

# reStart Inc.

*Conversation & Collaboration News For You – Read All About it!*



## **THE ROAD HOME: A JOURNEY FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING**

reStart Inc. has partnered with acclaimed photojournalist, Randy Bacon, to curate **The Road Home!** This remarkable photography and storytelling exhibit captures the stories of 18 current and former residents of reStart Inc. (*including those images featured here*)! These personal accounts of courage and resilience are full of hope and inspiration, and we hope will change perceptions and the dialogue about homelessness. We are thrilled to partner with the Kansas City Museum where the **The Road Home** will be housed from November 3 – April 2024.

## **HOMECOMING 2023: THE ROAD HOME**

**How can you join The Road Home?**

**Homecoming 2023: The Benefit**

**Nov 9th from 5:30–8 pm**

**The Bauer**

Our primary community fundraiser of the year, Homecoming 2023 will be unique and memorable! Come enjoy this incredible evening of food, beverage, music, film, photography and more! Visit: [www.restartinc.org](http://www.restartinc.org) for more information on tickets & sponsorships!



## **THE EXHIBIT & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

**Legislative Brunch** 1/4 (10:30 am)

**Resolve & Learn** 1/20 (10:30 am)

**Housing is Healthcare** 2/8 (4 pm) & 2/17 (10:30 am)

**Dignity & Community Response** 3/7 (4 pm) & 3/23 (10:30 am)

**Engaging Youth & Artists as Policy Advocates** 3/28 (4 pm)

**Volunteer & Partner Appreciation** April 4 (4 pm)

**What's Next: Invitation to Engage** April 20 (10:30 am)

### **Kansas City Museum hours:**

Thursday 10 am – 8 pm, Friday & Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, & Sunday noon – 5 pm. *Admission is FREE!*

## Street Outreach Services: Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork

**YOUTH:** reStart's Youth Street Outreach team collaborates regularly with Synergy Services and Drumm Farm, both of whom also serve youth. According to Rick with Synergy Services, he has never experienced collaboration like this before, "With our Youth Outreach Programs working together, we have great connections across the teams. The interaction is one of mutual respect and the desire to change lives," he continues. Each program has strengths, so youth have a clear picture of what to expect. Sometimes this also affords youth a choice based on their own personal needs. "The last thing anyone wants to say is that we don't have room for a youth in crisis, so knowing we have each other as a resource makes a huge difference," says Lorin from Drumm Farms' Transitional Living Program.

reStart's youth street outreach case manager, Hannah, agrees: "We share resources, information and ideas. We are 'experts' in our geographic areas and want to place youth where they can thrive.

reStart's COO, Jonathan, adds: "Collaborative work means that we are not duplicating services. We are sharing resources to help more people." By spreading across the community, the team is also able to track school engagement and check lists to see who is already engaged versus those who are still in need. Having more touch points and solutions allows us to meet the growing needs.

**ADULT:** Monday mornings, reStart's Adult Street Outreach Team collaborates with KCPD, KCFD, Veteran's Community Project and Synergy Services as they respond to calls made to 211 for help. From stops behind store fronts, to hidden neighborhood camps, the team responds to reported call locations while also looking for others who may need help. They provide water, grab & go meals, hygiene kits and human interaction while trying to assess the needs and offer resources to those they meet. This partnership results in more people accessing a wider variety of resources. Follow up visits are made later.



**Wash Wednesdays:** Another program, Wash Wednesdays has become one of our most impactful outreach efforts. Each Wednesday the outreach team visits homeless camps throughout the metro and offers rides to Gates Plaza Ultra Wash. While there, neighbors can wash clothing and bedding, receive lunch and water, and engage in conversation and resource connections with case managers. We find the response of folks needing help is so much more relaxed while they engage in an activity that helps to restore dignity and hygiene. Pictured below are Christopher, Colby and Abraham who were recent volunteers and donors to Wash Wednesday. What a gift it is for participants to freshen their belongings and potentially gain the confidence they may need to accept more help related to housing, employment or their health. We welcome donations and volunteers for this hope-filled outreach. If interested, please contact: [development@restartinc.org](mailto:development@restartinc.org).



## Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle & Trish

Volunteers make a huge impact at reStart! Whether serving meals, leading classes, helping with events or other activities, volunteers enhance the quality of life for our program participants. Michelle and Trish are two of our most dedicated volunteers. "It all started during the pandemic," explains Trish. "The world was shutting down and everything felt overwhelming. I asked Michelle if she'd be interested in joining me to do something for reStart." Michelle adds: "It was good timing for me after leaving a long-term job. I was not sure what was next and loved the idea of doing something helpful. We began donating sack lunches. While that seemed small, it was important." Their one-time pandemic effort has blossomed into a weekly volunteer gig, and the sandwiches have become an important component of our Street Outreach efforts.

In addition, they have recruited friends and family. Michelle's mother in law helps in with sandwich ingredients and back to school supplies, and recently a good friend joined them as a volunteer at our recent Back to School event. Trish acknowledges that In the midst of COVID her daughter died. Crediting a Katharine Hepburn quote, she believes "If you are hurting and feel bad, go find someone else who is hurting and help them." Her grief is less when she helps. Michelle and Trish's 25-year friendship is now a lifeline for others through volunteering. reStart is honored by their energy and generosity. **Inspired? Join us!**



### OTHER UPCOMING NEEDS:

#### Trunk or Treat 10/26 from 4-6 pm

We are looking for Trunk or Treat and game sponsors!

Facebook fundraiser, Hygiene Drive or Amazon Wish List  
(anytime)

#### Adopt-a-Family

(November - December)

#### Holiday Meals

(November - December)

Invite Friends to The Road Home exhibit with you!

(November 2023 - April 2024)

Volunteer Opportunities: [edavis@restartinc.org](mailto:edavis@restartinc.org)

**Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers – your dedication and gifts of time make a lasting impact on our residents and staff!**

*Start where you are. Use what you have.  
Do what you can.*



## Stakeholder Impact

Your support and investment of resources and trust, move our mission forward. Each person we serve has a unique story of courage and adversity. Thanks to your partnership we are moving people from homelessness to housing. Here are two recent success stories:

### Lizette

*"I don't know what would have happened to me without reStart," says Lizette, a 60 year old disabled woman with a history of mental health, PTSD, and temper barriers. Lizette had been imprisoned and homeless twice before she found reStart. Since entering our program, she has completely turned her life around. Leaving prison she had \$5 to her name, she was on parole and required to stay here in an unfamiliar city. Once in the hospital receiving psychiatric treatment and necessary medication to improve her life, Lizette was referred to reStart.*

*"At reStart, I was given a place to stay, caseworkers, and people to help me. I am thankful for this, as I'm sure I would have gotten in trouble on my own." With case worker support, Lizette has obtained legal documents and appointments that will help her live on her own. She has struggled with walking her whole life, and through a partnership with Healing Canvas, she has also secured a walker and is much more mobile: "Now I can walk with a walker. Next I will master a cane. I'll never give up." Lizette is now thriving! She has also learned to manage her temper and has embraced sobriety. "I can't imagine a more successful case than mine, and I am forever grateful. reStart is a wonderful, life-saving facility."*

## Volunteers at reStart's Back-To-School Event earlier this month!



## What is New at reStart?

**Communication:** Our new website and database program are live! We hope these upgrades will keep you connected with our team and the life-changing work happening at reStart. Please let us know if you have any changes in your contact information, including email and home address.

**Physical Structure:** In the midst of a tremendously hot summer, we upgraded our HVAC system and renovated bathrooms on two of our floors. Physical comfort and access to hygiene are important elements of overcoming trauma and working toward moving to safe and stable housing.

**Staff:** We continue to welcome new, talented team members! From our new Director of Housing and case managers to fresh faces at the front desk and housekeeping, we look forward to helping to change more lives together!



*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*



[www.reStartinc.org](http://www.reStartinc.org)



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## Mark Your Calendars...

**10/26 from 4:00–6:00 PM Trunk or Treat** – Looking for Trunks & Treats! If you can help, email [edavis@restartinc.org](mailto:edavis@restartinc.org).

**11/9 5:30–8:00 PM The Road Home** – to sponsor or purchase tickets, contact: [smayer@restartinc.org](mailto:smayer@restartinc.org).

**11/9– 11/10 reStart Ruck** –

Board member and veteran, Clay Daniels, will complete a 30-mile RUCK starting the evening of November 9th and completing the morning of the 10th. Days before Veteran's Day, Clay's RUCK will raise awareness and critical funds in support of the hundreds of unhoused veterans in Kansas City we serve annually. **Cheer him on along the route OR join us for the celebration breakfast on 11/10 at 8 am.** Email [eoliphant@restartinc.org](mailto:eoliphant@restartinc.org) to support RUCK 2023.

*Amazon Wish List: We are always in need of bedding, towels, pillows and underwear – find our list here: [reStart's Amazon Wishlist](#)*