to take hold of their neighborhood. Today the areas of community safety and hope have greatly improved. We believe great things are in store for the new year ahead as more and more people link arms to transform a neighborhood and learn of their purpose in God.



Empowering Adults to DARE TO DREAM

Mentoring programs exist for both guests of the Mission and residents of the Hi-Crest neighborhood. While we are still learning of how God wants these programs to evolve, both have grown over this past year and proved to be successful in empowering individuals to move forward in life and overcome the obstacles that, for years and often generations, has kept them bound. The main challenge for the year was and continues to be a need for more mentors willing to serve by becoming involved in the lives of those who are suffering and broken. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact our volunteer services department: 785-357-4285-x393.

Equipping the future generations through DOXAZO

Doxazo joined the ministry of the Topeka Rescue Mission this past year and reached out to the youth in the Hi-Crest area through camps, monthly activities and community service projects. It has been incredible to witness so many youth rising up for the sake of Christ to move forward in their relationship with Him while helping

others. Youth from both within and outside of the Hi-Crest community have come together to fellowship and serve in a way that is inspirational and motivational to the other areas of our ministry.

Breaking ground for the CHILDREN'S PALACE

May 8, 2015 marked the ground breaking of the new Children's Palace facility which will provide daytime care to homeless children aged zero to five. Within just seven short months the building neared completion for operations that will begin in this new year. We watched in amazement as God opened the floodgates to provide for every need and we could not be more grateful to a caring community who joined together to help bring the vision to pass. We anxiously anticipate opening day when we will be able to provide love and care to these precious gems and treasures.



Opening doors through the CENTER FOR BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Guests of the Mission have excelled in our year-long Servants in Training (SIT)

program with many having the desire to return to that place of urban poverty as a pastor or missionary. Four years ago we partnered with Topeka Urban Missions Institute (TUMI) to help make their dream possible. At that point in time, the seminary level courses could be completed in four years. However, we have found a way to incorporate the same level of training in a two-year residential program through what we now call the Center for Biblical Leadership and Development. The first class of ten participants began this past year. We also began exploring ways in which we could open the school to individuals called to urban ministry who may have not experienced homelessness. We look forward to these doors opening further for our community in the year ahead!

Training for the workforce through CaRE

In 2015 the Mission began a new job training program for

homeless guests. Career Readiness Education (CaRE) is a 13-week employment program designed to help students develop and enhance life management and job skills in preparation for long-term financial sustaining career employment. This goal is met through six weeks of daily classroom instruction including such areas as problem solving, financial literacy, resume preparation, interviewing skills, basic computer operations and business communications. During the remaining seven weeks, students participate in an internship designed to provide hands-on job experience. Mentoring and support is also provided as well as housing and consumer credit counseling and free legal consultation.

Ministering to victims of abuse through RESTORE HOPE

The Mission became more aware of the prevalence of victims of human trafficking within our community through a partnership between Street Reach and the ministry formerly known as Alden's House. To support these victims in the most effective ways possible, the Mission has adopted the former Alden's House as a new branch of the ministry and the name has been changed to Restore Hope. This Christ-centered ministry to victims of trafficking helps to address the deep-rooted trauma these individuals have faced and helps them to overcome their past by embracing the hope of their future.

Partnering together through VOLUNTEER SERVICES

A huge thank you to the countless men, women, children and youth who have given of their time to come and physically show their support of the Mission. The plethora of services provided would not be possible apart from a community who embraces and actively supports the ministry. While the need for even more people with a willingness to serve is upon us, we recognize the many who have tirelessly and sacrificially given of their time and cannot express our appreciation to them enough.

Stay tuned for next month's publication when we announce new ways in which we will be sharing of the Lord's goodness in 2016! †

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

FOOD ITEMS:

Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee / Granulated Sugar / Bottled Water
Sack Lunch Items (i.e. Pudding cups, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.) / Mustard & Ketchup

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Hair combs & brushes / Storage bags - quart & gallon / Dish soap / Sheet sets: (Full, Queen & King sizes) / Bath Towels / Diapers - Newborn, 4, 5 & 6 / Pull Ups - Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T / Baby Wipes / Razors (Men's & Women's) / Q-Tips / Deodorant / Hair Conditioner (Large) / Purex crystals / Arm & Hammer washing soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nephtha laundry soap / Tall kitchen & 30 gallon trash bags / Blankets / Body wash

CLOTHING:

Men's jeans & pants (especially 30-40) / Men's Underwear - Sizes 30-38 / Men's & Women's Shoes - All Sizes
Plus Size Clothing - Men & Women / Women's Underwear - Sizes 5 - 9 / Children's Clothing & Shoes - 2T & Up

FURNITURE *(in good condition)*

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

Large & small appliances - i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Refrigerators & Microwaves

FROM THE DESK OF BARRY FEAKER

Words cannot express the continued gratitude we hold in our hearts for the many ways in which you made this past Christmas another memorable one. Each year we begin the Christmas season with hearts filled with joy and excitement as we anticipate the outpouring of love that will be given to so many individuals and families in need. And each year our expectations are exceeded by the abundance of support and assistance we receive. Whether it was through the purchase of gifts, the giving of finances or time, the offering up of prayers or joining with us on Christmas day – YOU made a difference this past Christmas and we thank you! Together we were able to bless thousands, not only with gifts, clothing and food, but with the knowledge of a special child who was born to bring to life and hope into even the weariest of souls. May God reward you for your care and support and bless you back beyond measure in the new year ahead!

Sincerely,



BOOK RELEASE!

We are thrilled to announce the release of the second Topeka

Rescue Mission publication, "In Darkness, a Light Still Shines ... for Kids!"

This illustrated family-friendly devotion is based on stories found in the original publication but geared more towards addressing the challenges that children face and helping them to know that they are never alone. To pick up your copy today, visit our Thrift Store at 1312 N Kansas Avenue or order online at amazon.com. Copies are \$20/each with proceeds supporting the Topeka Rescue Mission Children's Palace!