



# TRM BOUTIQUE ON THE BOULEVARD

We are thrilled to announce the new TRM Boutique on the Boulevard, 3400 SW Topeka Blvd. Please join us on April 21st at 4pm for a ribbon cutting with the Greater Topeka Chamber and an open house until 7pm. Then on Saturday, April 22nd come by for the Grand Opening and support TRM Ministries by shopping from 10am-5pm.

The Boutique will have quality used clothing, furniture, and miscellaneous household items at affordable prices. Antiques and unique treasures are also part of the charm and will be priced at market value. All sales from the Boutique go back to support TRM Ministries.

The unique history of the building will draw you in. As you stroll through the store you'll have the opportunity to read about the past that makes this a must stop on your list. Also, the showroom floor is a

work of art, showing that "Thrifty" can look excellent.

TRM Boutique on the Boulevard will also be a job training/Intern site for several TRM Ministry areas. These areas include Hi-Crest NET, Servants In Training and Career Readiness Education.

In the March issue, you saw the annual report for 2016. In the income section, 4% of the annual income for TRM Ministries comes from Retail sales. Every time you donate items, you truly give through TRM Ministries to people in need in our community. Items are given to those in need and other items are sold at an affordable price.

Every time that you shop in one of our retail locations and spend \$5, you feed 35 people or more. Thank you. Again, please plan to join us for the ribbon cutting, Open House, and shopping.

# TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION **MONTHLY REPORT** APRIL 2017

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

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## **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **Facilities: 354-1744**

Hope Center for Women & Families #8  
Men's Shelter #0  
Distribution Center x366  
Thrift Store 235-9094  
TRM Boutique on the Blvd 478-5744



### **Programs: 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: [info@trmonline.org](mailto:info@trmonline.org)



LOVE THE ONE IN  
FRONT OF YOU

***“If you are called as a missionary—a “sent-out one”—then you are called to comfort those who mourn. You are called to love the broken until they understand God’s love—a love that never dies—through you.”***

*– Heidi Baker, Compelled By Love: How to Change the World Through the Simple Power of Love in Action*

# LOVE THE ONE IN FRONT OF YOU

## **Note from Executive Director, Barry Feaker:**

I asked Mark DeGross, Resource Development Director, to share a story that he experienced that really touched my heart. Mark is tasked with sharing the story about how God is working here at TRM Ministries and inviting people to be a part of it.

***When my wife and I were first married, we lived directly across from Randolph Elementary School, and often saw kids walking to school. One Monday morning, as I walked out the front door of my home to head to work at Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries, I saw a little boy in tears sitting next to his bicycle on our driveway. This little boy was probably 7 or 8 years old at the oldest. I was in a hurry, had a full day of projects and meetings ahead of me and leaving just a bit later than I had intended. I put my books and work folders on top of the car and started talking with him in a calm, soothing voice as I approached, so as not to startle him and in hope that he would see me as a safe person to talk with.***

The chain on his bicycle had “jumped off the pedal ring” and become entangled to the point he couldn’t push his bike across the street to school. I asked why he was crying and he explained that he would be late to school and didn’t want to get into trouble. He kept repeating, “I’m really a good kid and don’t want to be late.” That seemed very reasonable. Thinking we had a little time

before school started, I told him we could probably fix it and that I’d be right back with a few tools. I walked back to the garage and got the few tools I had on a shelf inside.

When I turned around, I noticed his crying had increased dramatically and he had become really agitated. Now he not only had tears pouring out of his eyes, but

also snot running out of his nose and his breathing was labored. He was almost inconsolable at this point. I reassured him we could fix his bike and I would help him get across the street to school.

I gave him the clean handkerchief from my back pocket and started wrenching on his bike. He just kept crying harder and harder. I was torn,

*Cont. on page 2*

do I keep working on his bike or turn my attention to him and try to console him? He didn't know me and I knew he wouldn't want to leave his bike with a total stranger. I had a full day in front of me—I didn't really plan time to stay home and fix his bike. Unfortunately, I didn't have the right size of wrench with me and would have to go back inside and downstairs into the basement where the tool bench was. Instead of leaving him alone again, I stopped and just asked the little guy what was so troubling?

That's when the real reason for his worry came out and it hit me like a ton of bricks. He shared that he wouldn't be late for class if we fixed his bike—instead, he'd miss breakfast. He said he hadn't eaten much that weekend and they didn't have any food at home. He always got breakfast and lunch

at school, regardless of how much food they had at home. He didn't know how he could still make breakfast and get his bike across the street. Breakfast was waiting for him about 100 yards away, but that distance must have seemed as wide as the Grand Canyon to him as he sat there on my driveway crying. This little guy was one, of the roughly 80% of local Topeka children in public schools, who relied on free and reduced breakfast and lunch at school to get enough to eat.

So I asked him if I helped him get some breakfast and get to school could he carry his backpack and walk with me? I helped him up off the driveway and he picked up his backpack and put it on. I picked up his bike, he slid his hand into my free hand and we walked across the street together. We locked up his bike at the

bike rack and hadn't been there long when a teacher came running out. She could see the remnants of the tears and gave him a big hug. We must have been quite a sight! I explained that he didn't want to miss breakfast and was VERY hungry. I also told her he was late for breakfast and worried he wouldn't get any food because his bike had broken down. She immediately took him inside for breakfast and said they would see to it that his bicycle was fixed during the school day so he could ride home that night. His demeanor changed the second he thought he still had a shot at breakfast.

Walking the short distance back to my car, my heart broke for that little guy. I had managed to keep it together until he was inside and now, in tears, I prayed for him. I also thanked Jesus for helping me to encounter him and not allowing me to be too busy, too focused or too sped up to miss the chance to help him.

I'm a huge college basketball fan. Frequently, we hear a losing or frustrated coach after a game talk about his team being "sped up" and the other team playing in a manner that "got us out of our game plan." In fact, on Senior night for KU Basketball



recently, Bill Self mentioned at half time that his team was “getting sped up.”

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are really a missionary. You have been placed in a job—it can be accounting, sales, medicine, truck driving, ministry, farming, or any other profession.

You are on assignment and Jesus has given you a game plan. His game plan for you, no matter where you are or what you do for work, is to love the one in front of you.

Do we all possess the ability to be sped up and miss opportunities? I know I’m capable of getting focused on a to do list and missing an opportunity to build a relationship or encourage the person in front of me. Everyday life brings many stresses. Here at TRM Ministries, it seems we often manage one emergency after another—it is the nature of a ministry that serves people in survival mode. We also wrestle with big questions like, “How do we attack poverty and best serve those who Jesus brings through

our front door?” Yet, we also know that we may be the only Jesus many of the people we get a chance to interact with ever see. So many who come through our doors and seek food, shelter, clothing and encouragement are so wounded and broken.

So how do we do it? What does love the one in front of us mean? We

help the person in front of us as much and as long as we can. When we’re finished, we turn to the right or the left and help the next one.

Last month you read about how, because of the generosity and support of you and our amazing community, we provided 541,680 meals in 2016. Because of all the food that is directly donated and the system that God has engineered here, we are able to feed someone a meal for 14 cents. For every \$5 you donate, 35 people are fed a meal. There is an insert in this issue about all the ways those meals bless the person receiving them and a video on our website and Facebook page with more information about food services.

There are three things I’d hope you would take away from this:

1. Be encouraged to see the one in front of you with God’s eyes and heart and avoid being “sped up.”
2. We are so grateful for you. Your generous donations, prayers and volunteer hours allow us to love the one in front of us and one way we do that is with food providing more than 540,000 meals last year.
3. It’s about loving the one little boy who hadn’t eaten much over the weekend and desperately needed breakfast, warmly welcoming the one person who walks a mile in each direction for a meal in the TRM Ministries dining room when their food budget runs out at the end of the month, or greeting in Jesus’ love the unsheltered homeless person who needs to be loved and fed, right in his camp. And, it is about being used by Jesus to share His joy, His love, His hope, His peace and build His kingdom and spiritually feed others as Jesus said in John 21:17, “...do you love me?... feed my sheep.” †

– Mark DeGroff, *Resource Development Director*

**“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”  
– Mother Teresa**

# CURRENT NEEDS LIST

## FOOD ITEMS:

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

## SUPPLY ITEMS:

Storage bags – quart & gallon / Razors / Bath Towels / Diapers & Pull Ups – All Sizes  
Dish Soap / Hairbrushes / All Purpose Cleaner / Pinesol / Disinfecting Wipes / Twin size blankets  
Arm & Hammer Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nephtha Laundry Soap  
Purex Crystals / Sheet sets: (full, queen & King sizes) / Household Sponges / Scrubbers

## CLOTHING:

Men's Pants & Jeans – All sizes (Especially 30 – 38) / Men's & Women's Shoes – All Sizes  
Plus Size Clothing – Men & Women / Men's Briefs – Size 32-34 / Women's Briefs – Size 5, 6 & 7  
Children's Clothing & Shoes – 2T – 5T (used good condition is fine)

## FURNITURE *(in good condition)*

**Furniture** – *i.e.* couches, recliners, loveseats, dressers, tables, mattresses *etc.*

**Large & small appliances** – *i.e.* washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators & microwaves



*If you have never had the opportunity to look inside the Mission's DC, call 357-4285 to arrange for a tour today!*