



MISSIONS & MINISTRY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



FEATURE
Restoration House
Dreams Big for 2018

Pages 1-2



CHURCH SPOTLIGHT
Once Ready to Close its
Doors, Greenwood church
bounces back

Page 2



PARTNER MINISTRY
People Teams Refugee
Simulation Recap

Page 3



ASSOCIATION NEWS
Invitation to the 2018 Hope
Now Freedom Gala

Page 4

A publication of the
Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
www.blueriverkansascity.org

Restoration House Dreams Big for 2018

by Britney Hamm

KANSAS CITY, MO - The [Restoration House of Greater Kansas City](#) was founded in 2014 on the belief that people coming together to say “NO” to sex trafficking in our city could have a monumental impact. Sex trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery involving forced sexual exploitation, traps more than 4.5 million people globally in its throes. The U.S. is far from immune - over 3,000 cases of sex trafficking were reported in the States in 2016 alone, with a total of over 22,000 cases since 2007. Countless more go unreported.

Three years in, the belief that we can do something to say #notinourcity is proving to be true. The impact has been personal and extensive, local and nationwide, spiritual and legislative, as God has given us opportunities to fight for justice, hope, and healing. Here’s a snapshot of the impact that has taken place this year and what we hope to accomplish in 2018.

- Staff and board members of Restoration House played a key role in bringing the bipartisan bill [HR 3942, the Housing for Survivors of Sex Trafficking Act](#), to the floor through consultation with [Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler \(R-MO\)](#) and her staff.
- [Richie Wolfe](#), a 26-year-old bike enthusiast, trekked 7,200 miles on a bicycle across 24 states and parts of Canada. He raised \$6,000 for Restoration House.
- Two ladies in our residential program were recently baptized and are growing in their walk with Jesus.
- A medical expense grant of \$5,000 will allow us to assist more victims in 2018.

Continued on Page 2

Restoration House, cont. from Page 1

- [The Run to Stop](#) it raised \$100K for Restoration House, and the [Bluegrass Festival](#) raised \$5,000 for the Home for Minors. The Missouri Baptist Convention made us a recipient of their annual meeting offering.
- [Christine McDonald](#), our Directory of Advocacy, Outreach, and Curriculum, partnered with the MO Attorney General's Office for instrumental trainings that reached the community and law enforcement professionals.
- [Pleasant Valley Baptist](#) hosted the [first ever all men's anti-trafficking event in the nation](#). Nearly 350 men attended! Dr. Rodney Hammer and Christine McDonald spoke. As a result of the event, a potential child victim was identified.
- [The Missouri Baptist Children's Home](#) donated a house for the Home for Minors. BR-KC donated \$100,000 for renovations of the house.

Our goals in 2018 include opening a Stage 2 home for women, a Home for Minors, and increasing our emergency response services in partnership with the Department of Justice.

The battle against trafficking is far from over. But we serve a great God who has even greater power over evil, who proclaims justice and freedom. We may never see trafficking fully eradicated this side of heaven, but we won't stop trying. Every life that is healed, renewed, and transformed is worth it.

We still need your help to raise the rest of the funds needed to open and operate the Home for Minors. Please consider coming to our Gala on January 20th or buying a brick.

<https://restorationhousekc.ejoinme.org/gala2018>
<https://restorationhousekc.com/fundraiser-brick/>



Grammy-nominated Kenny and Amanda Smith with Executive Director September Tribble



Bluegrass Festival raised \$5,000



Men's Anti Trafficking Rally at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

Once ready to close its doors, Greenwood church bounces back

By Brian Koonce

GREENWOOD – In 2011, First Baptist Church of Greenwood was ready to shut its doors. They donated their assets to [Lenexa Baptist Church](#), a Missouri Baptist Convention church, to replant the church as a campus, [Fellowship Greenwood](#), the first of four

said pastor Chris Williams. “We’re still a family of churches doing ministry together in unison, but we have distinct visions and characteristics. It was time to unleash the church to go out and multiply itself.”

They are seeing de-churched people return to regular worship and are reaching people who have no experience with Christianity at all. “Because of that, we went from zero baptisms to nearly one a week,” Williams said.

“It was time to unleash the church to go out and multiply itself.”

campus expansions for Lenexa.

The partnership with Lenexa bore fruit – ministry poured out of the church building and worship attendance grew to 600 on Sunday mornings. However, the leaders of Fellowship and Lenexa sensed that the multi-site model might not be for them.

“Through the years, we learned that trying to do a replica of Lenexa was not the way to go,”

As they became more involved in the community, the reputation improved and opportunities to share the gospel increased. Their community partners now include the City of Greenwood and the Lee’s Summit school district. November marked the second year the church has, at their expense, bussed in 6th graders from a local school charter assembly.



“We’re praying that the next opportunity will come in the Lord’s time,” Williams added. “Maybe it will be another church on the verge of closing their doors that needs us to help bring them back health, vision and ministry so they can bounce back and do the same.”

Visit <http://www.fellowshipgw.com/>

Partner Ministry Update

People Teams: Refugee Simulation

KEARNEY, MO -On October 14, 2017, People Teams hosted the [second annual Refugee Simulation](#). The continuous live role-play event is designed to help participants understand the realities of the refugee process and become more knowledgeable, empathetic and effective as cross-cultural ministers. It's a relevant objective, given that Kansas City is home to an estimated 25,000 first-generation refugees.

October 14 dawned unseasonably hot with foreboding clouds and the promise of storms. Four groups of ten, including a group from St. Louis, went through the continuous role play where 40 volunteers served as actors and support cast. Participants followed portions of three real-life stories of refugee families. They experienced fleeing a country, surviving a long and dangerous journey, and life in a refugee camp while seeking asylum in another country.

Participants were faced with the startling, tragic, and frustrating experiences refugees face everyday: language barriers, confusion, gunshots, inadequate paperwork, border crossings, bribing guards, fending for food, conflicting answers from officials, and more. They were also faced with difficult decisions, such as whether to assist an injured woman on the side of the road.

Each group had a similar but varying experience based on the choices they made. One group felt remorseful because they elected to kill

someone to escape. Other groups reported lying, cheating, and stealing to get ahead. Almost all groups were surprised that they brushed off the message of Christ. Others felt belittled and dehumanized by the aid worker. The participants experienced a few short hours of discomfort, impatience, fear, frustration, and confusion. Some participants talked about Jesus with their captors in the role play, or sang worship songs during stressful scenes. Others didn't talk about Jesus, even when they had the chance.

All in all, these experiences can help us better minister to our new American neighbors. They can make us slow to judge others for the mistakes they have made in their journey of survival. They can help us understand the barriers that stand between refugees and the Gospel so that we can approach them with love and patience. They can help us be grateful for the blessings of our lives. They can challenge us to be stretched out of our comfort zones for sake of the mission of Jesus.

The LORD made this possible through providing all that was needed, from a goat to a group of Somali/Swahili translators. He also held off the rain! Special thanks to [Concilium](#), [FUSION](#), [New Direction Church](#), [Thrivent Financial](#), Becca Simmons, [Refuge KC](#), and the many volunteers who made this possible.

For more info, contact andrewhuesing@gmail.com



news & events

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 7 - E3 Meeting
Noon @ Sterling Acres

December 12 - Revitalization Cohort
10a @ Oakwood Baptist

December 14 - Ministry Team Meeting
11a @ BR-KC Greenwood Office

December 21 - Restoration House
Monthly Training & Awareness Event
6-8p @ Heart of Life Lee's Summit

December 25 - January 1 - Office
Closed

December 31 - New Year's Eve
Gospel Singing with Refreshments
Calvary Baptist Blue Springs

JOB LISTINGS

First Baptist Church of Oak Grove is looking for a full time Worship Leader/ Youth Minister. Send resumes to:
First Baptist Church of Oak Grove
Search Committee
P.O. Box 129
Oak Grove, MO 64075
or email dianna@firstbaptistog.org.

Merry Christmas!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6

Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

Britney Hamm, Editor

Vol. 36, No. 12 December 2017

(USPS 058-960)

Published monthly for \$1.00 per year
by Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association
806 W. Main Street Greenwood, MO 64034

816-623-5260 jenniferh@kcbaptist.org

Periodicals postage paid at Lee's Summit, MO

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BR-KC Baptist Association,
806 W. Main Street Greenwood MO 64034

“Join us overlooking the Plaza Lights at the Intercontinental Hotel on January 20, 2018.

We look forward to 550 guests raising \$200,000 for Restoration House at our 4th Annual Hope Now Freedom Gala!.”

- Steven Robinson, Director of Development

Periodical



You are invited to attend the
HOPE NOW FREEDOM GALA
BENEFITTING



January 20, 2018

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. VIP Social
5:45 p.m. Registration & Silent Auction Opens
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Gala Dinner

InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza
401 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

\$100 per person, includes Dinner and Entertainment
\$50 per person for Optional VIP Social in the Rooftop Ballroom overlooking the beautiful Plaza Lights

Register by January 12, 2018 at www.restorationhousekc.com/events
For more information, contact Jennifer Hutton (816) 623-5260



VIP SPONSOR



ABOUT THE BENEFICIARY

Restoration House of Greater Kansas City is a faith-based, long-term residential program for survivors of sex trafficking. RHGKC empowers sex trafficking survivors to find hope, healing, and new lives free from the pain and fear they have experienced. RHGKC's holistic program meets participants' physical needs, provides recovery counseling, and offers education and job training.



HONOREE

After decades of church and para-church ministries, Russ is the founder and president of The Stop Trafficking Project and is a founding board member of KC Street Hope. His ministry focus, since 2009, is combating sex trafficking from a Christ-centered perspective. A huge part of his ministry involves a collaborative awareness and prevention strategy called "AwareKC", where students and adults are educated and empowered. Russ lives in Shawnee, KS with his wife, and two daughters.

GALA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Holly Knipp, Chair, The Knipp Team RE/MAX Heritage
Becky Moyer, Vice-Chair, Moyer & Moyer Insurance Agency, Inc.
Steven T. Cox, CFA, Past Chair, Providence Financial Advisors, LLC

Elizabeth Knipp
Reece Nichols
Real Estate

Stefany Mitchell
Adecco

Kisha Nickell
Principle Design
Studio

Linda Mueller
Reece Nichols
Real Estate

Carl Chinnery
Chinnery Evans &
Nail, PC

Terry Roth
First Guaranty
Mortgage Corporation

Cyrus Contractor
CCC Capital
Investments LLC

PROGRAM

Russ Tuttle, Guest Speaker

Melony McKaye, Emcee, Morning Host, Life 88.5

Dr. Rodney Hammer,
Board President, Restoration House of Greater Kansas City
Executive Director, Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association

Gib Thurman, Auctioneer

5 Star Jazz Band, Entertainment