Each year as we reach out to those in front of us with the love of Christ, it seems as though more and more new faces cross our path every day. We always look forward to seeing the factual numbers before us which represent each one of those faces and lives touched. We don’t view the statistics we share each year as merely numbers on a page, but as valuable lives – brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children, grandchildren, grandparents – who the Lord has given us the privilege to serve in a variety of ways; lives also that have been changed as a result of the love of God and compassionate community in which we live.

Last year we were able to ...

**SHELTER 2,036 PEOPLE**

**PROVIDE 94,815 NIGHTS OF SHELTER**

**ASSIST 8,819 HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

**SERVE 547,740 MEALS**

And this is just a fraction of services that were provided! Twenty years ago we were only serving 78,960 meals and providing 30,240 nights of shelter. When we look back on those numbers, we see how dramatically the needs within our community have increased through the years. Even so, we are grateful beyond words at the ability God has given us to meet the various needs before us. Thank you for continuing to partner with us as we endeavor to offer help and hope to our many brothers, sisters and neighbors in need.

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HOW STAFF HAVE PERCEIVED CHANGE

The Mission has been blessed with a number of employees who have been with the Mission for over a decade. What follows is a glimpse into how they have perceived change over the years.

DORIS FOSTER  BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
SERVING SINCE 1997
“I have seen growth in the size of the ministry and the number of people we help. The number of wonderful donors has also grown, enabling us to minister to all these people. We also minister in lots of new ways now. We are more open to meeting the needs of community members as well as the needs of the guests.”

GUILLERMO PENA  DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY
SERVING SINCE 1998
“Since my first days here, I have felt that this was more than just a homeless shelter. Throughout my time here, I have seen it develop and evolve into what it is today. It touches many more lives now than it did then, especially in regards to outreach and education within the Mission and the community. This ministry is constantly increasing its efforts to equip families and individuals with the skills and support they need to have a brighter future. What amazes me the most is God’s provision for the Mission, even during the most trying times.”

KAY IRELAND  DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SERVING SINCE 1998
“TRM has expanded from a ministry of one homeless shelter to ministries that spread across our community. We have unprecedented opportunities to touch lives and give hope to people. The number of individuals that we get to share God’s love with is so much more than what I could have imagined even just a few years ago.”

JEFF KARAS  HOUSING SPECIALIST
SERVING SINCE 1999
“The Mission has grown by leaps and bounds, and the way we have to do things is so drastically different now than it was five or ten years ago. As we strive for structure and a well-run building, we always try to maintain a balance and make decisions through the eyes of grace and from forgiving hearts. No matter how big we grow, that is what makes us different. The love of Christ is what makes TRM special.”

MIKE FOSTER  DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS
SERVING SINCE 2000
“In my years at the Topeka Rescue Mission I have seen the hand of God touch and transform countless lives. It is a joy to be a part of a ministry that not only provides for the physical needs of people, but also offers staff members an opportunity to minister to and encourage the hearts of those who walk through our doors. As our needs have grown over the years, so too have the opportunities to share God’s love with those who are hurting.”

DEBRA SABB  DIRECTOR OF HOPE CENTER
SERVING SINCE 2000
“The biggest difference I see in the years I’ve been here is that we connect more with our guests now, as far as reaching them heart to heart. We take the time to do more ministry to the individual need and not lump them all together as one huge need. We get to know them as individuals and find out what makes them hurt.”
MIKE SHINKLE  DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES
SERVING SINCE 2001
“When I started here fifteen years ago, we would serve maybe 65 people at breakfast. Now it’s usually more like 300. We’ve had to get creative and learn to be flexible so that we can accommodate such large numbers. I had come from a small town, and even back then with such low numbers I was overwhelmed with all that had to happen for meals to be a success. The most important things, though, haven’t changed. Loving people and meeting them where they are is still our hearts’ desire. God always provides the food, and He calls us to then minister to the hungry.”

CHRIS PENNY  DIRECTOR OF SERVICES TO MEN
SERVING SINCE 2001
“When I first came to the Mission, it seemed like there wasn’t much of what I might have called success. People left and returned at a fairly high rate, with the same problems that brought them the first time. Over time I have noticed that while we still have people leaving and returning, the men that we have today is largely a different group than were leaving and returning two years ago. What we do takes a lot of patience. It may be a year or two, or even more, before guys are out and on their feet. But I have repeatedly seen God change the lives of the men we work with, and not just in material ways. As we talk with them about the Gospel, about how Jesus died for the sins of all who would ever come to believe in Him, hearts are reborn for heaven.”

KIM SCHARRER  ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOPE CENTER
SERVING SINCE 2002
“I have seen a steady growth towards the ministry of Jesus being a bigger priority as we continue to meet the daily needs of our guests. As God has led us in that direction, He has also equipped staff for the changes by growing them in Christ as well.”

JERRY DOLEJSI  FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
SERVING SINCE 2003
“When I first came to TRM the original building was still standing. It’s a parking lot now. Through the years we have changed the Mission policies to become more open to the guests and show more love, grace, and mercy. We used to have a lot more confrontations with guests over policies and rules, but those have decreased as we have learned to show love. The ministries of the Mission have greatly expanded with the addition of the Distribution Center, more educational programs, and now the upcoming Children’s Palace.”

NELL RITCHEY  DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
SERVING SINCE 2003
“Since the SIT Program began in 2004, we have graduated more than 100 students, fourteen of whom are now valued staff members at TRM. In 2015, we began offering a new opportunity for guests to develop through the Center for Biblical Leadership Development (CBLD). I have also had the privilege of helping in the start-up of two more programs for our guests – the Dare to Dream Mentoring Program, which matched its first group in January, 2015, and the Career Readiness Education (CaRE) Program, which graduated its first students in November 2015. All of this is extremely exciting! God is truly up to something awesome here at TRM.”
**GUEST TRACKING**

Un-duplicated individuals who received shelter: 2,036  
Men: 1,045  
Women: 616  
Children: 375  
Total nights of shelter provided: 94,815  
Individuals sheltered on average each night: 263  
Highest number of guests on a given night: 310 on Sept. 17

**DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

Individuals who received clothing through the clothing bank: 3,314  
Household items, including beds, furniture and major appliances given to households: 11,117  
Number of households that received items: 8,819  
School supplies given to those in need: 704

**FOOD SERVICES**

Meals served from the kitchen: 282,468  
Meals distributed through food boxes: 133,600  
Meals supplied to partner agencies: 131,672  
Total cost per meal: 14 cents  
Total meals served and distributed: 547,740

**CHRISTMAS**

Children assisted with gifts, clothing and food: 2,040  
Total individuals (including children) who received gifts and food baskets: 4,331

**DIRECT HELP**

Occurrences of medical help, including visits in our clinic, as well as dental, vision and prescription assistance: 1,865  
Transportation vouchers (bus tickets, cab fare, etc.) provided: 9,404  
Occasions of rental and utility assistance provided: 105  
Occurrences of additional direct help for miscellaneous items (phone cards, stamps, identification, etc.) provided: 246

**VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

Volunteer hours provided: 39,872  
Number of volunteers: 1,500  
Volunteer instances occurred on average each month: 1,242  
At minimum wage ($7.25 an hour) these hours would have cost: $289,072

**DOXAZO**

3-on-3 Basketball (Monthly)  
Average Participants: 60  
Club (Monthly)  
Participants: 55  
Doxazo Camp  
Summer Participants: 215  
Winter Participants: 240  
Mighty Men (Summer Program)  
Kids: 13  
Daughters of the King (Year Round)  
Kids: 10  

**DARE TO DREAM** (offered at both TRM and NET Reach)  
Shelter participants: 59  
NET Reach Participants (Adults and Children): 149  
Total participants: 208

**SIT - SERVANTS IN TRAINING**  
Participants / Graduates: 65 / 9

**RESTORE HOPE**  
Number of victims served: 45
CURRENT NEEDS LIST

FOOD ITEMS:
- Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits / Coffee
- Granulated Sugar / Bottled Water / Mustard & Ketchup / Sack Lunch Items (i.e. Pudding Cups, Fruit Cups, Granola Bars, etc.)

SUPPLY ITEMS:
- Purex Crystals / Arm & Hammer Washing Soda
- 20 Mule Team Borax / Fels Nepsa Laundry Soap
- Tall Kitchen & 30 Gallon Trash Bags / Blankets
- Storage Bags – Quart & Gallon / Sheet Sets: (Full, Queen & King sizes) / Bath Towels
- Diapers – Sizes 4, 5 & 6 / Pull Ups – Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T / Baby Wipes / Razors (Men’s & Women’s) / Deodorant (Men’s & Women’s)

CLOTHING:
- Men’s Winter Coats – Sizes Medium & Up
- Men’s Pants & Jeans – All Sizes (Especially 30 - 40) / Men’s Underwear – Sizes 30 to 38
- Men’s & Women’s Shoes – All Sizes
- Plus Size Winter Clothing – Men & Women
- Women’s Underwear – Sizes 5 - 9
- Children’s Clothing & Shoes – 2T & Up

FURNITURE (in good condition)
- Furniture – i.e. Couches, Recliners, Loveseats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses etc.
- Large & Small Appliances – i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Refrigerators & Microwaves

KID’S KORNER!

Alison Schaefer is a ten-year-old with a huge heart for others. Last year she decided that she wanted to start raising money so that she could buy new shoes for Hope Center children who needed them. After she raised the money, she went to Payless ShoeSource and found out that because of her efforts they were willing to also contribute to the cause. Alison comes from a family who has supported the Mission for decades. Their legacy of caring for those in need is now being embraced by the youngest generation. We are blessed by all who give, but we especially love seeing children reaching out to other children.

Easter is a time that we celebrate Jesus and all He has done for us. As you read the Easter story in your Bible and think of what He has personally done for you, consider thinking about how you can help others. †

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him." – Romans 6:9

FAMILY QUESTION:
Talk with your family about why Easter is special and what it means to you. Discuss how Jesus rising from the grave impacts your life today.

FAMILY VERSE:
The Easter Story: Luke 22-24