

# BACK TO SCHOOL!

It's time to prepare for back to school and that means the annual Topeka Rescue Mission Back to School Distribution. Backpacks, colored pencils, pencil boxes, composition books are just a few of the items children will need this year. The average cost to purchase the school supplies needed for just one child is about \$100. For a family already struggling to make ends meet financially, this is a big hurdle. The parents are very grateful for the help they receive as it relieves the extra pressure they are feeling to prepare for getting the children ready to return to school. The Mission partnered with Topeka North Outreach (TNO) in 2015 to help just over 700 children with backpacks and school supplies. It was a big success and we enjoyed working alongside TNO serving those in need.

On August 9th, we will provide backpacks and school supplies for the children in the Dare to Dream Mentoring and Dare to Grow programs at Hi-Crest NET. On August 10th, we will provide a new outfit & shoes, backpack and school supplies for the children residing at the Hope Center.

Again this year we will be partnering with TNO to provide backpacks and school supplies to others in need from the community. This school supplies distribution will take place August 13th from 9am-12pm at the Oakland NET Center (1001 NE Michigan Ave). School supply packs will be put together August 11th & 12th at the Oakland NET Center. Volunteers are needed for all 3 days and can sign up by calling Volunteer Services at (785) 354-1744 ext. 393.

At right is the list of school supplies needed. We ask that all supplies be donated by August 8th and be brought to the Distribution Center (401 NW Norris). Please consider volunteering or donating supplies to help put a smile on a child's face by knowing they will head to school better prepared to take on the new school year.

If you or someone you know needs help with supplies you can sign up at the TRM Distribution Center (401 NW Norris) before August 8th on Monday through Friday, 9am- 3pm, or online at [www.topekanorthoutreach.org](http://www.topekanorthoutreach.org). Pre-registration is required for the August 13th event. †



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- **New Clothing: Sizes 5 Toddler – Adult 2XL for Boys, Girls, Men & Women**
- **Backpacks**
- **Spiral Notebooks 70 pgs. (College Rule)**
- **Notebook Filler Paper (Wide and College)**
- **Plain Pocket Folders (without brads)**
- **Pencil Boxes**
- **Pencil Pouch**
- **Pencils (#2)**
- **Pen (Black or Blue)**
- **Big Pink Eraser**
- **3 Ring Binder (1 or 1&1/2 inch) NO ZIPPERS**
- **Composition Notebooks**
- **Colored Pencils (12 ct. pkg.)**
- **Colored Markers (10 ct. pkg.)**
- **Pointed & Blunt Scissors**
- **Hi-Lighters (yellow)**
- **Dry Erase Markers (Black)**
- **Kleenex (Large Box)**
- **Antibacterial Wipes**
- **Hand Sanitizer**

*Please bring all donations to the Topeka Rescue Mission Distribution Center, 401 NW Norris, between the hours of 8am-3pm Monday-Friday & 8am-12pm on Saturday.*

*Questions? Contact the Distribution Center at (785) 357-4285.*





# A MERMAID HAS NO TEARS

## TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 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

Thrft 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

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
AMERICAN  
PRE-SORT INC



# A MERMAID HAS NO TEARS

*The following was adapted from a similar submission to the Topeka Capital-Journal Opinion page (original publication date 02/07/16).*

***In the Hans Christian Anderson story, “Little Mermaid,” he writes: “But a mermaid has no tears, and therefore she suffers so much more.”***

The pain and suffering that we see in the lives of the poor, the homeless and the hungry throughout our community, our nation and world compels many to take action and become the hands and feet of Jesus. In a compassionate effort to restore hope to those who suffer, the United States of America, without argument, has been and continues to be a beacon of hope unequalled in the history of the world. This display of compassion is exemplified daily through the lives of the citizens throughout our own community.

For three decades as Executive

Director of the Topeka Rescue Mission, I have watched with amazement this demonstration of loving generosity. Men, women and children are continually giving sacrificially, bringing the light of hope to those who suffer in so many ways. However, there is a darkness that exists in our nation today and even in our own community. It is with this that we believe the time has come to remove the veil of secrecy and a shame that brings unparalleled destruction to the lives of those who are known as victims of human trafficking. These victims

are predominantly women and young girls who have been made to think that their worth is nothing more than that of a beast found in a forgotten stockyard. Their minds and bodies are destroyed for the economic advancement of perverted, devilish, slave-owning criminals and the morally disenfranchised customers who see these victims as nothing more than a commodity to be used and discarded when they determine they are no longer useful for their perverted purposes.

Last year alone the Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries division,

*Cont. on page 2*

Cont. from page 1

now called Restore Hope, reached out in love, rescue and restoration to 45 victims of human trafficking who were residing in our own city. **So far this year we have assisted nearly 50 individuals.** Unfortunately, we are confident this is just the beginning of what lies ahead.

According to statistics given by the Kansas Attorney General's office, there were 44 identified cases of human trafficking in 2012 in the state of Kansas. In 2015, three short years later, there were over 400.

The brokenness that we find in these who have been subjected to various forms of sexual slavery is unparalleled from many other forms of human suffering. Last year, one young woman was rescued from homelessness in our streets, but was in a near catatonic state of being. As her story began to unfold, we began to recognize the trauma she had endured from years of sexual abuse. The dehumanization of her existence drove her to mentally


check out from the suffering this life had presented to her after years of repetitive sexual abuse and convincing that her existence on this earth and her "true" value could only be measured in terms of the number of men that she was able to please and the cash she was able to acquire for her handlers. The unbearable shame and worthlessness that she experienced was more than she could bear. She had no happiness, no peace, no future, no hope and now, like the mermaid, no tears because her life was engulfed in a complete ocean of hopelessness. However, through the love, patience and determination of Mission staff, mental health services and special volunteers - all who believe that there is still hope and refused to give up - this precious soul began to hear and believe that she is loved by God and that she has a purpose vastly different than what she had been led to believe. She, like others we encounter, began to see hope restored.



At the Topeka Rescue Mission, in spite of the enormity of suffering and injustice that we see every day, we still believe in miracles. However, after three decades in this ministry, I still find myself crying out to God and all too often in desperation asking Him, "God, why don't You do something?" Time and again, that still small voice of gentleness speaks back to me and says, "I am doing something, that's why I have sent you. Now go and do, be My hands, be My feet, be My voice." While I do not pretend to be an adequate representative of such an assignment, I realize I am not alone. He has surrounded me



Labor trafficking is another form of human slavery that takes place daily in our community forcing many to work long hours under deplorable conditions for little or no pay.



*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free”*

– Luke 4:18

with an army of compassionate soldiers equipped by His love. His Spirit compels us to stand in the gap on behalf of those so wounded. I am more than grateful for these amazing servants who are responding to the call and also to our local law enforcement agencies, our District Attorney, United States Federal Marshal, FBI, Valeo Behavioral Healthcare, and our other wonderful social services that are partnering with us in this battle.

Is human trafficking a new phenomenon? No. Trafficking has happened since the earliest recorded civilizations. However, today a vast anti-human trafficking movement has

awakened communities around the world, including here at home, to understand the signs and symptoms and develop specialized resources to help vulnerable victims gain freedom, healing and hope.

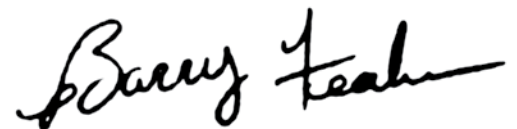
Awareness is imperative. Identification is key. Collaborative resources are a must as we strive to understand the vulnerabilities leading to this type of manipulation. Half the battle is in resolving that we can indeed play a part in restoring hope to individuals at risk or entrapped by human trafficking.

Please consider joining us in this battle. Learn the signs of trafficking, be willing to report.

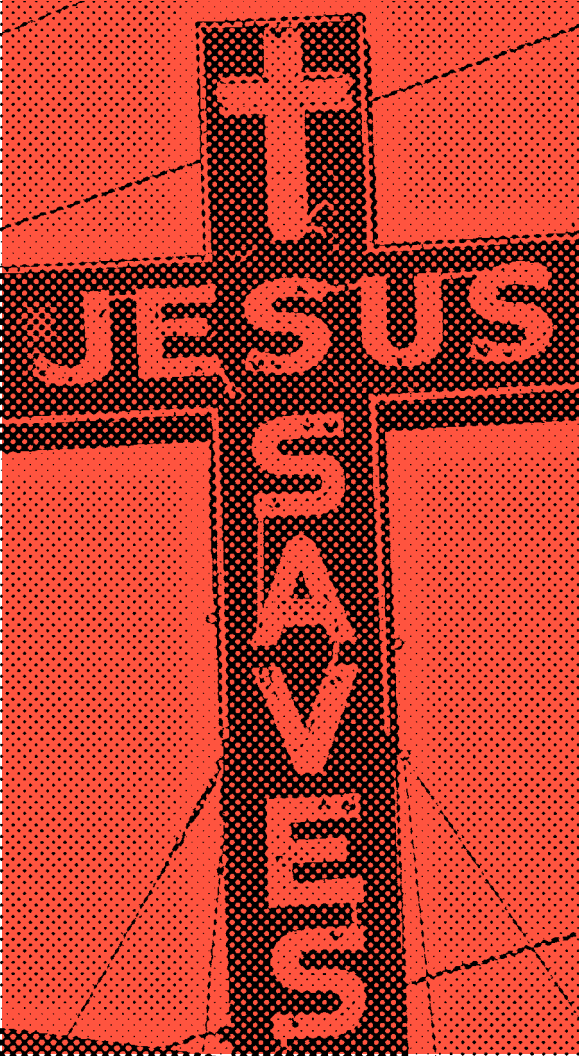
Pray if you do, give if you can. Consider lending your life to God and say, “Yes. I’ll be Your hands, Your feet, Your voice and Your tears on behalf of those who have no tears, and therefore suffer so much more.”

Thanks for standing with us. Together we can and will make a difference.

Sincerely,



*To report potential human trafficking call the TRM Ministries Homeless and Human Trafficking Tips Line 785-230-8237. For emergencies dial 911.*



## CURRENT NEEDS LIST

For the most up-to-date needs list, please visit our website at [trmonline.org](http://trmonline.org).

### FOOD ITEMS:

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

### SUPPLY ITEMS:

Infant Formula / Purex Crystals / Arm & Hammer Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team  
Borax / Fels Nephth Laundry Soap / Tall Kitchen & 30 gallon Trash Bags / Storage  
bags – quart & gallon / Sheet sets: (Full, Queen & King sizes) / Bath Towels / Diapers  
– All Sizes / Baby Wipes / Pull Ups – Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T / Deodorant (Men's)  
All Purpose Cleaner / Disinfecting Wipes / Dish Soap

### CLOTHING:

New Children's School Clothing – Sizes 4T thru Adult Boys and Girls / Men's Pants &  
Jeans – All sizes (Especially 30 - 40) / Men's & Women's Shoes – All Sizes / Plus Size  
Clothing – Men & Women / Men's Briefs – Size 32-34 / Women's Briefs – Sizes 5-7  
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  
Box Fans

## CHILDREN'S PALACE UPDATE & INVITATION

We are thrilled with the momentum that is building as we near the finish line for Children's Palace construction! **Our last major project is to build playgrounds for the children we will serve ... AND WE INVITE YOU TO HELP!**

Construction will take place **September 6-10th**. This week-long build is really a way for us to invite the community to invest in the lives of the children we will serve through their donation of time. And everyone has something to contribute! We do have a need for skilled volunteers with construction experience but we also have many other needs. Because this

will be a family-friendly event, we also need volunteers who are able to help with children's activities, childcare, preparation and donation of meals, painting and other miscellaneous tasks. The need is great - a total of approximately 100 volunteers are needed per day – but we believe this will be a fun way for our community to come together for a great cause!

*To get involved, please sign up online at [trmonline.org](http://trmonline.org) or call 785-354-1744-x393. For general inquiries about the Palace, community build or to schedule a tour, please call 785-354-1744-x325 or [jhosman@trmonline.org](mailto:jhosman@trmonline.org).* †

