



# Opportunity KNOX

The Newsletter of Knox Area Rescue Ministries • Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name

MARCH 2017

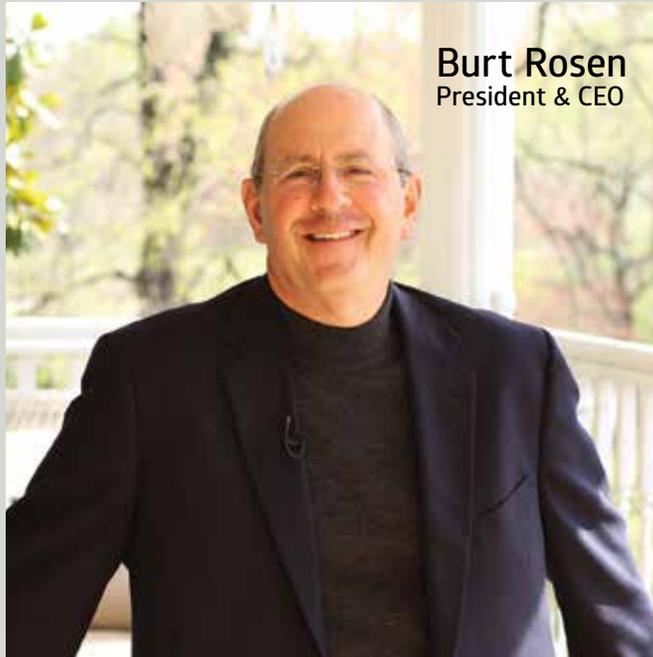


## *We're Proving Roger Wrong!*



Read about KARM's newest,  
life-changing ministry initiatives inside

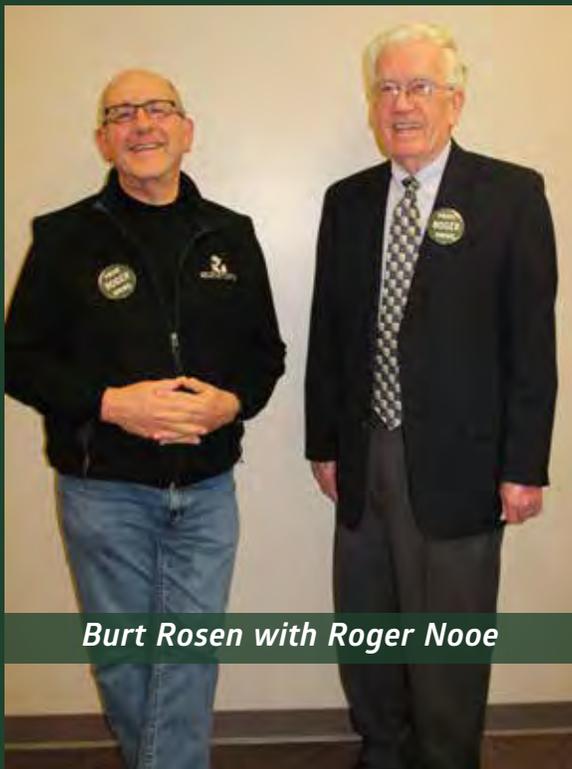
# Proving Roger Wrong



**Burt Rosen**  
President & CEO

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away;  
behold, the new has come.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**



**Burt Rosen with Roger Nooe**

Dear Friend,

Roger Nooe, a retired professor from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work and a recognized expert, has been studying homelessness for nearly 40 years. His research consistently reveals that many men and women will experience homelessness three times before they're able to break the cycle. I believe we can and must do better—but we must do something different.

At Knox Area Rescue Ministries, we're out to prove Roger wrong! We have some life-changing initiatives that are helping us pave the way to restoration for our guests. Based on Berea College's successful learning-labor-service model, we're implementing an unprecedented program model to care for those who come to us in crisis.

We believe that everyone has something to give, and this new ministry model supports this concept: people benefit most when they have the opportunity to participate in the programs designed to help them.

While our response to crisis will always be available for those in need without cost to them, this new model requires some equity. Those engaged in our programs are "paying" for what they receive through their participation in a work, learn, and serve curriculum. Such a model eliminates one-way giving, and it gives our guests the work experience and knowledge that will equip them for a successful life beyond KARM.

This new model is a revolutionary change for KARM, and we're sending you this special edition of *Opportunity Knox* so you can hear first-hand how it's making a difference for guests like Jenny and Bill, whose stories are featured this month.

Thank you for partnering with KARM as we minister to the hurting in the Knoxville area. The need is great, but your financial and prayer support allow us to help even the most desperate men and women find hope and restoration through the love of Christ.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be 'Burt Rosen'.



# Jenny is Proving Roger Wrong!

*Jenny was in trouble. A victim of assault, she was pregnant, addicted to drugs and estranged from her family.*

"Literally no one, not one friend, not one family member would let me sleep on their couch," Jenny says. "I couldn't be trusted because the only thing I ever focused on was getting high.

"I had zero relationship with God, and the drugs were such a priority that I lost everything. I knew it was time to get clean and have my baby, or I was going to die living on the streets."

Jenny came to KARM's overnight shelter because she knew the doors would be open and she'd find a safe place to sleep. But deciding to join the women's

residential recovery program at Serenity took a bit of divine intervention.

"I was standing in front of a church a few days before Christmas, and the presence of God just overcame me. I started crying because I knew He was telling me that

He was with me. He said, 'KARM is offering you help and shelter, and you need to take it.'

Jenny moved into Serenity the next morning and quickly started to focus on God. She built relationships with the staff and other women here and was grateful to find people who were ready to help her in any way they could.

Today, Jenny is busy "Proving Roger Wrong." She's raising her two daughters and working as

a teacher's assistant, a job that happily allows her to "love on children all day long."

By God's grace, she's broken the cycle of addiction and homeless that defined years of her life, and she's grateful for those who have given to make that change possible.

"I'm responsible now!" she smiles. "I hate to think about where I would be without KARM. It was a tragic story, and it would have had a tragic ending. So much would have been wasted... by the grace

of God, I got to be a mom. I have the best job, and I'm doing what God intended. These are the good things that God wanted for me, and without KARM, I wouldn't have been able to enjoy them."

We're proud of Jenny, and we're happy to be a part of another story that's Proving Roger Wrong. With the support of faithful donors like you, we'll continue to build the relationships that lead to restoration and help men and women find the path to new life.



**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

—JEREMIAH 29:11

Jenny is pictured with Carolyn Rosen, wife of KARM President & CEO Burt Rosen



**Donors and volunteers at a recent KARM informal gathering. All were eager to learn about and share the "Prove Roger Wrong" message. Thank you!**



## KARM Volunteer Encounter

Join us this month at one of our Volunteer Encounters! **Volunteer Encounters are held the second Tuesday of every month at 5:45 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m.**

You'll get an overview of KARM, a tour of our facilities and find out how YOU can fit into what God is doing to change lives at KARM.

Contact us at [volunteer@karm.org](mailto:volunteer@karm.org) to register.

# KARM Daily Needs List

You can make a powerful difference to someone who's hurting! Please contact us at (865) 673-6540 or [info@karm.org](mailto:info@karm.org) to arrange drop off of Needs List items. The items listed here are our guests' most immediate needs. To view a complete list, visit [karm.org/needs](http://karm.org/needs).



- Twin sheet sets—especially flat sheets
- Towels and washcloths—new or gently used
- New men's and women's underwear—all sizes
- Men's and women's socks—new
- Toothbrushes
- Disposable Razors
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Work boots (all sizes)

# Mark Your Calendar



**KARM Radiothon with Newstalk 98.7**  
**Wednesday, April 12 • 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Listeners will hear inspiring stories of changed lives as we raise much needed funds for the poor and homeless who come to KARM. Donations will also be accepted online.

# Save The Date



**DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**  
THE RACE WITH A MISSION

**SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2017**  
**THE COVE AT CONCORD PARK**



**Early Registration going on now.**

For more information about the KARM Dragon Boat Festival, visit [www.KARM.org/DragonBoats](http://www.KARM.org/DragonBoats)

For sponsorship information, contact:  
Steve Clabough • (865) 633-7623 • [sclabough@karm.org](mailto:sclabough@karm.org)

Learn more about all of our upcoming events at  
[www.karm.org/events](http://www.karm.org/events)

# Working, Learning, Serving

Recently, KARM launched an innovative new program model based on the successful learning-labor-service format used by Berea College in Kentucky. It's a revolutionary change for KARM and those we serve, and unlike our crisis response, it is not free to the participants.

Instead, our students contribute to what they receive through their work, class attendance and performing community service. They also have the opportunity to gain additional job training through different jobs at KARM, which includes our already established Abundant Life Kitchen and Clean Start programs. The work experience they get here prepares them for life outside of KARM.

Bill is one of the men who helped us pilot this program. After a three-decade struggle with alcohol and drug abuse left him homeless, he came to KARM at the end of his rope.

"I just couldn't take it anymore,"



**"I believe  
this was  
God's plan  
for me."**

he tells us.

"I was sleeping on docks and benches; always

worried that someone would come up to me in the middle of the night, always waiting for something bad to happen... it was a vicious cycle."

At KARM, Bill was quickly relieved to find people who genuinely cared about him. He entered the new program, enrolled in the Abundant Life Kitchen job training, and soon found himself learning how to cook.

"Learning different things helped me rebuild," Bill says. "It wasn't just the food and shelter, but the programs I was involved in made a big difference. Just the discipline of getting up every morning and going to work helped tremendously."

Today, Bill is working full-time and preparing to move into his own apartment. He is sober, and his faith in God is helping him press in to a more abundant life.

"Without KARM, I would either be dead or back on the street. I don't even feel like the same person anymore... today I feel like I'm who I was supposed to be, and I believe this was God's plan for me.

"I couldn't be more thankful for everything that's happened here," he concludes. "You have to want help, and when you're willing to get it, it's here for you."

When our guests are ready to find help, we're here to lead them to lasting life-change through the power of the gospel and the new initiatives we're developing. With your faithful support, we'll continue to help men like Bill move forward with hope.



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**KNOX AREA RESCUE MINISTRIES**  
Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name

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