

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2020

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
Children's Palace 785-730-8810



PROGRAMS: 785-354-1744

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

COMMUNITY:

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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US POSTAGE PAID
AMERICAN
PRE-SORT INC

A background image of a fire with bright orange and yellow flames against a dark background. The text 'INTO THE FIRE' is in white and 'THE VIRUS' is in yellow, both in large, bold, sans-serif fonts.

INTO THE FIRE THE VIRUS



INTO THE FIRE THE VIRUS

Two months ago, we woke up in a new reality most of us never saw coming. Overnight our doctors, nurses and health care workers had become soldiers fighting on the front lines of a war, protecting our communities and our nations from an invisible enemy. Our essential workers had become our celebrities, bringing us food, supplies and things many of us had taken for granted until we feared losing them. People who once were considered to have “low level” jobs - maintenance workers, street cleaners and more - became our rock stars, fighting the enemy on the ground level to protect those of us in our homes.

Nation after nation realized how incredibly fragile the world around us really is, and we realized - some of us for the very first time - that we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us.

The plans we had at the beginning of 2020 have been forever changed. The way we lived our lives until this moment has been forever changed. Our plans are now dependent on a future that's changing rapidly around us, one in which we can't yet know the outcome.

At the Topeka Rescue Mission we have not escaped the tumultuous uncertainty of this time in history. But throughout everything we still know one thing: God has called us to be here for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, and the vulnerable. We know that COVID-19 does not change our mission.

It has always been our mission to keep people safe, and we realize “safe” looks different in different times. Today keeping people safe means “protecting

the vulnerable” - and we are rallying together like never before because we are ALL the vulnerable.

For us at TRM protecting the vulnerable is nothing new. We believe our purpose is to be here for the most vulnerable and to stand with them in their moment of need, just like we always have. We don't do it blindly or foolishly, but take as many precautions as we can and develop further calls for safety. We are working with the health department and local doctors

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and nurses to discover the best way to protect ourselves and those we serve. Social distancing is very complicated in a homeless shelter, but we are working daily to create new spaces to isolate those with symptoms of COVID-19, quarantine those at-risk or those who may have been exposed and create a minimum 6-foot distance between each of our guests.

We are having to face many new realities we have never faced before, from establishing priority shelter for only those in a five county radius, to providing in-house meals only for our guests and sack dinners and food boxes for the rest of the community. We are looking for creative ways to operate as our staff and volunteer numbers dwindle due to high-risk conditions combined with the concern that donations may drop due to millions of job losses across our nation.

But whatever comes, just like the rest of those on the front lines, we cannot stop. As potentially life-threatening as it

could be for each of our staff, helping those in need is what we are resolved to do and what we will continue to do every day.

In times of crisis every one of us has to ask: Why am I here? What am I meant to do? In this time more than ever, many people in our community and around the world are unable to physically fight on the front lines. Many are told to stay home, practice social distancing and sometimes even separate from families and friends which can cause intense loneliness and depression. How can we help the most vulnerable in our communities when we can't actually be there with them, and when we may be struggling ourselves?

Like always, it's easy to get trapped in the thinking of "us" and "them". It's easy to feel set apart and lonely. It's easy to separate those who work on the front lines from those who are told to stay at home. But those of us at TRM want to remind you it's not "us" and "them" - it's just US. All of us, together.

With God's Grace we will get through this together because our community has proven time and time again that they are here when the vulnerable need them the most.

At TRM our mission is simple: we believe now as always that we are called to go into the fire. We believe God will take care of us and help us withstand the flames, but even if He doesn't, we will still care for the homeless and the hungry for as long as we can - because that is what we are called to do.

Even if you can't be there on the front lines with us, you can stand in the fire with us. We pray for and value your support in whatever capacity you can give it - through donations, prayers, or following us on Facebook or our website to stay up to date with current news and needs. In the face of this new crisis we remember that the homeless are still homeless, the hungry are still hungry, the broken are still broken, and you are still here at our side, with us in the fire. †



**When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)**

THREEDOM Topeka

**PRAY
GIVE
REACH**

Follow TRM on  to stay up to date!

PRAY: For our staff, volunteers, guests staying at TRM, and the unsheltered homeless
GIVE: In increments of 3 (\$3, \$30, \$300...) Text **TRMgive** to **77977** to give through PushPay.
REACH: Do 3 acts of kindness for people you don't know.

**OUR
Community
OUR
Mission**
TRM TOPEKA
RESCUE MISSION
MINISTRIES



Check out our weekly audio podcast with news and updates from TRM Ministries by going to TRMonline.org/news-stories/podcast OR scan the QR code with your smartphone camera!



CURRENT NEEDS LIST

FOOD ITEMS:

Critical Sack Meal Items Needed: Pudding Cups/Fruit Cups/Yogurt Cups/Granola Bars/Juice Boxes, Pouches/Ind. Pkg. Snack Crackers/Ind. Pkg. Snack Cakes or Cookies/Slice or Bulk Lunch Meat/Sliced Cheese/Ziploc Sandwich, Gallon Freezer and Storage Bags/Mayo pkts/Mustard pkts/Fruit/Pre-packaged cutlery kits

Food Bag Items: Ravioli / Spaghetti / Canned Tuna or Chicken / Spaghetti Sauce / Mac & Cheese

Kitchen Items: Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee

STREET REACH ITEMS:

Tarps/Sleeping Bags

SUPPLY ITEMS:

Clorox Wipes / Alcohol Prep Pads / Isopropyl Alcohol/ Bath Towels / Paper Towels / Toilet Paper / Kleenex (Large Boxes) / Dish soap / Twin Size Bedding / Powder Laundry Detergent

HYGIENE/HEALTH ITEMS:

Hand Sanitizer / Men's and Women's Deodorant (No Aerosol) / Foot Powder / Shampoo & Conditioner Shower Gel / Razors (Men's and Women's) / Cough Drops / Hair Brushes / Liquid Hand Soap / Tylenol Ibuprofen / Cold and Flu Medicine / Tampons/Women's Underwear (5,6,7) / Men's Underwear (30-38)/ Baby Wipes

FOR OUR FULL NEEDS LIST VISIT: TRMONLINE.ORG

DONATE

Mail Donations to:

Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries
PO Box 8350
Topeka, KS 66608

Give online:

Text **TRMgive** to **77977**
to receive a link to give online,
visit TRMonline.org

 Pushpay

