

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

Topeka Rescue Mission • 600 N. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, KS 66608-1240

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FACILITIES: 785-354-1744

Hope Center for Women & Families #8
Men's Shelter #0
Distribution Center x366
Thrift Store 785-235-9094
TRM Boutique on the Blvd 785-478-5744
Children's Palace 785-730-8810



PROGRAMS: 785-354-1744

Dining Services x322
Food Distribution x366
Education & Mentoring x338
Volunteer Services x393

COMMUNITY:

NET Reach 785-783-2535 x106
Operation Street Reach 785-230-8237

DONATIONS:

Monetary: 785-354-1744 x316
Material: 785-357-4285
Food: 785-357-4285

website: TRMonline.org
email: trm@trmonline.org

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PRE-SORT INC



EQUIPPING FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE FOR OUR YOUNGEST GUESTS

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6)

EQUIPPING FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE FOR OUR YOUNGEST GUESTS



Equipping looks different to different people, but at TRM Ministries, we believe in starting during infancy and continuing throughout a person’s life span. If we focus on instilling the Biblical truths of value and worth at a young age, there is a greater likelihood of breaking generational cycles of homelessness and paving a new path.

Claire¹ came to the Topeka Rescue Mission Children’s Palace at the age of four months. She and her parents were homeless and residing at the Hope Center for Women and Children when the opportunity came for Claire to enroll. She had spent most of her short life confined to a stroller; not because her parents were intentionally neglectful, but because they were parents in crisis who had no experience in raising a child. The ramifications on their daughter’s development was quickly evident. Not only was she not rolling

over, she was unable to hold up her head. Her facial expressions were mostly blank and the cheerful babbling and cooing that come from most at her age was scarcely existent.

The Children’s Palace staff wrapped around this family with love and, within weeks, began seeing a miraculous transformation unfold. Mom began spending time at the Palace as her schedule allowed and began learning how to interact with her child. She watched as her daughter was exposed to art and sensory projects, movement

through music, reading and prayer. She began laughing with her, making eye contact and nurturing. Dad began dancing with Claire, making eye contact while speaking life over her and genuinely enjoying the gift of being a father. The family started participating in the PiG Program which helps parents to see through fun, incentive-based bonding opportunities that Parenting is a Gift as the name implies. By the time Claire’s formal developmental screening was completed by TARC one month later, she was completely

¹ For confidentiality purposes, name has been changed.

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on-target developmentally and had rapidly progressed beyond what we could have ever imagined!

Scientific studies show that a child's first three years of life are the most critical in terms of brain development, perception of themselves and the world around them. If a child develops "secure attachment" early in life, they have a greater likelihood of having positive relationships later in life. This includes social relationships, as well as relationships within the community at-large in arenas such as school, housing, law enforcement and other environments where relational stability is so necessary. The Palace focuses on this secure attachment through a theme of connectiveness tied into everything we do. From day one, we want each child – and parent – to know that they have value and worth in this world, are loved and treasured, and that they are not alone. Staff members reach out in love to embrace each family and help them see each other as the Lord originally intended – treasures and gifts to each other and this world.

As children age and move through the various Palace classrooms, that theme of royalty continues with everything we say and do. We don't want to just say it with our words, we want everything our children are exposed to speaking that truth. That's why the facility looks like a Palace and is filled with joyful surroundings at every corner.

Classroom schedules are designed to focus on the reinforcement of value, but also

helping children heal from some of the traumas they may have already endured in their young lives. This is done through rich sensory integration, role play and self-regulation techniques. To assist

that may exist due to trauma and chronic stress they have been exposed to and developing the surroundings accordingly. This helps to address the causes behind challenging behaviors and helps to curb some of



with these endeavors, the Palace employs a strategy called TBRI[®] (Trust-Based Relational Intervention), developed by Drs. Karyn Purvis and David Cross from Texas Christian University. TBRI[®] focuses on bringing healing to the whole child, including brain development which may have been affected by chronic stress and trauma that often accompanies homelessness. Our goal is to not only recognize the trauma and its affects, but also intervene at a young age by daily providing the support necessary for whole-brain and whole-child healing. This takes place through three principles: Empowering, Connecting and Correcting.

We EMPOWER children by recognizing some of the special needs

them before they start. Studies show children with histories of trauma have a higher need for sensory integration and activity. Our schedules allow for numerous opportunities throughout the day for senses to be actively engaged. The physiological make-up of children also becomes altered which causes them to become hungry more quickly and dehydrated easier than their peers. We recognize those needs and proactively developed a nutrition focus which provides healthy food every two hours and water bottles to encourage children to stay hydrated throughout the day. We also focus on equipping children with regulation techniques aimed towards calming their bodies and helping them recognize what might be going on inside before it manifests

into aggression or other challenging behaviors. Providing children with these tools at a young age prepares them for the future by helping them learn how to take control of impulses and behaviors that could ultimately lead to challenges later in life..

CONNECTION is evident in every relationship represented within the Children's Palace. From the first day the family walks through our doors, we work toward establishing a relationship of trust and acceptance for both the children and caregivers. Children are exposed to daily opportunities for one-on-one attention through prayer, play and positive communication. We strive to give each a child a voice by encouraging speech and the verbal expression of feelings, and taking time to make eye contact and listen to what they say. We have seen children so traumatized by past relationships they wouldn't come nearer than 3-feet to anyone and would be triggered into hysteria for hours if anyone so much as tapped their shoulder. Yet we have also seen those same children learn how to connect in safe and healthy ways and appropriately initiate healthy touch represented through high-fives, handshakes and hugs. Truly when we allow Christ to love through us regardless of how difficult a person's behaviors may seem, we see His Word ring true that indeed love never fails! (1 Corinthians 13:8)

CORRECTION is never anyone's favorite part of training a child, but it is absolutely necessary if we want to instill into a child the

difference between right and wrong, respect and disrespect. Rather than doing this through punitive discipline measures, we strive to proactively teach children through role play and example the most appropriate ways to respond in every day situations that would historically be met with aggression and hysteria. Our heart is to help children recognize what it means (and looks like) to respect... themselves, God and others. Unfortunately, this may not be something they've ever been exposed to or learned the importance of. But we know that learning this key value is necessary for anyone to positively move forward in life. Without it, many can be destined for futures laced with criminal activity, addiction and abuse. That is not God's heart for anyone who comes through our doors and we believe if we do what He has commissioned us to do well, He can use our efforts to break some of these generational chains and pave that new pathway for a more abundant life.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)

Jesus came so that we would all know Him and partake with Him in a life that is abundant. That abundance is not of material possession and treasures. We believe it is a life abundant with purpose, love and meaning. Many of the thousands of individuals who come through the doors of the TRM Ministries every year come to us void of these things. And for many, this can be traced back to their childhoods; childhoods

often plagued by abuse, dysfunction and trauma. We can't go back and erase the past. We can proactively do our part to provide a fresh start for the children coming through our doors so their parents' stories are not repeated throughout their lives. We can begin introducing them to Jesus and help them to see that they are God's unique creations, treasures and gifts to this world. We can take His words seriously when He said the kingdom of heaven belongs to the children and begin to treat them – all of them – as royalty, and the princes and princesses that God created them to be. We may not be able to stop all the trauma that may still surround them, but we can help them and their families to recognize His love and truth while they are here. We can pray for the Lord to continue to guide their steps and change even the hardest of hearts so that households become transformed and surrendered to God's leading for their lives.

Even the tiniest of seeds can produce an abundance. And we thank you for partnering with us through prayer and believing that in time a mighty harvest of fruit will come forth, one child at a time. †

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Would you like to learn more about how you can partner with the Children's Palace to help change lives? Visit our website at trmonline.org or contact us at 785-730-8810 or childrenspalace@trmonline.org.



BACK TO SCHOOL **THANK YOU!**



When August arrives, those with school age children shift from relaxed summer mode to busy preparation for the first day of school. For some it's merely an inconvenience of time but for many in our community it's beyond stressful as they wonder how they will pay for school supplies and clothes for growing kids. The TRM Ministries is blessed by amazing donors and volunteers who understand this need and go above and beyond to lighten the load of struggling parents. Because of your generosity over the past weeks, TRM helped over 150 children, as well as multiple schools across Topeka. Fully stocked backpacks, put together by volunteers, were given to children across our community, ensuring they are equipped with the tools necessary to learn. To truly affect change in the world, we must equip today's children to be their best selves and that goes beyond having the right tools. It's also about self-esteem and feeling like you fit in on the first day of school. No child wants to go to school feeling unprepared. **THANK YOU** for partnering with TRM and contributing to the children of our community, making it possible for so many to have a great first day of school. †

Shop to Support



TRM Boutique on the Boulevard
3400 SW Topeka Blvd
Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm

TRM Thrift Store
1312 N Kansas Ave
Tue - Sat 10am - 5pm



"We Make Thrifty look Excellent!"



Every \$25 you spend at the Boutique or Thrift Store helps shelter 3 people for a night.

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

* DENOTES CRITICAL NEED ITEMS

FOOD ITEMS:

Peanut Butter* / Canned Fruit* / Jelly* / Boxed Mac & Cheese / Ravioli, and Pork & Beans* / Canned Tuna* / Chicken* Cereal* / Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce* / Macaroni* / Soup* / Baby Formula (Similac Advanced & Similac Sensitive) / Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee* / Sack lunch items (*i.e. granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, snack crackers*)*

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Dish Soap / Arm & Hammer Super Washing Soda / 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Naptha Laundry Soap

HYGIENE/HEALTH ITEMS:

Diapers size 4 & 5 / Men's Deodorant* / Foot Powder / Toothpaste (small & large)* / Shampoo* & Conditioner* / Shower Gel (Hotel size & larger)* / Razors (Men's and Women's) / Hair Brushes

CLOTHING:

Summer Clothing for Men, Women & Children (clothing and shoes can all be used) / Shoes – All Sizes

FURNITURE *(in good condition):*

Furniture – i.e. Couches, Recliners, Loveseats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses, etc.

Large & Small Appliances – i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Freezers, Refrigerators & Microwaves