

**Maria has
a NEW LIFE
this Easter!**

Thank you for opening
the door to her
transformation.





IT OPENED MY EYES TO WHO I AM AND WHOSE I AM.

Maria’s mother abandoned her when she was a newborn. Her father did his best to raise her, but Maria grew up believing she wasn’t worthy of love. “I started looking for acceptance in other avenues, like relationships and friends. I struggled to figure out who I was... my identity,” she says. **“My lack of self awareness plus the trauma of my childhood led me to struggle with addiction.”**

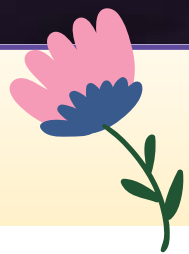
After years of trying to fill the void in her life in unhealthy ways, Maria knew she had to change. She initially sought help from a short-term treatment facility, but **after realizing she needed long-term help, she came to Serenity Ministries.** It was just what she’d been looking for to satisfy her spiritual longing for a relationship with the Lord. “I grew up knowing about Christ, but I felt there was something more... I just didn’t know how to obtain it,” she says.

In our program, Maria found an environment of love and support that gave her time and space to work through the uncertainty in her life. “I’d never been in such a close-knit community,” she says. “They were willing to just listen and allow me to feel what I hadn’t been able to feel for such a long time. That was different for me.”

Today, **Maria has a job while going back to school.** She is excited about her new life. Most importantly, she has found her identity and self-worth. “Cultivating my relationship with the Lord truly opened my eyes to who I am and whose I am. It’s made a world of a difference,” she says. “I know I have worth, and that feels so good.”

“I HAD A HUNGER TO KNOW GOD BETTER.”

This Easter, Maria is experiencing God’s gift of new life! Thank you for empowering her to follow Christ’s calling in her life. “Before I came to Serenity Ministries, I was empty. Now, I am redeemed. I’m full of love, joy and hope.”



The Gift of New Life in Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17



A Season of Growth...

Spring is such a season of hope and renewal. As we emerge from winter, I can't help but think of the parallel to our guests. **Men, women and children come to us during the most difficult season of their lives** – and as a partner with us in ministry, you share in the opportunity to meet their bleakest season with abundant biblical hospitality.

We read in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 there is a time for every season under Heaven. For our guests, we pray their time with us is a season of restoration – as it was for Maria, whose story you can read on page 3.

For KARM, this is a season of growth. I've heard amazing stories of rescue and renewal come out of The Wing, our new space that provides 24/7 access to shelter and essential care for women and children. The Wing is just one of many milestones we continue to reach as part of our 5-year master plan. Now, as we continue to plan for the future, I look forward to the many ways you can be part of it.

Thank you for sharing hope for new life with our neighbors who are homeless – especially the mothers, daughters and sisters who are now being served by The Wing. Your gifts and prayers show you have faith in their future and the power of God's redeeming love. Happy Easter... and God bless!

Danita



HELP PROVIDE NEEDED ITEMS THIS EASTER

Donate toiletries and other essential items from our needs list

Many of our neighbors experiencing homelessness arrive at our door without the basic necessities most of us take for granted. This Easter, you can help them feel welcome and comfortable by providing items from our needs list.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS!

- WASHCLOTHS
- TWIN SHEETS
- BLANKETS
- SHAMPOO
- RAZORS
- TOOTHPASTE
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- COMBS

Visit our website to see our Amazon Wish List, and shop for us online now!

[karm.org/needs](https://www.karm.org/needs)

Drop off items at 418 N. Broadway in Knoxville.

No time to shop? Donate now!

[\(865\) 673-6540](tel:8656736540) [karm.org](https://www.karm.org)



This Easter... EVERY MEAL MATTERS

Just \$2.56 for a meal and hope for a new life!

Each meal served with love at KARM is so much more than a plate of food. It can also open the door to life-changing services like safe shelter, Christ-centered care and healing in our recovery programs!

Every meal you provide this Easter matters!

Just \$2.56 provides a hot, nourishing Easter meal to someone who is struggling... and shares help and hope for a new life in Christ.

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

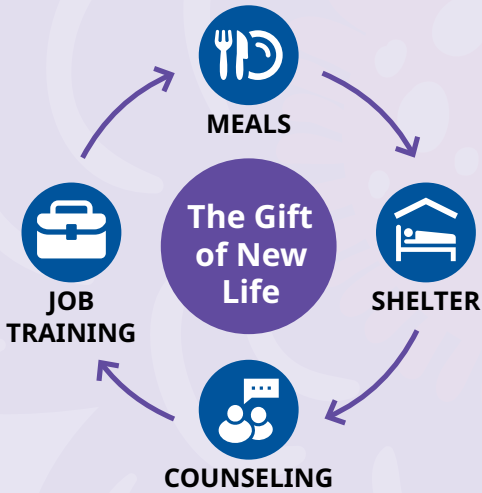
✨ Give online anytime at [karm.org](https://www.karm.org).



GIVE MONTHLY. RESTORE LIVES ALL YEAR!

You can make a lasting difference in our community when you become a monthly partner!

These days, it costs more than ever to provide the life-changing care our neighbors at Knox Area Rescue Ministries need. By becoming a **Restoration Partner**, you can help our residents start their journey to a new life by providing:



You'll also help support our AfterCare Program, which provides graduates ongoing assistance and connects them with a community. When you give your first monthly gift today, we'll send you a keychain like the one our AfterCare guests receive when they move into a home. Use it as a reminder of the guests you'll help welcome home!



Start giving monthly now!



EASTER RESOLUTIONS

SERVE OTHERS AND CREATE RIPPLES OF RESTORATION



Easter is a time of new beginnings, perhaps more so than the New Year. We invite you to reflect on resolutions you would like to make this Easter season – from getting more involved at Knox Area Rescue Ministries, to performing random acts of kindness.

Below are suggestions to kickstart your Easter resolutions. Fill in the blanks with ideas of your own!

- Volunteer at KARM (serve meals, mentor residents – any way to share your time, talents and skills!)
- Host a collection drive (e.g., food, clothing or hygiene kits)
- Spend more time in nature
- Pray for a friend
- Leave notes with messages of hope
- Practice daily gratitude
- _____
- _____
- _____

For more ways to get involved at Knox Area Rescue Ministries, visit karm.org or call (865) 673-6540.

Outreach Ministry: Standing in their private hell...



Pastor Mychal knows what it's like to live on the streets. He struggled with addiction and homelessness for years. Now, as the leader of KARM's Outreach Team, he uses his own experience to reach our homeless neighbors with love and compassion.

"I understand what it's like to be beat down to the point of self-destruction," Pastor Mychal says. "So I go out and stand with people in their homelessness. Because if you descend into somebody else's private hell and stand with them, it ceases to be hell."

Each week, Pastor Mychal and the outreach team reach almost 200 people who live on the streets. The team can build trust with people who are unsure about accepting help. The focus of their work is being consistent in building relationships.

"Whether it's 25 degrees below zero or a 116 degree heat index, we show up," Pastor Mychal says. As physically and emotionally challenging as it is, there is no other work he would rather be doing. His favorite part of the job is sitting on a little stool and reading the Bible to people in the homeless camps.

"We cry and hurt and figure out life together," he says. "There is such guilt and shame associated with their darkness. Getting to speak a glimmer of light into their life has been one of the best things of my 37 years of ministry."

If you want to learn more about KARM's Outreach ministry, visit karm.org/outreach.