



DECEMBER 2022

Restoring Lives in Jesus' Name

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a leopard print dress. She is looking upwards and to her left with a contemplative expression. To her left, there is a graphic element consisting of a central starburst shape with radiating lines, surrounded by several smaller, five-pointed stars of varying sizes.

**YOU'VE GIVEN CIARRA
Joy and Hope
FOR A BETTER LIFE!**

For more information: (865) 673-6540 karm.org

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Jesus' hands and feet – reaching out to people who are homeless and don't know where their next meal will come from. The generosity of dedicated friends like YOU makes it possible to continue our ministries in the Knox area!

So we want to share our commitment to you, to the guests we serve and to our community.

- We will **honor and thank God** for His provisions and abundant blessings.
- We will **celebrate the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ** – the Way, the Truth and the Life – and share the Gospel with every person we serve.
- We will **provide a family environment** for our guests where they will be treated with dignity, compassion and love.
- We will **not ask for anything more than what we truly need**, as we work toward providing programs to meet the growing challenges of homelessness and addiction.
- We will **invite our supporters, volunteers and friends to help** meet the needs of local men, women and children throughout the year.



A Message from DANITA MCCARTNEY, PRESIDENT & CEO

Hope Ignited

"Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full." -Luke 14:23 (NIV)



Lately, our team at KARM has been talking a lot about **hope ignited**. "What does it mean to live out God's calling as we focus on taking our ministry outside these walls and into our community?"

As we're seeing our homeless street population explode, our challenge is to reach those who are afraid or resistant. God has given us a burden to meet every man, woman and family where they are – in a faster, better way.

Our street outreach team has connected with 212 people who have since come to KARM for the first time... and we rejoice over every one! But there are still so many out there who are hurting and in need of God's healing.

As we celebrate the holidays, we want to make KARM a place where

everyone who comes here feels welcomed and loved. Christmas is such a beautiful reminder of the love, peace, joy and hope that God so freely gives each and every one of us, and it is a gift to share that message with our guests.

This is my favorite time of year, as we work to capture people's hearts and ignite hope. And it is all possible thanks to you.

Your generosity gives us the support to restore people – back to God, and back to their families and communities. Thank you for joining with us to share in the miracle of God's love this Christmas.

May the Lord bless you this holiday and fill your heart with joy!

Danita McCarty

Give Before the Year Ends! \$214,000 GOAL

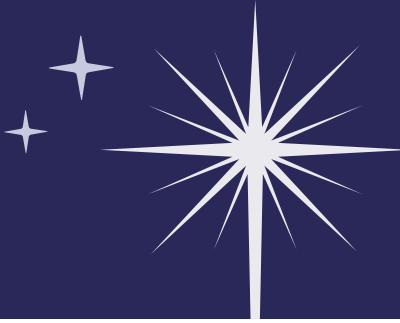
Many of our neighbors are dealing with addiction, homelessness, mental health issues, rising living costs and other hardships that make daily life a struggle. They need a helping hand. **Your year-end gift will give them a chance to transform their lives.**



Your tax-deductible donation before December 31 will **help meet our \$214,000 goal** so even more people can get *help* now... and discover hope for the new year!

- Add your special year-end gift to the reply card and send it today.
- Give online at karm.org.

**"KARM helps
anyone who has
lost hope to have
a changed life...
*a life they never
thought they
could have!"***



Ciarra grew up with a single mom and life was often challenging... several times they ended up homeless or living in a car.

"My mom raised me by herself in the best way she could, but there was some abuse," she shares. "That did affect me growing up."

Ciarra started drinking to cope. "Alcohol numbed my emotions and feelings, and gave me confidence."

For years, Ciarra stayed with random friends or entered unhealthy relationships so she would not be on her own. But eventually her self-destructive behavior destroyed her relationships, leaving her all alone.

"My friend kicked me out and I didn't have anywhere to go. I got to the point where I didn't want to live."

But everything changed for Ciarra when she came to KARM's Serenity Ministries.

"I walked in and everybody was happy. I thought they were crazy," she says, laughing.

"I got to my room and this overwhelming peace came over me... I decided to stay and stick it out."

At Serenity, Ciarra started reading the Bible and developed a personal relationship with Jesus. The counseling and classes helped her overcome addiction and learn healthier ways of coping with daily life. The work experiences and relationships she's made are preparing her for stable living on her own.

"The most important thing I've learned is that no matter the situation, God is there - He'll never leave us or forsake us. KARM taught me the value of having a church family and people walking right next to you."

Ciarra has lasting hope today thanks to your generous support that helped restore her life. "KARM has made me stronger... I'm able to go out into the world and be truly confident. Now I am a child of God and I have people who love me."



KARM's Respite Center: A Place of Healing and Care



Life on the streets is challenging. So just imagine how much harder it is for men who are discharged from the hospital and returned to the streets with no one to care for them. That's why KARM opened the doors to our Respite Center in 2018.

Today, Deborah Spencer shares her experiences as our Respite Manager...

"We give gentlemen who are homeless and have been in the hospital somewhere to recuperate and receive care. Essentially, we're taking on the role of family caregiver.

Before the Respite Center, a lot of these men would return to the hospital many times because they would be out on the streets, but now we're blessed to be able to provide them with a temporary home. We have bed capacity for up to 10 men, and we're generally at least 80% full with patients who stay with us anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

We have four registered nurses who help with things like dressing changes and medication administration. And through our partnership with Covenant Health Systems, their home health nurses come to our Center every week to create a plan of care for our patients.

Our ultimate goal is for these men to successfully reintegrate into the community. So once they are medically stable, there are several resources we can tap into – social workers, physical therapists, mental health clinicians and more.

I'm so grateful for the heart of giving – not only donors who give monetarily, but all of the people who have given countless volunteer hours and many, many prayers. I thank God that He's placed me here, where ministry is the norm."

If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities to bless the men in our Respite Center, please contact us at (865) 673-6540 or visit karm.org/volunteer.



Donate appreciated stock or give directly from your IRA with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to save on taxes while supporting KARM.
Learn more at www.karm.org/plannedgiving or call Les Fout at (865) 633-7643.



"Without the Respite Center, I'd be in a bad situation. Now, I have the opportunity to get better in a place where caring, Christian people love me. You can't beat it. I've worked my entire life, so I'm going back to work once I'm better. And I'm going to live... enjoy life. People at KARM help you get back on your feet and don't mind helping – they do it with a smile. I love this place."



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

Thank you for your generous spirit. It's reflected in all you do to share your blessings with people in the Knox area and restore lives in Jesus' name.

Would you like to continue bringing healing and hope to our community beyond your lifetime? When you remember KARM in your will or estate plan, you ensure that your spirit of compassion continues blessing others both today and for future generations.

For information on planned giving opportunities, contact Les Fout, Senior Stewardship Advisor, at
 (865) 633-7643 or
 lfout@karm.org