

THANK YOU FOR
LEADING KRISTY
to restoration
THIS
Christmas!



12 DAYS OF GIVING BACK



The Bible tells us it's more blessed to give than to receive, and what better time to experience the joy of giving than the Christmas season! It's also a wonderful time to teach children the importance of giving, or to partner with a friend or family member to give back.

Read on to explore **12 Days of Giving Back** and get inspired to share the miracle of Christmas this year:

DAY 1 Volunteer	DAY 2 Donate Clothes	DAY 3 Donate Toys
DAY 4 Write a Christmas Card	DAY 5 Create a Care Package	DAY 6 Help Serve Meals
DAY 7 Help Sort Donations	DAY 8 Help Run an Event at KARM	DAY 9 Attend LaunchPoint Graduation
DAY 10 Fundraise at Your Church or School	DAY 11 Pray for KARM's Guests and Staff	DAY 12 Spread the Word

To learn more about ways you can share the joy of Christmas with KARM guests, give us a call at **(865) 673-6540** or visit us online at **karm.org!**

You Help Meet Guests in the Tension

The holidays have always been my favorite time of the year, but since starting at KARM, Thanksgiving and Christmas have taken on new meaning...

A few years ago, Knoxville Opera came to perform for our guests. They sang hymns and Christmas carols. I was observing in the back of the room when I noticed one of our guests was moved to tears, so I walked over to see if he was okay. He explained the songs were memories from a happier time, when he was with his family. And he was so grateful to be here now, hearing the same songs with his KARM family.

The holidays bring up so many emotions and memories in people – which is why we work so hard to make sure our KARM building looks and sounds like the season... whether Thanksgiving or Christmas. **We owe it to our guests to spark joy inside our walls, just as our outreach team shares joy outside our walls** by delivering wrapped gifts to homeless neighbors still on the streets.

The reality is... there is a tension between sorrow and joy for our guests during the holidays – sorrow from being away from loved ones, but joy for being in the comfort and safety of KARM. **Our job is to meet them in that tension – which is what you help do as a faithful supporter of our ministry.**

Every time you give a gift, you help share the love of Christ with our guests during the holidays and all year long. And we commit to remain obedient to God and to use every resource to His glory – with the goal of restoring lives in His name.

Back during that performance by the Knoxville Opera, one of the songs performed was “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.” I’ll admit... I cringed at first, wondering if it was the best choice for our audience. But in hindsight, I realize it was perfect – because for so many people during the holidays and throughout the year, **KARM is a home where they feel safe and loved... thanks to the support of friends like you.**



Danita

Please ROUND UP



If you've shopped at KARM Stores, you may have been asked to “round up” your purchase to the nearest dollar to help our neighbors who are homeless. It may not seem like much, but it makes a huge difference:

- On average, these “round up” donations add up to almost \$23,000 per month!
- On average, 53% of our customers round up their transactions!

So... if you plan to do some KARM Stores shopping this holiday season, please say “yes” when you are asked to round up. And don't forget about our annual Christmas Store, where you can find all your holiday decorations, Christmas gifts and more. Find out more at **karm.org/christmas-store**. Thank you for all of your support!

*"God is
guiding me
to more
community."*



Kristy was the first person in her family to attend college. She went on to earn a master's degree and became a social worker. She'd had a rocky childhood herself and was passionate about helping other kids feel safe. **If anyone in her family was going to break the cycle of poverty, she was determined it would be her.** She liked to be in control. She didn't take risks. Her future was bright.

But over time, trauma from her childhood began to catch up with her. "My life became too much to manage," she says. "I was taking care of a lot of people and wasn't doing much self-care."

Then, when she was already struggling to keep her life together, **Kristy developed medical complications that prevented her from being able to work.** She burned through her savings quickly – until she had nowhere to go. She lived on the porch of an empty church for four days before coming to KARM for a fresh start.

"My first night at KARM I just cried – mostly out of disappointment in myself. Just a year before, I didn't think I could be homeless. I was embarrassed about how quickly it happened."

In the safety of our facility – with hot showers, nourishing meals and a safe place to sleep – Kristy began to heal. **She soon found a job and began to build a new life for herself.**

"I'm learning to trust God and let Him take over," she says. "I've always been independent. I like to handle problems myself. But now I see that God is guiding me to more community."



"My biggest challenge was asking for help."



This Christmas, Kristy is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer – because YOU believed in the power of relationships, restoration and the promise of God's unending love. "I think that God provided KARM to be a stepping stone for me to take steps toward restoration. I'm thankful they opened their doors to me."

Give Relief From Colder Days



Falling temperatures will put lives at risk this holiday season.

With average lows of 34° in the Knox area – and added factors like rain and wind – our neighbors are at risk of hypothermia and other health challenges this winter.

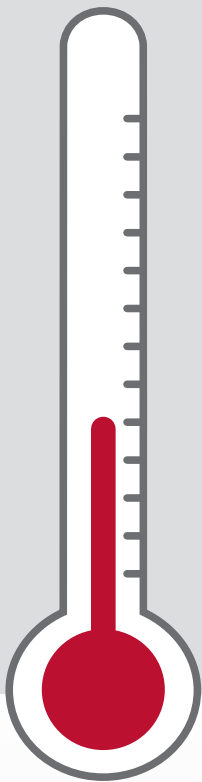
You can provide relief from the cold at Knox Area Rescue Ministries:

- **Safe shelter** includes a safe bed and a roof over their heads
- **Hot food** offers comfort and nourishment to neighbors who are cold and weary
- **Warm showers** are refreshing and can restore someone's dignity

Then – once our guests are safe and warm with their critical needs met – they're able to open their hearts and minds to counseling, building relationships, and restoring their lives in Jesus' name!

To see our most urgently needed items, visit karm.org/Needs

*Double your impact on Giving Tuesday!
Tuesday, December 3*



Thank you for helping our veterans!

Knox Area Rescue Ministries is grateful for the men and women who have served in our armed forces. We're committed to giving back to our veteran guests, as they've sacrificed so much for our country. The Department of Veteran Affairs comes to KARM weekly to help our veteran guests receive their military records and apply for VA benefits. Additionally, thanks to the diligent work of our care coordinators, we're often able to get our veterans into long-term housing quickly.

Because of your generosity, over the 2023-2024 financial year, KARM served over 170 veterans, providing:

Thank you for helping provide these services to local veterans. To give a gift in honor or memory of a veteran in your life, visit karm.org/donate.

Give a meal. Spark a miracle!



It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're homeless or don't know where your next meal is coming from. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term recovery programs and experience relationships and restoration! It all starts by providing a meal for \$2.56... because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.