

# reStart Inc.

Conversation & Collaboration News For You - Read All About it!

## reStart Inc. launches #PurposefulKindness!

Ever heard the phrase “kindness is contagious”? We love it and see examples of it often in the efforts of our volunteers, generous donors and in the interactions between staff and those we serve. Inspired by National Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17th), reStart is launching **#PurposefulKindness**. Our goal is to stimulate **intentional kindness** across KC -particularly for neighbors experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as they are often overlooked, judged or mistreated.

**HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?** Beginning February 17th (*through mid-March*), make a plan to spread some kindness. Choose one thing or sprinkle your kindness across a whole month. Volunteer, make a donation, offer a smile - you decide. Then see if kindness becomes contagious! Your kindness can be **big or small**, **click here for ideas:** [www.reStartinc.org/kindness](http://www.reStartinc.org/kindness)

**1) post**

**2) challenge your friends to join you!**

**3) tag reStart Inc.** @reStartInc(Facebook), @restartinckc (Instagram), @reStartInc (Linkedin)

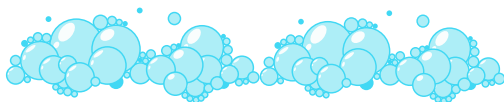
**4)hashtag #PurposefulKindness & #NotSoRandomKindnessKC.**

For every #PurposefulKindness or #NotSoRandomKindnessKC you post **and** tag reStart, anonymous donors will match with cash to support reStart!

Let's create a ripple effect of **#PurposefulKindness** and show the world just how KIND KC really is! Who knows, maybe Taylor & Travis will join in! The kindness match is good through March 15th!



## WASH WEDNESDAYS - SO MUCH MORE THAN LAUNDRY!



Wash Wednesday is a free outreach program for people experiencing street homelessness. In 2023, participants completed more than 2,046 free loads of laundry while also experiencing a sense of community. Many weeks participants also enjoy a meal thanks to regular volunteer, Mr. Marshall. "I get a joy out of it because I just love people," he says. Mr. Marshall partners with different kitchens and local businesses to provide these meals - your kindness is delicious Mr. Marshall!

## A PEEK INTO 2024 AT RESTART INC.

reStart is excited to embark on another amazing year of serving our community! Be on the lookout for more information about events in 2024...

- Business Breakfast Event is mid/late Spring.
- End of Summer festival in early August.
- 2024 Homecoming Event in September.
- Fall Festival in late October.
- A new spin on Ruck for reStart in November.



## THE ROAD HOME EXHIBIT AT THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

The stories of 18 current and former reStart residents are captured by photographer Randy Bacon in "The Road Home" exhibit at the Kansas City Museum (through 4/28). **Hours: Thursday** 10 am - 8 pm, **Friday & Saturday** 10 am - 5 pm, & **Sunday** noon - 5 pm. **Admission is FREE!**



Consider joining exhibit-related **Community Conversations**.  
**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** 3/28, 4 pm  
**Volunteer & Partner Appreciation** April 4, 4 pm  
**What's Next: Invitation to Engage** April 20, 10:30 am

## 2023 Volunteer Impact- A Valued Resource

The gift of your time and skills to our organization plays a huge role in our daily operations! In 2023, volunteers gave **reStart 4,469 hours of time, effort and attention**. These volunteers furthered our mission, invested in our organization, and saved us thousands of dollars that we are able to funnel back into our programs. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, **reStart saved \$67,035 dollars of labor costs**. To each person that donated their time in 2023, thank YOU!



## MLK Jr. Day- All Hands on Deck!

reStart welcomed over 30 volunteers on Martin Luther King Jr. Day! These fantastic volunteers helped paint our family suites, serve lunch, sort donations, paint two hallways, create hygiene kits, and fill laundry soap cups! Many thanks to all that spent their holiday to help us empower people and inspire hope in honor of Dr. King and his legacy.

## A New Look For The Family Shelter; Collaboration & Expansion

2024 brings excitement and change for reStart's Family Shelter! We are excited to announce a new collaboration with the Kansas City Public School District and Avenue of Life. Working directly with these valuable and dedicated partners will allow us to serve more families experiencing homelessness in our community. Each suite has been updated with a fresh coat of paint and furniture donated by Avenue of Life.



## Stakeholder Impact

Your investment and trust move our mission forward. Each person we serve has a unique story. With your partnership, we are moving people from homelessness to housing. Here is a recent success story:

Qiana is a resilient single mother living in reStart's family shelter with two of her children. She found herself experiencing homelessness after escaping a toxic relationship. To protect herself and children, Qiana left her hometown, steady job, three bedroom home, and everyone she knew. She came to Kansas City for a new start.

Not long after she moved into our shelter, her car was stolen and later found dissembled. The vehicle was her families only form of transportation to and from school and Qiana's job. This caused a spiral affect for her family, as she then was fired.

Despite these hardships, Qiana has a contagious smile and uplifting attitude. She volunteers at reStart and another close by agency in her free time. "Even though I am going through so many bad things, it is still in me to help others." She is always willing to help wherever is needed and loves to empower other clients.

Qiana says reStart has been an amazing resource for her family. "Everybody that works here is so kind and loving to me. Kindness helps when you're going through a transition like this."

Qiana is starting a new job nearby where she can walk to work, and hopes to get into the medical field. "I want to help people that cannot help themselves." Qiana is a bright light at reStart, and we cannot wait to see all she will accomplish!

## A GLIMPSE INTO THIS QUARTER AT RESTART INC.



## Holiday Recap!

*The Giving Machines & Adopt A Family: Two Great Examples of Community Impact*

### The Giving Machines Impact:

Thanks to the Giving Machines Light the World Campaign, reStart received some extra holiday cheer in 2023. As one of the selected beneficiaries, we were able to identify several often needed items ranging from dishes to kids pj's. Then visitors to Union Station sponsored the purchase of these items. We are thrilled to report that over \$30,000 was collected! We extend a very warm thank you to everyone that supported us with Giving Machine donations.



### Adopt a Family Was a Success:

Another successful Adopt-a-Family is in the books for reStart! With the help of volunteers, company drives, and individual giving, we were able to serve **12 families, 43 kids, and 8 unaccompanied youth** staying in our Youth Emergency Shelter.

Thank you to all that helped make the holidays special for those we serve!



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

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



## Mark Your Calendars...

### PURPOSEFUL KINDNESS CAMPAIGN KC

- February 17th- March 15th

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS AT RESTART

- February 8th at 10:00 AM
- March 14th at 10:00 AM

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AT THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

- *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* 3/28 ,4 pm
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