



Opportunity KNOX

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

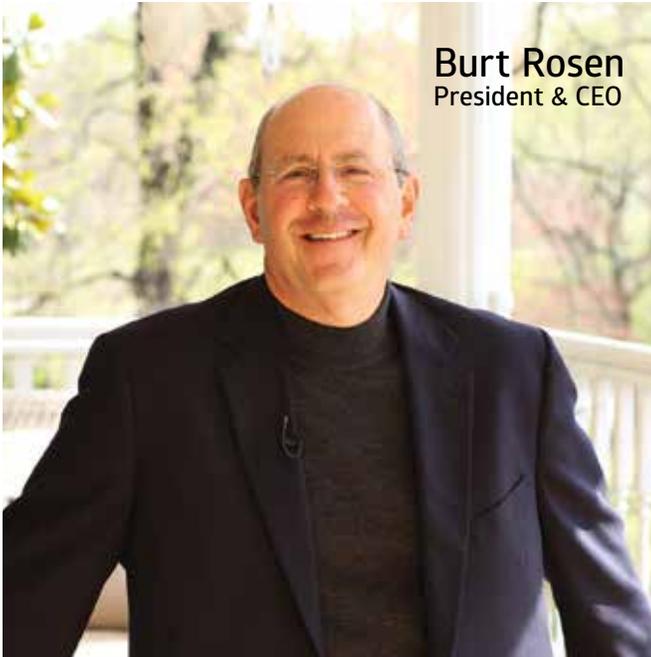
MAY 2017



***“It’s difficult, but it is
so worth it!”***

Christine is starting over with new goals and support...

Proving Roger Wrong



Burt Rosen
President & CEO

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JOHN 13:34-35

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 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.

- Pillowcases
- Shaving cream
- Towels & Washcloths—new or gently used
- Twin sheet sets, especially flat sheets
- Deodorant

Dear Friend,

In the past few months, you've heard me talk about some important changes we're making at KARM. I've introduced you to the research of Dr. Roger Nooe, a respected researcher and retired University of Tennessee professor, whose findings indicate that a person will experience homelessness three times before they're able to break the cycle.

As a friend and supporter of Knox Area Rescue Ministries, you know that we're out to Prove Roger Wrong! We've implemented something we call *Work. Learn. Serve.* to help us do it: based on the model from Berea College in Kentucky, it's centered around the understanding that everyone can contribute to their ongoing care.

With that in mind, we've created a system that's working to help the men and women in our long-term programs realize a self-sufficient future. We're teaching them the skills they need to live on their own and guiding them to work within the KARM organization to contribute to the care they are receiving.

But most importantly—and this will never change—we're introducing everyone who walks through our doors to Jesus Christ. Our desire is that each guest at KARM would encounter the living God, the One who brings lasting peace and hope for the future.

As you'll see on page five, this mission has never been more critical. We live in an increasingly secular world, and now—more than ever—our community depends on faith-based organizations like KARM to care for the homeless and hurting in our neighborhoods.

Your support is vital to KARM, and I pray that God will richly bless you for being a part of this life-changing ministry. We're honored and humbled to serve Him along with you.

Blessings,

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

“It is so worth it!”

Christine joined the LaunchPoint program at KARM after a domestic violence situation left her drained and homeless. She wasn't quite sure what to expect when she joined, but she knew that the program might be her only chance to regain some of the hope she had lost.

Shortly after she arrived, she met Dutchess Jones* and began what turned out to be a whirlwind experience.

“They cram so much into the classes,” Christine laughs, “but it just made such a huge impact in my life. I learned how to find housing and health care, how to make a resume, how to belong and care for the community. They do whatever they can to help you, and it gave me so much hope.”

Through her studies at KARM, Christine is learning how to plan for a much brighter future. Most importantly, she's learning to see herself as a beloved child of God who was created for a purpose.

“Before the program, I believed in God, but I didn't have much faith in myself. I was very depressed and frustrated because of everything I've been through, and I wasn't really leaning on Him. But by being here, I've learned to fully trust God. He has given me a breakthrough!”



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

—ROMANS 12:2a

With Dutchess' help, Christine enrolled in college classes and is studying to be a counselor. She has a job, and once she has enough money saved for a place of her own, Dutchess will help her find furniture. For now though, Christine is grateful to have found such a caring community.

“This is a very heartwarming place,” she smiles. “On Thanksgiving, I didn't have a single family member willing to let me come over. Here, people that don't even know us took time to spend

the day with us, and that really touched my heart.

“I had lost all hope before I came here, but I see myself differently now... it's difficult, but it is so worth it!”

Through the redeeming power of the Gospel, KARM will continue to provide ministry programs to offer hope in the midst of hopeless circumstances. With His help, we will minister the hope of Christ to men and women like Christine in need of restoration.

**Read more about Dutchess Jones on page 5.*

Hope for the Homeless

As our society grows increasingly secular, Christians who hold to traditional Biblical teachings are finding themselves in the minority more and more often. So what happens if the Christian perspective is no longer present in the public square?

For the homeless in our community, this could be a disaster. According to a new article from Breakpoint.org, a Baylor University study found that faith-based organizations are “at the forefront of innovation in helping to transform homeless people and their families through a variety of education, healthcare, job training, and addiction recovery services.”

This is why we’re creating our new ministry model at KARM, and why your ongoing support is so vital! With your help, we will continue to find innovative ways to restore the hurting in our community. Read the article in its entirety at breakpoint.org/2017/03/breakpoint-hope-homeless/.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

TEACHERS—Do you have a gift for equipping others? Teach a class for our guests.

Commitment: Approximately 2–4 hours, at least one day per week.

GUEST SERVICES—Are you driven to connect individuals to resources that meet their needs? Join our Crossroads team!

Commitment: Approximately 3–4 hours on weekdays, once or twice per week.

FRONT DESK SUPPORT—Warmly greet homeless guests, vendors, staff, and other volunteers at our main campus and at Serenity, our residential recovery site for women.

Commitment: Approximately 4 hours, once or twice per week, multiple time slots available.

For more information about these and all our volunteer opportunities, please visit karm.org/volunteer.

** All positions require commitment to the Christian faith, application, interview process, background screening, and training.*

Volunteer Profile: Layna

Layna started volunteering at KARM after her Bible study group attended a KARM Volunteer Encounter. She toured Serenity, KARM’s residential recovery program for women, attended chapel service, and immediately she felt the presence of the Lord.

“I had no idea what KARM was about,” she shares.

“I thought they just fed people, but I walked into Serenity, and the Holy Spirit got a hold of me. I wept through the entire chapel service!”

Since that day nearly five years ago, Layna is here at least once a week. She leads Bible studies for the women at Serenity, and though she’s the one volunteering, the experience has been just as beneficial for her.

“I have grown so much closer to Jesus Christ through this,” Layna smiles. “These ladies are my sisters in Christ, and we are on this journey together. It’s like Proverbs 27:17 says: ‘As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.’ The women here have been blessed by hearing God’s word, but I have been totally changed by the ladies at Serenity!”

If you or your group would like to minister to guests like Christine, consider attending a KARM Volunteer Encounter. Held the second Tuesday of every month at 5:45 p.m. and the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m., the Volunteer Encounter is a great way to discover how YOU fit into what God is doing to change lives at KARM.

Contact us at volunteer@karm.org to register.



Layna says, “These ladies are my sisters in Christ and we are on this journey together.”

Rescue + Relationships = Restoration



When a KARM guest enters the program, their first stop is LaunchPoint. This is a four week class which offers practical training in goal setting, creating personal action plans, building a support system, and learning to serve and give back, as well as introducing them to two very important people: Judge Pippin and Dutchess Jones.

Judge and Dutchess are the Care Coordinators in the LaunchPoint program, so we sat down with them to learn a little about how KARM's new ministry model is making a lasting difference for our guests.

Opportunity Knox: Once a guest completes the four week LaunchPoint program, what's next for them?

Dutchess Jones: Well, the next step in the *Work. Learn. Serve.* model is what we call Life Academy 101. It's a great opportunity for learning, and they are also paired up with a job at KARM that's geared toward their personal interests.

Judge Pippin: Yes, they go through an interview process where they're able to share their talents and gifts so that their assigned job moves them forward as an individual. They become a vital part of daily operations at KARM: while they're here, they're also getting career skills, references, and an increased motivation to serve others.

OK: So if that covers the "Work" portion of *Work. Learn. Serve.*, what is next?

JP: Life Academy is going to have

a few more sections, so once they've finished with 101, they'll go on to 201, and so on. Each one will be four weeks, and through the classes, they'll learn to show responsibility and use their giftedness in the workplace. That way, when they leave KARM, they have some excellent work experience on their resume. Two of their options are to work with the existing Abundant Life Kitchen or Clean Start programs, which train them to work in the restaurant or janitorial industries.

DJ: We focus on five areas in Life Academy: personal life, emotional life, available resources, spiritual life, and relational life. We do one area each day during the week, so throughout the month, they're hearing consistent themes from week to week.

OK: How does "Serve" come into play?

JP: Well, each LaunchPoint class is involved in a service project. For example, one of the groups collaborated with Habitat for Humanity. It was really interesting to have teams of homeless folks from KARM doing work projects with Habitat! This ministry model is still new at KARM, so I'm sure the "Serve" aspect will continue to develop as we move forward.

OK: And how are the guests different after they've completed the model?

DJ: We hope to see an increased sense of responsibility from



each guest, that they're taking ownership of their life and their decisions. Before we began this ministry model, once a guest completed LaunchPoint, they were finished with the program, so all the momentum they gained could begin to fade away. But now that we have this model, they have something to roll into, and the continued structure helps build momentum as they solidify good habits for the future.

JP: I've been here for 12 years now, and I deeply believe it's the heartbeat of Jesus to care for the poor and broken in our city. Our guests literally have nowhere else to go, and they feel that no one on the planet cares for them. So if we can preach His good news to the poor, I think that's when the light of Jesus shines into those broken places. To me, that's what makes this new ministry model so important: if we believe that transformation and restoration can come to any life, then we are developing a process that is truly rooted in the heart of Christ.

PADDLES UP!



DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

THE RACE WITH A MISSION

PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2017 | 8AM - 4PM
THE COVE AT CONCORD PARK



Paddles are up and excitement is high as Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) celebrates the **15th Annual KARM Dragon Boat Festival** at the Cove at Concord Park. Paddlers competing in the KARM Dragon Boat Festival commit to raise pledges in order to support the many life-saving programs that KARM offers the homeless in our community. Register your team online, have each team member register a page, and start fundraising!

Event Day Details

- The festival will be held on **Saturday, June 17 at The Cove at Concord Park** (The Cove address: 11808 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Many volunteers are needed! Visit www.karm.org/volunteers or e-mail volunteer@karm.org to learn more about how you can volunteer at this year's event.
- All support of the race is welcome. Donations for this event can be made at www.karm.org/dragonboats.

Contact Steve Clabough at (865) 633-7623
or sclabough@karm.org today for more information.



ON-SITE
FOOD VENDORS

Register Online at www.KARM.org/DRAGONBOATS

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