

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

Every year, the Topeka Rescue Mission partners with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner which takes place annually at Ag Hall of the Kansas ExpoCenter. Mission guests receive free transportation to the event, a free Thanksgiving feast and the opportunity to fellowship with



individuals and families throughout the community. A wonderful feeling of “family” exists and countless people from all backgrounds and walks of life join together to celebrate the special day. Those interested in volunteering can sign up at trmonline.org – Volunteer Opportunities – Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Sign up is required by Tuesday, November 22nd. Slots fill quickly, so early registration suggested! †

CHILDREN'S PALACE UPDATE

The opening date for the Palace remains to be determined based on exterior construction completion and necessary licensing. However, we will be hosting a ribbon cutting and open house prior to opening so that you can tour the Palace and celebrate the Lord's goodness with us! Stay tuned for more details, including date and time.

There is still an opportunity to invest into the lives of children through the Palace. A matching gift in the amount of \$125,000 was given which means that every

dollar donated will be doubled up to that amount. A \$10 donation becomes \$20; a \$250 donation becomes \$500; a \$5,000 donation becomes \$10,000! If you'd like to take advantage of this giving opportunity, please make your donation payable to the Topeka Rescue Mission and marked “Children's Palace Matching Gift.”

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we

eagerly anticipate opening the Palace doors. We believe God will use this ministry to bless countless children and families for generations to come!

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact jhosman@trmonline.org or 785-354-1744-x325. †



TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION **MONTHLY REPORT** NOVEMBER 2016

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
AMERICAN
PRE-SORT INC

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



**“YOU GOTTA
KEEP THIS PLACE
OPEN”**

"YOU GOTTA KEEP THIS PLACE OPEN"



I was in my normal rush mode, heading out the door, when I passed the Mission's clinic. Sitting on the couch, next the clinic door, sat a man of typical appearance for a homeless shelter. A scruffy beard, uncombed hair, thin and looking well beyond his actual years in age. We see them every day, tired, discouraged, seemingly lost, appearing hopeless. Often I have to catch myself so I don't fail to see them in all my busyness. After all, these are the people for who our shelters exist.

Each day there are many, many responsibilities in front of me. I must keep my focus to constantly help this ministry, its numerous divisions, nine properties, and amazing staff and volunteers attempting to all head in the right direction – God's direction. This fella could be viewed as just one more guy in the midst of over 100 that stayed the night before. Would I be too rushed to acknowledge him? Would I think to at least give him a nod, a smile or even ask the proverbial question that

I truthfully didn't have time to hear an answer to, "How are you today?"

Sam* didn't give me the chance to succeed or fail at any of these options. Before I could rush out the door, he asked, "Are you Barry Feaker?" As I turned to look at him, I replied, "Yes, sir". With a look of desperation on his face and intensity in his voice, he said, "Barry, you gotta keep this place open ... you just gotta keep this place open!!!!" I'm sure there was a puzzled look on my face due to his statement and

intensity of expression. Looking at my watch I figured I might be able to squeeze in a few extra moments before my next appointment in Hi-Crest. I stepped toward Sam and could now see tears welling up in his eyes. Questions began to roll through my mind. *Why is this man so afraid that the Mission might not be able to remain open? Had he just arrived and not known that TRM has been in operation for 64 years? Had he been here before? What possible traumatic event recently occurred*

**For confidentiality purposes, name has been changed.*

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in his life that would make him so afraid? On the other hand, had this man heard something I hadn't heard? Yikes! I sat down next to Sam and asked the reason for his concern.

Sam told me what life had been like for him prior to arriving at the Mission and how his options had run out. He had become penniless, hungry, homeless and desperate. Pointing to his pants, he shared, "You gave me these." Pulling on the sleeve of his shirt, he said, "Look, you gave me this shirt too and my shoes. You have helped me so much!" Tears of gratefulness ran down his cheek.

My thoughts of that next meeting I was in such a rush to get too, once so important, now began to lessen as I watched this dear man overjoyed with such basics. The basics I rarely give thought to in my own life - food, shelter, clothes - so taken for granted, but not for all. Not for Sam.

"You have shown me that God really cares for me," he said. "You help so many to see God." With tears now welling up in my eyes, Sam expressed many times over how thankful he was to God and the Topeka Rescue Mission. Again he repeated, "There are so many hurting people out there. Barry, you just gotta keep this place open!" This

time I understood.

Before I left, a bit late now for my next stop, I thanked Sam for sharing his gratitude with me. I reassured him that, with God's help and a continued outpouring of generosity from others, this place called the Topeka Rescue Mission would be here for him and the many others he was representing that day.

Thanksgiving. A time in our nation that we take note of the many blessings of our family, freedom and our



unparalleled global prosperity. All too often though, the holiday is overshadowed with an abundance of food, football and the frustrations of "the rush" to make it all happen. The timing of the turkey, potatoes, stuffing and pie, combined with the travel, traffic and turmoil of trying to pack it all in to that one special day... Thanksgiving. How different would our lives look and feel if we thought for a moment as Sam did that day, recognizing the blessings of a home, a meal, clean pants and shirt, and good

shoes to carry us onward in our journey?

No, Sam wasn't consumed that day with "the rush." Rather Sam paused to give thanks to the Mission, to God and to people like you. Thank you for helping us to be there for Sam and the many others who suffer throughout our community. At the Topeka Rescue Mission, every day is a day of thanksgiving to us. We are thankful to God for His favor on our country, our city and those who come our

way. And every day we thank God for you ... for giving of your time, your talents, your finances and your prayers. Thank you for helping us to keep this place, this ministry that now spans nine divisions, open.

In his own way, Sam speaks for us all. Let's not take this

great nation and our wonderful community for granted. Let's take time this Thanksgiving season to truly thank God for the many blessings He has given to us. Let's pray for His continued favor on the United States of America and let's work together to keep this place, our nation, our home, open - for now and for many generations to come. †

Sincerely,

Barry Leah



*Registration and more information
available at TopekaRescueRun.com.
Proceeds benefit Topeka Rescue Mission.*

THERE'S STILL TIME!

2016 Miracle on Kansas Ave. Rescue Run
brought to you by Today's Dentistry

There is still time to register and join us for the 11th Annual Rescue Run! This festive 5K run - 1.5 mile walk takes place just before the Miracle on Kansas Avenue Christmas parade. Since you'll be leading the parade, you'll receive glow items in your packet and you're encouraged to wear numerous lights and holiday costumes. Bring more of your own lights and "light up the night!" The "Brightest Light" male and female chosen by popular vote at the awards ceremony will receive a special award. So, show up, dress up, and let everyone see your holiday spirit!



CURRENT NEEDS LIST

FOOD ITEMS:

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

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Infant Formula / Tall Kitchen & 30 gallon Trash Bags / Storage bags – quart & gallon / Sheet sets: Twin XL Sets
Bath Towels / Diapers – All Sizes / Baby Wipes / Pull Ups – Sizes 2T, 3T, 4T and 5T (boys & girls)
Deodorant / All Purpose Cleaner/Pinesol / Disinfecting Wipes / Dish Soap / Hair Conditioner
Household Sponges / Scrubbers / Dryer fabric softener sheets

CLOTHING:

Men's Pants & Jeans – All sizes (Especially 30 - 36) / Men's Shoes All Sizes / 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



CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST

Beginning the second week of November, we are in need of volunteers to help turn the TRM warehouse into a winter wonderland for gift distribution. Last year, we helped 4,331 individuals – including 2,084 children! Numerous volunteer opportunities exist throughout the season. To get involved, go to trmonline.org – Volunteer Opportunities – Christmas 2016.

We are also in the process of receiving donations of new items for this year's Christmas season. Below is a list of what we currently need for both our guest and community Christmas distributions.

WOMEN/TEEN GIRLS: Jeans, shirts or hoodies (Jr. 0 – 17, Misses 2 – 18, Plus 2 - 5x), briefs (especially sizes 5 – 8) and socks

MEN/TEEN BOYS: Jeans (size 30 -50 and 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 gifts, jeans, shirts, hoodies (5 – 20), boxers and socks

INFANT AND TODDLER: Shirts, tops, jeans, winter clothing (Newborn – 4), boys & girls underwear, onesies and diapers sizes 3 - 6

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

For distribution purposes, it would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by December 9th. We ask that, for Christmas, gifts be new items and unwrapped. The best place for gifts to be delivered is at the Distribution Center at 401 NW Norris: Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 3:00PM, and on Saturday 8:00AM – Noon. If you have any questions, please call 785-357-4285.