2019 was a year of great challenges at the Topeka Rescue Mission, from a drastic drop in donations to a host of resulting questions and worries on the part of our guests, staff and community. But 2019 was also a year of renewed vision and purpose for TRM and our community. In the midst of a myriad of discussions about budgets, funds, and what services we could and couldn’t continue to provide, one question kept coming to the forefront.

Do they matter?
Do the approximately 250-300 people sheltered by the Topeka Rescue Mission every night matter? Do the individuals who come to us for help in their darkest moments matter? How much do they matter? How much are they worth? I’ll never forget the woman who came up to me last year, after we announced the drastic reduction in donations we had experienced and the resulting uncertainty of the Topeka Rescue Mission. She was staying at the Mission and enrolled in one of our programs, working hard to graduate and begin her new life. She looked up at me with tears in her eyes and asked simply, “Do I matter?”

It was such a simple question, but it hit me like a punch in the gut. She truly didn’t know if she mattered or not. How would she know? She had been through so much in her life she had never even had the chance to be part of a stable home, family, or community. Would she get the chance to finish her program and take all the months she had spent with us - months of learning, resources and healing, and begin a brand new life? Or would she become another of the invisible homeless living on the street, just trying to survive one night to the next?

She went on to tell me that she had never mattered to anyone in her life before coming to the TRM, and she was scared of losing that sense of belonging and purpose. Like many of our guests, she was scared of what would happen to her if we closed our doors. She was scared of the physical

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consequences of going back to living on the street, but also the emotional and mental consequences of having no place she belonged, no stability or security in her life. In the last months of 2019, her question was answered with a resounding YES, YOU MATTER. You showed her and countless others that they matter to the Topeka Rescue Mission and the community. By sharing your financial resources, your material possessions, your time and your prayers, you said, “YOU MATTER”. In 2019, you demonstrated what love looks like in action by helping us provide shelter to 2,108 different people, assistance to 2,270 households, and 430,596 meals. You showed us you’re willing to work to keep the Topeka Rescue Mission alive by providing 30,706 volunteer hours from 1,600 different volunteers. In 2019 you helped countless men, women and children who had no place to go, no where else to turn, and no hope, to know that they matter, they are loved, and they have a purpose, a reason to be here, and hope for the future. We could not do this without you, and from all of us at the Topeka Rescue Mission - we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for saying with your actions, “YES THEY MATTER!”

As we have turned the page on another year, another decade at TRM, thank you for helping to keep hope alive for the many who will need you in 2020! 🌟

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION February 2020
FOOD SERVICES
Meals served from the kitchen 277,839
Meals distributed through food boxes 94,176
Food to partner agencies (# of meals) 58,581
Food cost per meal 14 cents
Total meals served and distributed 430,596

CHRISTMAS
Children assisted with gifts, clothing and food 1,337
Total individuals (including children) who received gifts and food baskets 2,766
Total gifts given 12,666

DIRECT HELP
Occurrences of medical help, including visits in our clinic, as well as dental, vision and prescription assistance 1,659
Transportation vouchers (bus tickets, cab fare, etc.) provided 3,370
Occasions of rental and utility assistance provided 24
Occurrences of additional direct help for miscellaneous items (phone cards, stamps, identification, etc.) provided 133

VOLUNTEER SERVICES
Volunteer hours provided 30,706
Number of volunteers 1,600
Volunteers needed on average each month 1,200
At $22.56 an hour, these hours would have cost: $692,727

STREET REACH
Unique individuals served 940
Total outreach occurrences 2,901

CaRe - CAREER READINESS EDUCATION
Total guests served 48
Total guests who graduated 25

SIT - SERVANTS IN TRAINING
Participants / Graduates 60 / 13

RESTORE HOPE
Number of Interactions 100+
Human Trafficking Trainings 19

CHILDREN’S PALACE
Children enrolled 47
Number of family special events 25