

Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name

SAFE IN GOD'S HANDS

**YOU helped Amber escape
her chaotic past and find
God's peace!**

For 12 years, Amber was caught in an abusive relationship. “He would put me down and demean me,” she says. “He isolated me from friends and family.”

But what made things worse was that her boyfriend knew she was struggling with addiction.

“He brought drugs around as a way to control me,” she says. Amber realizes now, as long as she stayed addicted, her boyfriend thought she needed him and would never leave.

Amber had tried numerous times to get clean. Her four children — all under 10 years old — had seen things no child should ever see.

There was the time they walked into the basement to find their dad with a rope around his neck, threatening to hang himself.

“He would try to scare me and the kids.” Amber recalls how he would try



continued inside ►

Make miraculous life transformation possible with every \$1.87 meal you give!

Safe in God's hands... (continued from front)

to manipulate them by saying things like, "Don't leave me or I'll kill myself."

Eventually, her boyfriend landed in jail. That's when Amber decided it was time to escape. Before she could change her mind, she took the kids and headed to Knoxville.

NOWHERE TO GO

Unfortunately, her plan to stay with her sister fell through. With nowhere else to go, Amber and the kids ended up living in their car.

Amber's kids are thriving and she couldn't be more proud.

"We were homeless in a Walmart parking lot," she admits. "It was only for a few days, but it was long enough. I never had my kids in that situation before."

Scared for their safety and the possibility that her children may be taken away if authorities found out how they were living, Amber called around, desperate to find a place to stay.

That's when she found Serenity, KARM's 18-month residential program for women and children.

A GLIMMER OF HOPE

Amber remembers feeling "a mixture of feelings" when she first walked through Serenity's doors. Her children also had to adjust to the calm and peaceful environment.

"I think they were so used to the chaos," Amber reveals. "They didn't really know how to behave or act."

Through regular structure and routine, the whole family has found stability. Amber's kids are thriving and she couldn't be more proud.

"Their behavior when they first got here wasn't the best," she acknowledges. "They've improved so much. They're getting good grades. My sons are getting awards in school."

FILLING THE VOID

During her time at Serenity, Amber also learned about the unconditional love of God and realized He had never abandoned or forsaken her.

Today, her confidence and love for herself has grown, thanks to her walk with God. "All my life, I was trying to fill this void that didn't get filled until I came to Serenity, and it came from knowing God," she says.

As she looks back at how far she's come, Amber is filled with gratitude. She is especially thankful for your generosity, which has helped her family grow closer and get back on their feet.

"I don't know if words could really express how thankful I am," she says.

She adds, "My new life means the world to me. I feel like anything is possible."

This spring, help someone else start on the road to new life. Thank you for giving today!

Amber (pictured here with her children and her mom) is safe, stable and on her way to a new life, thanks to you!



A snapshot of homelessness in the Knox area

According to the latest numbers, thousands of our neighbors — including children, teens and senior citizens — continue to end up on the streets. That's why your support is needed more than ever — to help end homelessness, one person at a time.



7,796

persons experiencing homelessness



996

senior citizens (age 62 or older) experiencing homelessness



664

families (with 1,998 individuals) experiencing homelessness



109

unaccompanied youth (formerly in foster care or juvenile detention) experiencing homelessness

Source: KnoxHMIS Annual Report 2020

“SPENDING YOURSELF ...”



BURT ROSEN
CEO

Every month, I am so happy to be able to share a story like Amber's with you.

I know you don't necessarily get the chance to hear the stories of your compassion in action unless you're here at KARM on a regular basis. But I want to assure you that your gift translates into what we see inside our walls day in and day out.

On the one hand, I could tell you that your gift helped put food on a tray for 150 people this month. But it's much more than that.

“Thank you for your faithfulness”

Isaiah 58:10 talks about “spending ourselves on behalf of the poor.” What a powerful phrase that is! When you give with this idea in mind, you're putting your compassion into action, even if no one ever sees it, feels it, or notices it.

God sees and notices — because God is interested in more than the check you send to KARM. What He's looking for is obedience to Him and what matters most to Him — that we spend ourselves on behalf of the poor and the needy, that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, loose the chains of injustice and set the captives free (Isaiah 59:6-7).

We are so grateful for your heart of obedience and of course, your generosity so that those who come to KARM may be restored to new life. God bless you!

Hope can be ignited with every \$1.87 meal

Today, homelessness remains a huge concern in our community.

But there is hope. When you give to provide meals today, you not only help meet a basic need, you also remind hurting people that a new life is possible!

So many of our neighbors are facing difficult challenges like addiction, abuse and physical and mental issues. Some have no place to go but the streets.

You can help provide a safe refuge at KARM and show people the love and grace of God.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, which will make a difference in so many lives!



For only \$1.87, the meal you provide can lead to a gift beyond price — the chance to start a new life.

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Knox Area Rescue Ministries
P.O. Box 3310
Knoxville, TN 37927-3310



Visit us online at
karm.org
and give right away.



To give by phone,
please call
865-673-6540.

STAY CONNECTED



MY GIFT TO PROVIDE MEALS and HOPE

YES! I want to provide meals for my homeless neighbors in the Knox area and open the door to hope and a brand-new life. Here's my gift of:

- \$18.70** which will feed **10** hungry people.
- \$28.05** which will feed **15** hungry people.
- \$37.40** which will feed **20** hungry people.
- \$_____ to feed as many hungry people as possible.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Email address _____

NC2204XD



Thank you! Please make your check payable to KARM and return this form with your gift. To put your gift to work immediately, visit karm.org. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowable by law.