

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

We have already begun making plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission and are ready to begin receiving donations of new items. 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.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 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

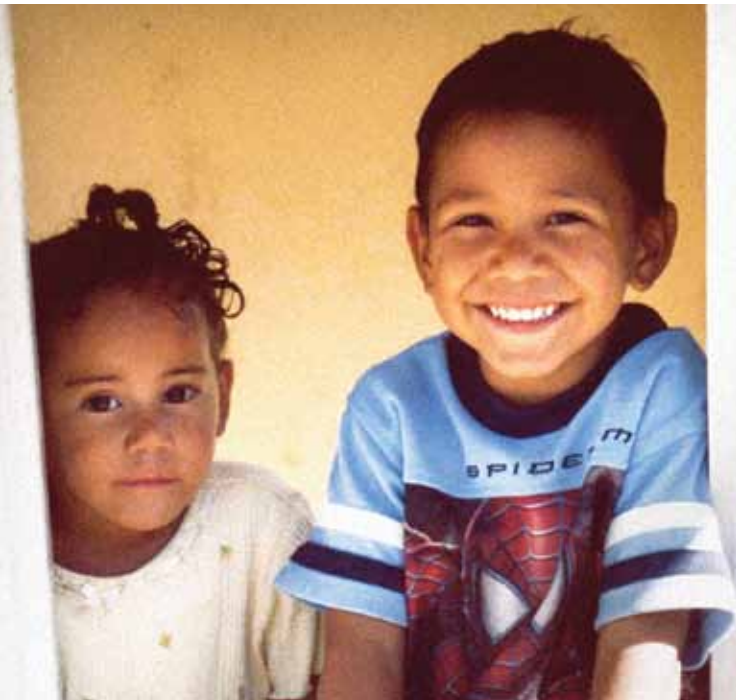
email: info@trmonline.org



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TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION CHILDREN'S PALACE: THE BIG PICTURE





TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION **CHILDREN'S PALACE:** **THE BIG PICTURE**

*You've been hearing for many months about the Children's Palace and the construction progress that has been taking place. Perhaps the question has crossed your mind: **Why does a homeless shelter feel like they need to build such an elaborate place?** It is our hope that through this publication, not only will that question be answered, but that God will stir up a new desire in your heart to pray for our children and join in the excitement of what God is about to do!*

WHY?

For the past five years, we have averaged between 300-500 homeless children who have come to the Mission for shelter annually. Of those, over 1/3 are under the age of six. We've even had nights when over a dozen babies aged one or younger were in our care ... babies desperate for shelter and stability in life.

As families come through our doors, we see stress, fatigue and challenges of every kind. Many of our parents grew up in homelessness and dysfunction, never knowing their value or worth in this world. When you grow up not realizing there is a purpose for living, it becomes easier to make poor decisions or go down paths that ultimately lead to homelessness. For the majority of our adult guests, we can trace the beginning of challenges straight back to their early years.

That's where the Children's Palace fits in.

WALKING IN THEIR SHOES

If a child is growing up in a stressful environment, chances are, their caregivers are stressed to the max as well. Put yourself in their position for a moment ... the bills keep coming but there are no finances to pay them. The electricity is shut off and there is a heat index of 110 degrees. You don't have the resources for adequate food so you're walking miles in the heat each day to the Mission to provide meals for your aged three, two and six-month old children. They're hot and miserable. One is teething and another potty-training. You feel as though you can't breathe and all you desire is a break. Unfortunately, there is no family nearby and you've already maxed out your state support. You can't work because you can't find childcare and you can't find childcare because you don't have a job to pay for it. The weight of the world seems to be resting on

your shoulders and your three little ones don't yet seem to understand the concept of "quiet" so you can just have a moment to think. You yell more than you like to try and get them to comply, using the same techniques your parents tried with you as a child. You're frustrated, you're angry and you have no hope for tomorrow.

The eviction notice then arrives and you find yourself alone with three babies at a homeless shelter. While the staff are helpful, you still see no way out because of the unrelenting pressure that clouds your thinking and prevents you from seeing through the fog. Your children are now with you at all times versus the occasional opportunity you used to have to at least hide in the bathroom of your apartment for a few minutes. The stress continues and so does the frustration. You love your children but, more often than not,

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from page 1

they receive the brunt of your anger towards life. The four of you do a lot of yelling and crying and by the end of each day you are convinced you are the worst parent in the world.

The cycle continues. Your little ones grow up and follow in your footsteps. They end up having babies while they're still young and you watch with sorrow and regret as they travel down the same familiar path you walked not many years ago. Will the cycle ever be broken? Or is this family line destined to repeat the familiar patterns of dysfunction indefinitely?



EMBRACING WORTH

We believe there is hope. And we believe God has revealed to us the strategies to break these cycles of generation homelessness and alter the course of history for many ... including our community.

It all starts with identity ... helping each parent and child who walks through our doors understand how valuable, precious and treasured they are.

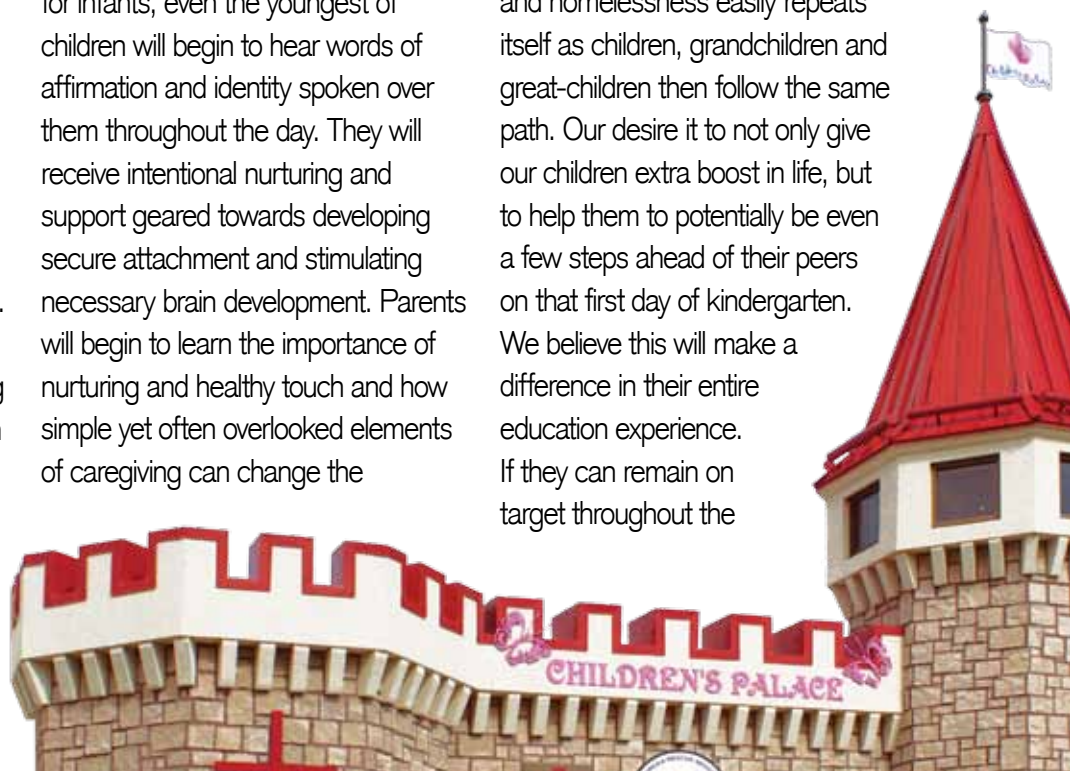
“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’
– Matthew 19:14

Often when people think of homeless families, or services geared towards helping them, they think of hand-outs, dreariness and overall depression. But we've created a special place that speaks the opposite. Through words shared by staff and volunteers, as well as the physical environment, the Children's Palace speaks the true identity of each of these children ... ROYALTY ... in God's eyes and ours. When they arrive at the Palace, they see a structure that speaks of value and worth. When they walk inside, they are greeted by bright cheerful colors and illustrations, as well as joyful staff who are ready to lavish them with unconditional love and support. We want everything children are exposed to within the Palace to speak to them about their identity and worth. So that they know, they are worthy and significant enough to receive God's best.

Beginning in our Room of Glory for infants, even the youngest of children will begin to hear words of affirmation and identity spoken over them throughout the day. They will receive intentional nurturing and support geared towards developing secure attachment and stimulating necessary brain development. Parents will begin to learn the importance of nurturing and healthy touch and how simple yet often overlooked elements of caregiving can change the

course of a child's history for the better. As brains are being developed at extreme rates during a child's first three years, so are perceptions of the world and themselves. This is why taking the time to speak life and identity to even our smallest of children is not insignificant and plays a critical role in how they will relate to the world later in life.

As children grow within the Palace, so will the intentionality towards kindergarten-readiness. Why is this so important? Many of the children living at the Mission are entering into the public school system significantly behind their peers. This could mean that they don't yet know their alphabet or how to hold a pencil. Or, it could mean, they haven't yet learned how to sit still at a desk or perhaps are not even potty-trained. If a child enters kindergarten behind, chances are they will still be behind once they reach third, seventh and tenth grade which increases the risk for school drop-out. Once that occurs, the cycle of poverty and homelessness easily repeats itself as children, grandchildren and great-children then follow the same path. Our desire it to not only give our children extra boost in life, but to help them to potentially be even a few steps ahead of their peers on that first day of kindergarten. We believe this will make a difference in their entire education experience. If they can remain on target throughout the



course of school, continuing education is more plausible which can lead to more stable employment and finance. With these in place, they are then more likely to raise children who follow the more stable path of education; thus increasing the number of families breaking free from the cycle of government dependence and homelessness.

GENERATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

The Children's Palace is so much more than a daycare for homeless children. It is a ministry we believe was birthed by God to bring transformation into the lives of children, families and our community. Our expectations are big because of the big God we serve and what He is capable of doing when we are simply willing to say, yes. We've said yes to what we believe is His leading and we are now waiting on His timing for the doors of the Palace to open so the real adventure can begin. Current projections leave us hopeful that we will be open within the next few months ... hopefully sooner than later!

We are grateful beyond words for your support and the many ways our community is wrapping around us to become involved and invested in the lives of our children and families. If you feel God stirring your heart and would like to learn more, contact us and we'd be happy to visit with you. Thank you for your prayers and support as we walk together down the path set before us. †



CHILDREN'S PALACE UPDATE

We were disappointed at the need to postpone last month's playground build due to material production delays. However, we know that God is able to turn all things around for His glory and we believe that is what He is doing! Plans are still underway to complete exterior construction as soon as possible so that we can open the Palace doors. At this point, with necessary areas of finalization, we are hopeful for an opening just after the first of the year. While our hope was to open sooner, we know that everything will come together in God's timing and we are trusting Him throughout the process. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we move forward.

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

SAVE THE DATE

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

The 11th Annual Rescue Run is just a month away!
JOIN US SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH FOR A 5K RUN – 1.5 MILE WALK.

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!

Registration and more information available at www.TopekaRescueRun.com



DID YOU KNOW?

Science shows that our brains develop based on the experiences we have. Trauma, chronic stress, abuse or neglect (including the areas of nurturing and attachment) inhibits lower brain development which are the areas which control self-regulation, attachment and control. Without full use of this area of the brain, children have greater difficulty interpreting the world, forming relationships and successfully functioning in society later in life.

Thankfully, science also has shown that our brains are plastic, which means they

can be reshaped by positive experiences both in childhood, adolescence and later in life.



One of the primary goals for the Children's Palace is to impart purpose and value into homeless children aged zero to five during these transformational

years when brains develop more than any other stage of a person's life. Through a safe and nurturing atmosphere, the Palace will be a sensory-rich educational environment where children can grow spiritually, cognitively and developmentally. With additional emphasis on kindergarten-readiness and family empowerment, we believe God will do an incredible work throughout the whole family unit. We are expectant that the end result will be transformed children and families who are moving forward with renewed sense of purpose and joy. †

WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED

- **SERVE!** The Children's Palace is looking for Christian missionaries who sense the calling of God to reach homeless families and children with the love of Jesus Christ. Full and part-time opportunities are available. Interested volunteers can inquire online at trmonline.org or contact our volunteer department at 785-354-1744-x393 or volunteer@trmonline.org.
- **PRAY!** We are excited about the opportunities ahead but know that there will also be significant challenges we will encounter. Much prayer is needed for our children, families, staff and volunteers. Due to some challenges we have already encountered, opening date remains unclear. We are resting in the Lord's timing and would like prayers that He will bring all necessary pieces together so that the Palace doors will open the day He intends!
- **SPREAD AWARENESS!** Share with your family, friends, churches and coworkers of what is taking place at the Children's Palace so they can also pray and become involved. Group tours are a great way to learn more and spread the message. Contact us at 785-354-1744-x325 to schedule your tour today.



- **CONTACT US!** If you have other questions, please contact us at jhosman@trmonline.org or 785-354-1744-x325.

*To make a donation, please make payable to Topeka Rescue Mission and marked "Children's Palace."
For questions, please contact 785-354-1744-x325.*