

IMPACTING LIVES

Andreika

When Andreika came to **reStart's** Family Transitional Shelter she, her kids, and her partner Leron had nothing but the clothes on their backs. The family had been couch surfing since 2010, when Andreika's Social Security Disability benefits were cut off. They were very thankful for the steady meals and shelter provided by reStart Inc. After a year in the shelter, a permanent housing unit became available and they moved in on Easter weekend, 2014. Since, she and her partner have gained invaluable life skills. They play an active role in their kids' academic lives using tools from Parents as Teachers; she has learned job skills through the Full Employment Council; and she is engaging in mental health services in order to reapply for disability.

Victoria

Victoria spent most of her adult life homeless in Kansas City, but severe anxiety and a constant battle with substance abuse prevented her from staying in shelters. Instead, she spent night after night in parks and forested campsites, even during the region's cold, snowy winters. This past year, with help from **reStart Inc.**, the organization leading the 100,000 Homes Campaign in Kansas City, Victoria moved into her first permanent apartment in 13 years. The stability of permanent housing has brought huge gains, including six months of sobriety...and still counting. Today, she has reconnected with her family and is thrilled to be involved in the lives of her young nieces in a way she never thought possible. Congratulations, and welcome home, Victoria!

Travis

Travis knows homelessness and hunger. He also knows the cruelty of the streets. "When you think about a community kitchen you usually think about a drab and dark soup kitchen. This is nothing like that. It's bright and cheery and the staff treats you with respect and dignity," said Travis. At the **Kansas City Community Kitchen**, operated by Episcopal Community Services, we couldn't agree with you more. We know that one meal can make a difference in an individual's life. That's why we are here.

The Downtown Community Services Center is a collaboration between the Downtown Council, Episcopal Community Services and reStart Inc. Donations can be made to:

Downtown Kansas City Civic Ventures
501 (c)3 Not-for-Profit Corporation
1000 Walnut, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64016



Downtown Community Services Center
2014 Annual Report | Kansas City, Missouri



"NOTHING IS WORTH MORE THAN THIS DAY"



Downtown Community Services Center

The Downtown Community Services Center (DCSC) reached new milestones this year with reStart and the Kansas City Community Kitchen at its humble home at 8th & Paseo.

reStart, the DCSC's first tenant, marked its fifth anniversary of providing shelter as well as supportive services to homeless men, women, and youth with the goal of helping them move toward self-sufficiency and ending homelessness in our community. **In 2013, reStart served 538 households including 187 that were served through permanent housing programs such as the 100,000 Homes Campaign.**

Permanent Housing Program Success

Of the 187 served through reStart's permanent housing program:

- 74%** Exited to permanent housing.
- 99** Stayed in permanent housing six months or longer.
- 56%** Increased their income.

The additional 451 households were served through drop-in services, including weekly vet outreach, health department services, back of school fair, Havesters, Swope Health Services Mobile Clinic and mail services.

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"That placed us at the forefront of a new approach to working with the homeless in our community: helping prevent at-risk families and individuals from becoming homeless in the first place, or helping to rapidly find housing for them if they do lose their homes," said Evie Craig, reStart executive director.



In 2014, the Kansas City Community Kitchen, operated by Episcopal Community Services, marked its third anniversary at the Downtown Community Services Center. The Community Kitchen serves an **average of more than 400 guests per day.**

"This facility has not only allowed us to serve more people in need, but also to do so in a way that improves health and provides hope for a better future," said John Hornbeck, Executive Director of ECS.



"All of this would not have been possible without the Downtown business community."

The Community Kitchen staff was supplemented in 2013 by approximately **760 individuals who volunteered more than 3,100 hours.** These volunteers come to us on their own or through corporate and faith-based communities.

In three years, the Kansas City Community Kitchen has **served more than 550,000 hot, nutritious meals - an increase of nearly 53,000 meals or 20.4 percent** over their previous location.

The roots of the DCSC began with the Downtown Council's Human Services Committee nearly a decade ago. "The committee works hard to ensure that human service needs of Downtown residents are met using best practices and to ensure a high quality of care and effectiveness of operation," said Sean O'Byrne, DTC vice president. "An important goal of the committee is to provide a safe, accessible, full service, daytime, multi-use facility to assist the homeless community in the delivery of services Downtown."



The Downtown Council championed the private fundraising of more than \$1 million to purchase the building at 8th & Paseo in 2007 and renovate it into a facility to help individuals become healthy and reintegrated back into society. Thanks to your support, that mission will continue to flourish in 2015 and the years ahead.

