

CONNECT KCRM

My Eyes Cleared ... and My Family Could See Me

ON A HOT AUGUST DAY in 2012, paramedics responding to a 911 call found 45-year-old Chad along a major road, unconscious in the grass, missing one shoe, glasses broken beside him. He had blacked out while on “one last drunk.”

This is one of many life snapshots Chad remembers before coming to Kansas City Rescue Mission October 2012. Like the time he woke up in jail after hauling a stolen fire pit home in his pick up truck during a blackout. “When I called my family from jail,” Chad recalls, “my mom said, ‘No, we aren’t going to help you. At least we know you are somewhere you can’t kill yourself.’”

Or, the day his baby grandson died, and no one wanted him there because “they knew I’d be sick or drunk and couldn’t help either way.”

After the blackout on the roadside, Chad’s sister helped him enter a treatment center. There he met two employees, George and Stan, who had graduated KCRM’s recovery program! “It was the Holy Spirit,” Chad says today.

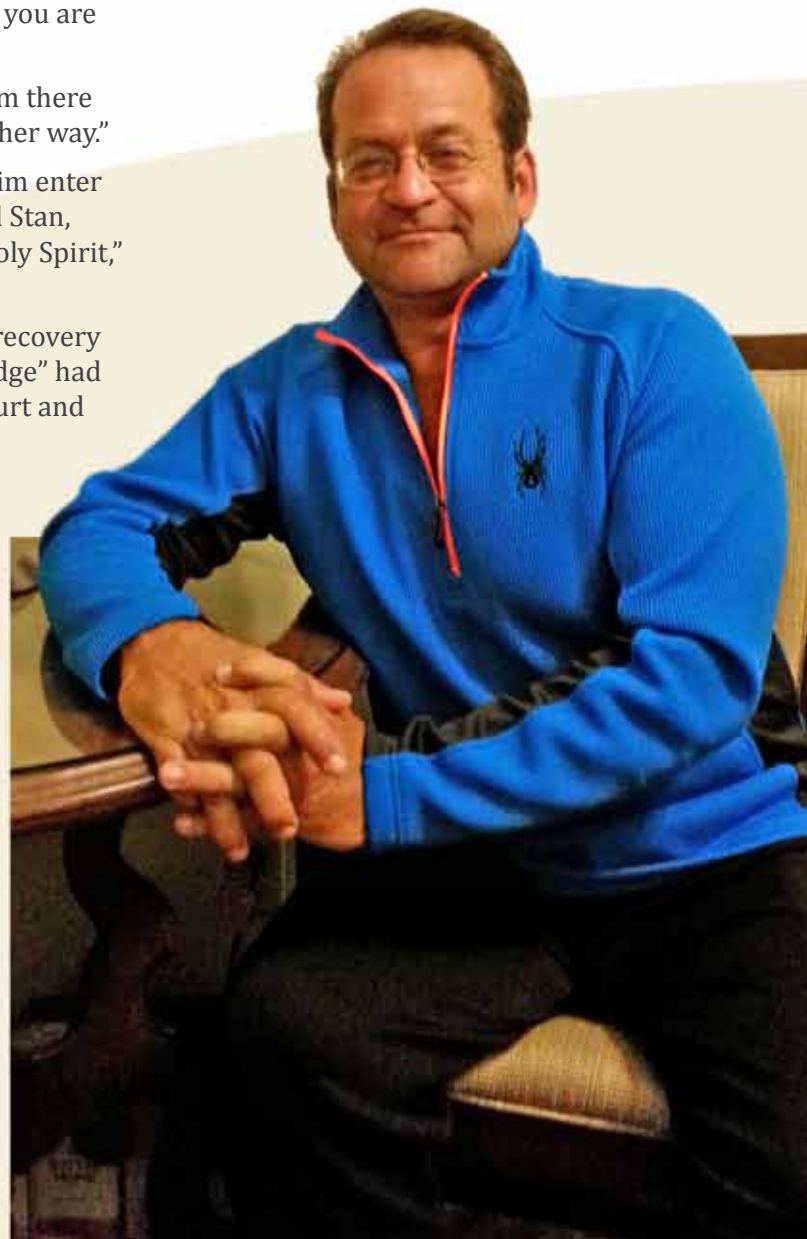
When Chad told family members he’d be joining KCRM’s recovery program they were supportive, but cautious. The family “bridge” had been badly damaged: Chad’s daughter Lexi was still deeply hurt and angry at his inability to be there for her after her son’s death. “And my nieces who used to fight about who *got* to sit by me, now fought about who *had* to sit by me,” Chad recalls.

Meanwhile, Chad began to spend an hour with God each day. “I had been brought to a point of brokenness. I’d always been able to talk a good game, but this was different. I decided not to talk about what I was doing, but instead just be a doer.”

Thanksgiving that year was pivotal for Chad and his family. Though Lexi stayed away, the rest of the family helped serve Thanksgiving dinner at KCRM as a way to reconnect with Chad. “When my sister saw me, she said, ‘There’s my brother!’ My eyes had cleared and they could see the old guy they knew and cared about.”

As Thanksgiving approaches this year, Chad divides his time between his sister’s home, his church and KCRM. “Jesus delivered me from the desire to drink. I can never take another drink — it would be disobedient. I have to stay plugged into my church, the Mission, and my Bible ... it all comes down to a choice.”

Chad provides one final snapshot he’ll carry for the rest of his life: “Last March, Lexi brought Trinity, my new grandbaby, to visit me. We talked together while I held Trinity asleep in my arms. It took **18 months** for Lexi to sit in the same room with me. Then I think, “It took **only** 18 months. And I realize God has given me my life back.”





Hearts full of *Thanksgiving*

Paying it Forward — Rev. Joe Colaizzi

Enter his gates

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE someone like Chad (*page one*) who finds himself lying facedown in the rubble of his life. There will always be broken people, hungry people, lonely people. There will always be need.

And when God asks us to help, it isn't because of what is in our bank accounts. It's because of what is in our hearts. He reminds us of our blessings and stirs gratitude within us. Then, He invite us to pass it on. I think that's part of what Jesus meant when He said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

This Thanksgiving season alone, Kansas City Rescue Mission expects to serve almost 9,000 meals to hungry and homeless people right here in Kansas City. It's a big task ... but as we open our grateful hearts, it ceases to be a duty and becomes a delight!

Would you to celebrate this season of gratitude by taking a moment to remember your blessings and then pay it forward with a gift of whatever amount you can to our neighbors in need at KCRM? **I'm confident that hearts full of Thanksgiving will provide tables full of blessing for those who need us most.**

Certainly, there will always be need, but as we stand together, there will **always** be hope!

Sincerely,



Thanksgiving O

Each Thanksgiving,
KCRM reaches out to hundreds in our community through onsite meals and the distribution of food to hurting families, and isolated, elderly and disabled individuals. Here's how you can join us to bring comfort to our neighbors in need.

9-Day **Celebration of Thanks**

Thanksgiving week, a variety of groups will provide special dinners at the KCRM Men's Center. Then on Thanksgiving Day, KCRM will serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast at lunch and dinner. We're counting on our supporters to provide food for our Thanksgiving Day meals and help fill our pantry shelves for the winter months ahead.

Operation **Family Feast**

November 21 and 22, KCRM will team up with a local church to assemble and deliver 200 food boxes brimming with the ingredients for an abundant Thanksgiving dinner and plenty of leftovers for more meals!

Then, Thanksgiving morning, KCRM volunteers will distribute 500 single-serving Thanksgiving dinners to the homes of elderly, disabled and often isolated individuals who would otherwise go without. With each box and meal, we'll include handmade cards that share a message about the love of God and how to have a relationship with Him.

provide tables full of *Blessing.*



s with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. — Psalm 100:4



Did You Know?

September — December is the **Giving Season** at KCRM. During these months, KCRM raises almost 50 percent of its total annual income! Please help make this **Giving Season** the best yet by sending a gift in the enclosed envelope or give online at **kcrm.org**.

Opportunities for You and Your Group!

How You Can Help

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Kristen Ray at (816) 421-7643 or kray@kcrm.org for information about the opportunities below. Call soon — these positions fill very fast!

- October 1-November 27, **Adopt-a-Box!** Provide one or more food boxes for **Operation Family Feast**. Call for a list of food items or sponsor one or more boxes for \$51. (*Money raised over the cost of 200 food boxes will provide meals for the homeless this winter.*)
- Thanksgiving morning, help deliver meals to hundreds of low-income homes around Kansas City. (*Call soon for special requirements and availability.*)
- Thanksgiving morning, we need musicians (and a PA system) to play for disabled, elderly and low-income individuals living at a government-subsidized housing tower where we deliver 70-plus meals.
- Make one or more of the 700 Thanksgiving cards we'll include with our food boxes and single-serving meals. Each will have a message of God's love for our neighbors in need. We supply the ideas — you supply the art.

Our Thanksgiving Food List

Your donations of these foods will provide meals for thousands this Thanksgiving season. **Thanks for giving!**

- Turkeys, hams
- Stove Top-type stuffing mix
- Boxed instant potatoes
- Packaged gravy mix
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned fruit
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned yams or sweet potatoes
- Brown sugar
- 1-lb. butter in tubs or sticks
- Picnic salt and pepper
- Brown and serve rolls
- Pumpkin and fruit pies, pre-baked
- Jello

Reasons for *Thanks*

A Gift of Security

Thanks to the **Oppenstein Brothers Foundation**, the KCRM Men's Center will soon be an even safer place for homeless men to find shelter and resident recovery. With the foundation's very generous gift, the Mission will be equipped with a state-of-the-art security system with cameras monitoring the interior and exterior of the building! We're grateful for the confidence Oppenstein Brothers Foundation has placed in KCRM's stewardship practices and programs.



When one of KCRM's aging vans bit the dust last August, **Continental Disc's Community Charity Committee** stepped up to fund a low-mileage, gently used one to replace it! Here, committee members Nigel Chivers, Reed Chillers and Don Ramos pose for a moment during a tour of our Women's Center with KCRM Corporate Relations Manager Paul Masao, second from left.

"For we are
God's handiwork,
created in Christ
Jesus to do
good works,
which God
prepared in
advance for us
to do."

— Ephesians 2:10

Consider Including **KCRM in Your Will**

Here's a simple statement you can use to modify your will if you'd like to remember KCRM with an estate gift:

I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to Kansas City Rescue Mission, Kansas City, Missouri, [percent or amount] of my estate for its unrestricted use and purpose.

For more information about planned giving or to let us know you've remembered KCRM in your will, contact Julie Larocco, chief development officer, at (816) 421-7643 or jlarocco@kcrm.org.

Overheard...

- **From a fan on our Facebook page:** "I am an alumnus of KCRM and use this page to stay connected to what is happening there. Thank you for all of your timely updates and especially the stories of the Guys and Gals who find solace and hope, just as I did, coming through those doors." (*Like us on Facebook/ Kansas City Rescue Mission.*)
- **During a conversation over lunch at the Women's Center:** "The ladies that come Tuesday nights (Legacy Christian Church) fellowship with us and treat us as friends. That's why we love them."
- **In a Facebook post from KCRM:** "Friends, three people were arrested today in connection with the drug deals and violence around the Women's Center! Pray for the KCPD as they continue to do battle on our streets!"
- **In a staff report from Men's Center Shelter Manager Larry Hansen:** "We have served more clients in the past few months than in previous years during the same months. Our current clientele are younger and have more severe physiological needs than past clients."

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Waechtersbach USA, 1212 Taney St., KCMO, will hold its benefit sale for Kansas City Rescue Mission, November 7 and 8, just in time for Christmas! This is your last opportunity to purchase pieces from the company's original German-made Effect Glaze collection, or pick up gorgeous Christmas mugs and other holiday-themed dinnerware at a fraction of their retail prices. Your ticket into the sale is a gift of canned food or a \$3 donation to KCRM. To learn more, contact Paul Masao at (816) 421-7643 or pmasao@kcrm.org.

