

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION **MONTHLY REPORT** SEPTEMBER 2016

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 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



RESCUE MINISTRY: WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR TRANSFORMATION?



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The ministry of the Topeka Rescue Mission has, for decades, been there for tens of thousands of people who, for a time in their life, had nowhere to turn. This month's report examines two questions:

1. What is the Topeka Rescue Mission *today* compared to when it first began?
2. Why has the Mission gone from sheltering, feeding, clothing and bringing hope to the homeless, to now reaching out to those in need in impoverished neighborhoods, creating children and youth programs, attacking the sexual slavery business, providing job-training, mentoring programs and urban missions training?

The Topeka Rescue Mission observes 63 years in operation this year. For most of these we have focused on the very important role of sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry and bringing hope to those who have lost hope. Now, over six decades later, this original commitment to God and community remains. However, the

need is vastly different than it was in 1953 when the Mission began. The numbers of those sheltered has climbed from 15 to 20 individuals each night to 250 to 300 men, women and children nightly. Even in my time as director, I can remember when providing meals for 50 people a day seemed staggering. It's not

uncommon now to feed well over 1,000 meals per day, plus the many food baskets distributed through our **Distribution Center** to the hungry in the community. Last year alone we provided well over 1/2 a million meals to our hungry neighbors.

As the war on poverty declared by President Lyndon Johnson and the

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Congress in 1964 has surpassed 52 years, it has become obvious now that the results have been less than stellar. This is not to say that many soldiers in this war have not fought diligently. Many have attempted to follow Jeremiah 22:16 to “defend the cause of the poor and needy.” So why are there more impoverished citizens in this most prosperous nation in the world living in poverty today than when this war began? Is it because this war was not worth fighting? Is it because there was not enough passion for the fight? Is it because there were not adequate resources allocated to fight this war? The answer to all of these is, no.

Approximately 22 trillion dollars have been spent thus far on government poverty programs, not to mention the trillions that have been invested through charitable giving from compassionate souls.

So one may conclude that it must be the fault of the poor. Surely

they are just “lazy and irresponsible addicts, crazies, deadbeats, and system manipulators.” Right? Again, the answer is a resounding, no! I have never met a person addicted to alcohol or drugs that told me their goal in life was to become an addict. I never met a prostitute who told me when she was a little girl she always dreamed that one day her body would be abused by disgusting men and that one day she would be discarded like a piece of trash thrown into the garbage. I never met an individual who said their goal in life was to hear voices, see things that aren't really there and to be rejected by many in society who fear them and don't understand them. I never met an individual who said they wanted to go to bed hungry, or have no place to lay their head at night. I've never heard a mom or dad say, “I hope my child gets hooked up with a gang and gets shot before they finish the 9th grade.” No, never! Actually, I never met anyone who wanted to be poor.

I believe every soldier on the frontlines of a battle for life or death will agree, it's not whether the war is

worth fighting for and it's not really about the amount of money that has been allocated, but rather the *strategy* by which those tools for battle are employed. Even at the Topeka Rescue Mission, with our decades of successful rescue of those who have been broken due to many of life's hardships, we have had to ask ourselves the hard question: *Are we using the best strategy with the tools we have at our disposal, or is there a better way to do what we do?* This extremely important question has caused us to spend some extensive time in self-evaluation and seeking God for answers and clarity of direction. The results are what you are seeing today.

In addition to our rescue services of shelter, food, clothes, equipping and hope, we now have two neighborhood interventions for neighborhood empowerment and transformation called NET Reach. Through these ministries located in Highland Crest West and Oakland, we are reaching our neighbors with love, mentoring, empowerment tools and hope. These two neighborhoods are filled with some very wonderful citizens, but who are also struggling to make it from one day to the next due to poverty and safety concerns.

A program design to reach the unsheltered homeless called **Street Reach** has been in operation for six years attempting to find and rescue some of our communities most disenfranchised homeless to bring help and hope. Our newest division addressing human trafficking we call **Restore Hope** has been involved in





the rescue and restoration of nearly 100 women and some men imprisoned by sex and labor trafficking in the last 18 months.

Now, after 30 years as the executive director of the Mission, unfortunately I have begun to see the third generation of homeless coming through our doors. There are parents who have come to the Mission with children, who have now grown up and arrived back at the Mission with their own children creating a lineage of grandparents, parents and children who have all come through our doors at varying stages of life. It is for this reason we are nearing the completion of the **Children's Palace**, in an attempt to "reboot" the spiraling system of generational poverty. *More on this to come in future publications.*

As the needs for services have increased, so have the needs for laborers. Two ways the next generation of urban ministry workers are being raised up is through **Doxazo Ministries** and the **Center for Biblical Leadership Development (CBLD)**. Doxazo is an intentional equipping of high school and college

aged students to study and experience a possible life calling to become an urban missionary. The goal of CBLD is similar with the focus on fulltime students (youth or adult) desiring a two year seminary level training curriculum designed for urban missionary development. Both equipping programs provide a systematic approach to a Biblical understanding of urban mission work, as well as practical frontline urban ministry experience.

With our shelter ministries bursting at the seams for years, it has been evident that something must be done to further address the issues of homelessness and poverty within our community. We have examined the proposition to either build more shelter space or go into what we call our "Full Court Press" mode of proactively looking for ways to examine the Topeka Rescue Mission system, as well as do our best to address the failures of the poverty war, locally as well as nationally. This examination of what it takes to accomplish rescue ministry today has resulted in a closer look at prevention and proactively preparing for the future as we continue rescuing individuals

and families from a multitude of life's challenges and disappointments.

**"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
– Matthew 19:26**

Without a doubt, the task before us is daunting and borders on the impossible. However, this stark reality doesn't solve the problems of those who suffer so greatly in our own community and throughout this nation and world. With this, we are resolved to press on; believing the impossible may be possible and the darkness that so many experience may be turned into light. We travel this journey not alone, but with Jesus as our guide and individuals like you, our team of supporters, standing with us. Our goal is to humbly seek God for His direction and the provision of His power to transform lives now and for eternity. Thank you for your continued partnership on the journey.

Sincerely,



SAVE THE DATE!

2016 Miracle on Kansas Ave. Rescue Run

brought to you by Today's Dentistry

5K Run – 1.5 Mile Walk

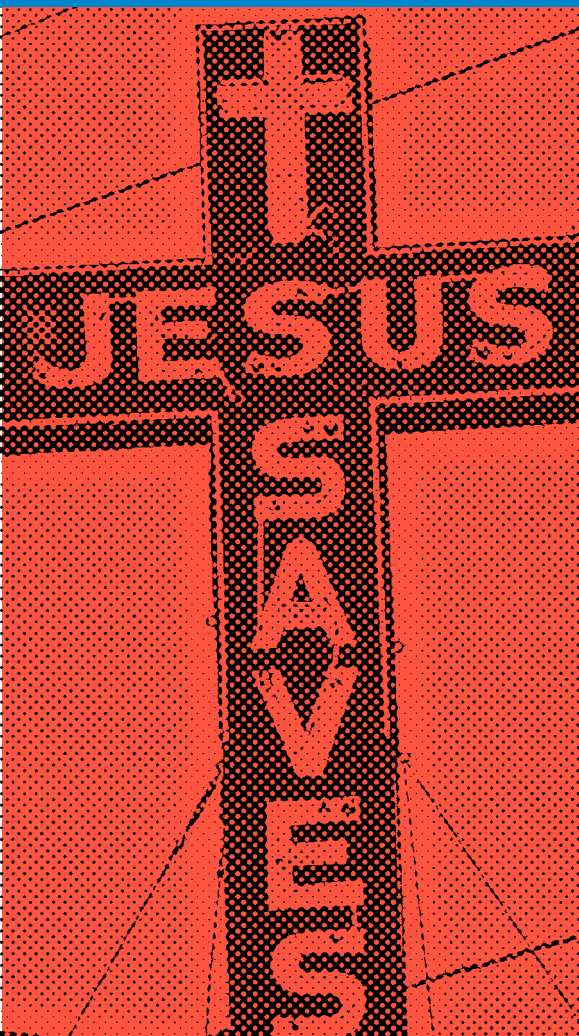
Saturday, November 26th

Registration and more information available at www.topekarescuerun.com



THANK YOU!

We are grateful for the outpouring of support given which made the Annual Back-to-School Distribution a success! Hundreds of backpacks were distributed, representing children who have now entered the school year filled with greater confidence and needed supplies.



CURRENT NEEDS LIST

For the most up-to-date needs list, please visit our website at 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 / 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
Disinfecting Wipes / Dish Soap / Hair Conditioner

CLOTHING:

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, 6 & 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