

**Jason found
his place in the
Body of Christ –
*because of you!***





A Message from DANITA MCCARTNEY, PRESIDENT & CEO

Celebrating Renewal... Now and All Year Long

Winter is behind us, and spring has returned. This season so closely resembles what happens at KARM through the support of friends like you: renewal and restoration. Not of plants and flowers... but of *lives*. And not just during spring... but *all year round*.

That's what our leadership team here at KARM prays for every morning – that hearts and minds are opened, and that people in need will come through our doors. It's such a big step – asking for help, often for the first time. But **the decision to seek recovery comes with great hope** for a new life and freedom in Christ Jesus.

I hope you'll read about what that hope meant for Jason on the

next page. His story is a testament of the difference your care and compassion can make for a neighbor in need. Thank you for helping transform his life.

One more thing... with the arrival of spring also comes new opportunities for KARM. I'll share more in the coming months, but I want you to know that – **with you by our side – we're more committed than ever to reaching out into our community in new ways.**

It will be an exciting year for KARM and for our community. Stay tuned...

CAN YOU HELP PROVIDE OUR MOST-NEEDED ITEMS?

Straight from our front line... here are our guests' 6 most-requested items as we prepare for summer! Please consider a donation of:

1. WATER
2. SUNSCREEN
3. CHAPSTICK WITH SPF
4. DEODORANT
5. MOSQUITO SPRAY
(non-aerosol)
6. HAIR TIES

Donations can be delivered to KARM at 418 North Broadway in Knoxville, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thank you for your support!

Jason: Where is he now?

An update of how your compassion changed his life...

Dear KARM family,

I want to give you an update about how I'm doing now that I'm back at home – and tell you a few things about how KARM's New Life program changed my life.

First, Jesus' love had already started a good work in me before I came here. But because I had spent so many years living in and working for the dark – where you really don't trust others and where your only firm foundation is yourself – I didn't know how to function properly with other people.


But Jesus knew exactly what I needed. From the moment I walked through the doors of KARM, He placed mature Christians around me – men and women who have true virtue, strong morals, genuine faith and who imitate Jesus with their lives.

KARM helped me learn more about my true identity in Christ. One of the most important things I learned is how to be at peace with others. I learned that no matter how much Truth you can express, it's meaningless without LOVE!

While I'm now back home and no longer at KARM, the experiences and people there are still with me. Even my family is reaping the rewards of my months there. They enjoy the peace I bring into the house and the friendships with my KARM brothers and sisters, who continue to reach out and come alongside me.

KARM is a good reflection of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7... and because of that I am healed! Thank you to all my brothers and sisters at KARM who have clothed themselves with Christ, turned their lives around, and who now fight the good fight of the Faith!

With love from your brother in arms,
Jason



“Jesus knew exactly what I needed”



Jason grew up in an abusive home, “fueled by anger and hate,” he says. He didn’t want to be part of that lifestyle, so at a young age Jason ran away from home. But the life he ran to wasn’t any better. “I started hanging around with older guys who introduced me to drugs and alcohol. That escalated to juvenile detention and eventually prison. My life just kept spiraling...”

There were times when Jason tried to get back on track – especially when he and his wife started a family. But the relationship was unhealthy, and they soon fell back into old, unhealthy habits.

“We didn’t have God in our lives. It was chaos,” he says. Yet, through that chaos, God spoke to Jason’s heart. He started reading Scripture and was baptized. He started a journey of healing that led him to KARM’s New Life program, where he found the community of support he needed. “The

people at the ministry are merciful, loving and forgiving. They’re people you can trust.”

“When I was younger, a lot of negative things were spoken to my heart. KARM showed me that’s not who I am.”

Thanks to the gifts and prayers of faithful friends like you, Jason overcame his addiction, and he continued healing emotionally and spiritually through our program. He also discovered a new passion for his life... and is hopeful for his future. “The thing that brings me the most joy is ministry – speaking to other people’s hearts the way God spoke to mine. Now, I can see I should be a light for Him.”



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV

You can give in many ways!

Cash gifts aren't the only way to make a difference.

It's tax season – and a great time to think about ways you can shift from cash donations to other giving methods that offer more impact at less cost. Consider...



Donating stocks – Most KARM supporters who donate appreciated stocks are thrilled to save on taxes, all while helping KARM provide life-changing care and hope to our neighbors struggling with homelessness.



Giving from your IRA – For donors who are over 70.5 years of age, tax-free IRA gifts offer huge financial benefits – reducing your future tax burden and fulfilling your Required Minimum Distribution – all while helping the thousands of men, women and children who walk through KARM's doors each year.



Giving other assets – Some donors choose to give real estate, automobiles, life insurance, art and more to help KARM minister to our community's most vulnerable people... and to grow God's Kingdom!

It's never too early to plan what's best for you and your family... all while supporting KARM. If you would like to talk about these options, call Les Fout at **(865) 633-7643** or email him at **lfout@karm.org**. Thank you for helping restore lives in Jesus' name by being part of the KARM family!

GET READY...
our *Dragon Boat*
Festival is June 15!



KARM's *Dragon Boat Festival* will be here before you know it! On **Saturday, June 15**, teams from across East Tennessee will compete for prizes while enjoying a FUN, competitive, team-building day on the water.

Since it started 20 years ago, our *Dragon Boat* teams have raised more than \$1.5 million to help KARM care for men, women and children who come to us for help and hope, rescue and restoration. Food, shelter and life-changing programs help them break the cycle of homelessness, poverty and addiction in their lives. You help make this work possible!

Now is the time to sign up your team for the *Dragon Boat Festival* and begin fundraising! Visit **karm.org/events** or contact **Kylie Clark** at **(865) 898-4497** or **kclark@karm.org**.