

Giving thanks for **YOU**

INSIDE: Kenny shares
how your support
changed his life!



Giving thanks for YOU this fall



A Message from DANITA MCCARTNEY, PRESIDENT & CEO

Sometimes I wonder, what would become of our neighbors who are homeless if it wasn't for Knox Area Rescue Ministries and your compassion and generosity?

I think of people like Kenny, whose story you can read on Page 3 – his testimony is a powerful reminder of how God works through the gifts and prayers of friends like you to transform lives, now and for eternity!

I thank God for how YOU are providing hope, help and healing to people who are hurting in our community.

Like many in our area, inflation and the rising cost of groceries, fuel, etc., has had an impact on KARM, resulting in the cost of each meal we serve to increase from \$1.87 to \$2.56. Of course, thanks to our faithful donors and community partners, all meals are still provided free of

charge to every guest who walks through KARM's doors hungry for a meal and hope.

With your support and Christ as our foundation, our ministry will continue providing life-changing services this fall – from the essentials of food, warm showers and safe shelter... to long-term healing and stability through our recovery program.

As we prepare to serve an estimated 79,000 meals this season to our neighbors who don't know where their next meal is coming from, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent and gifts with our ministry, knowing God will use your blessings to restore hope in many lives.

Thank you for giving me – and countless guests at Knox Area Rescue Ministries – a reason to give thanks this fall!

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

The road to recovery is a long and difficult one, filled with obstacles and pain. But millions of Americans have successfully made the journey from dependence and despair to freedom and hope.

Each September, during National Recovery Month, tens of thousands of recovery programs around the country shine a spotlight on those who've transformed their lives, celebrating their bravery and giving hope to those still experiencing addiction.

Recovery Month also highlights new evidence-based treatments and recovery practices and honors care providers so that those still struggling with substance abuse will know where to turn for help.

This September, we're celebrating the courageous men and women who've walked the hard road of recovery here at Knox Area Rescue Ministries and transformed their lives.

We invite YOU to join us in the celebration!

To see the faces and read the stories of men and women who've found healing and hope at KARM, visit karm.org/newsletters.

Join Our

2024 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

79,000

Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

This Thanksgiving, we will welcome guests to our tables. Many are alone... longing to overcome homelessness and poverty... wishing they could reunite with their families.

Even as our meal cost has increased to \$2.56 – **your \$2.56 still provides so much...** including a meal to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift welcomes someone who is hurting to our table and surrounds them with care that can be a stepping stone to life change:

 Safe, welcoming shelter	 A hot, refreshing shower	 Classes and job training	 Spiritual guidance
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Please help our neighbors this holiday season! Send your 2024 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at karm.org.



Scan to see how you can help this fall!

“DON'T GIVE UP.”



Kenny grew up knowing about God. His grandmother took him to church. But he knew about death and loss from a young age too. Several people in his life died from suicide or addiction – leaving Kenny feeling abandoned. He started self-medicating his grief with drugs, which led to an addiction that prevented him from being able to hold a job as an adult. Unable to support himself, Kenny began experiencing homelessness.

“I slept on friends’ couches, but also sometimes underneath bridges, on sidewalks or in the woods – just in random spots I thought were secure. I was involved in illegal activities to make money to support my habit.”

Kenny’s life took an unexpected turn when a life-threatening overdose put him in the hospital. While receiving treatment, officials realized his legal trouble, and he was sent to jail when he was discharged. However, incarceration ended up being a blessing in disguise.

“It gave me a lot of time to think. I realized God put me in this situation to see His presence in my life.”

Upon his release, Kenny came to KARM and joined our New Life program. Through Christ-centered counseling and life-planning classes, he is overcoming his addiction and addressing his past trauma. His self-esteem and motivation to give back to his community in positive, meaningful ways are growing.

“KARM invested so much time and effort in my recovery. They are helping me – a former addict – get my life together. That means more than anything to me. It’s priceless.”

This fall, Kenny gives thanks for YOU and your incredible generosity. Your prayers and support have helped change his life. “To anyone who is struggling with addiction, I say, ‘Don’t give up.’ I almost gave away one of the most precious gifts given to me: a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thanks to KARM, my life was saved.”

“IT WAS TIME TO PICK MYSELF UP AND FULFILL MY PURPOSE.”



*You're invited to our
fall banquet:*

HOPE RISING

*Tuesday Oct 22nd, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Knoxville Convention Center*

Join us for a memorable night at our Hope Rising dinner – with delicious food and heart-warming stories from KARM guests whose lives YOU helped change. You also won't want to miss this year's guest performer: Chris Blue, winner of season 12 of "The Voice!"



Join us as we share stories of Hope Rising in the most unexpected places.

To **reserve your spot at Hope Rising** or to learn more, visit **karm.org/events**.



Coming Soon: Coats for the Cold!

Winter is coming... and our neighbors who are homeless need warm coats! As you switch out your closets to get ready for cooler weather, please set aside any new and gently-used men's, women's and children's coats for our **2024 Coats for the Cold** drive!

We are not quite ready to accept your coat donations, but PLEASE HOLD ON TO THEM. From October 14 to November 9 you can drop off your coat donations to any KARM Stores location. (Children's and XL+ adult sizes are always needed.)

If you would like to organize a coat drive at your church, posters can be downloaded online at karm.org/coats. Thank you for thinking about your neighbors experiencing homelessness this time of year!