

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2  
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# REFLECTIONS ON THE *Journey*



## What Goes Up, Must Come Down? Defying Gravity

Karissa wanted to defy gravity. She was nervous about leaving prison. On the one hand, she was relieved to get out; on the other, she was fearful of going back to where she came from for fear of being "pulled back" into a lifestyle that is neither healthy nor legal.

A high percentage of people who leave prison end up going back to prison. The gravitational pull of a previous lifestyle is hard to break. Karissa wanted to break free; she did not want to return to prison.

She credits Journey to New Life for defying gravity. She now has a full-time job, a place to stay, and even bought a car. She said, "I was in a deep hole. Journey to New Life helped me get out of that hole."

Changing habits is complex and typically cannot be accomplished alone. Karissa is proof that with help, you can change bad habits, with help, you can defy "gravity."

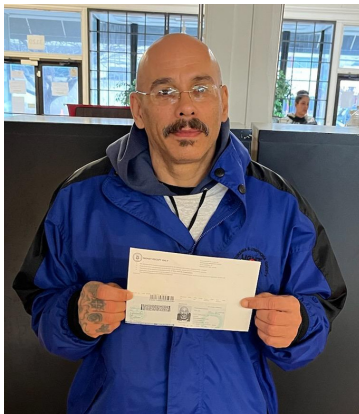


Karissa standing by the car she recently purchased with her son by her side.

## TOTAL STRANGER TO THE RESCUE: "WHERE'S THE PAY PHONE?"

Having been in prison for 25 years, Alex knew he would be entering a whole new world upon release. "It was a bit overwhelming," he said.

Leaving prison with very little money in his pocket, he caught a bus from St. Louis to Kansas City. He was assigned to a halfway house in Kansas City to help him transition to a "regular" life.



Journey to New Life helped Alex and others obtain State IDs so they can apply for jobs and start working.

After getting off the bus he wanted to call the halfway house to see if they would pick him up, but he had a problem. "I couldn't find any payphones. I learned later that there are no more payphones."

Fortunately, a woman he met on the bus, a total stranger, offered to call the halfway house and she was told that they do not provide a pick-up service. So, she paid for an Uber to help Alex.

"I was so grateful for the kindness of that stranger," he said. "At that moment, I felt lost in a new world."

Alex was eventually referred to Journey to New Life where they gave him clothing and identification so he could find work and start rebuilding his life.

*Journey to New Life relies on the "kindness of strangers" to help those like Alex who are starting over in a "whole new world."*

# SAVE THE DATE: OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

We're excited to gather together, bringing a community of allies and donors who understand that, when basic needs are met and access to the right tools and resources is available, people really do have the power to change.

This year is our 10th Anniversary of Operation and will be our biggest event yet. Journey to New Life has grown so much over the past 10 years, and that is thanks to YOU!



We rely on the generous support of the community and donors like you to join our mission. Without you, it's impossible to continue the vital work that changes lives and makes our community safer to live, work and raise a family.

Our event will be at **Drexel Hall** this year, on **June 21st, 2023**, make sure to keep an eye out for RSVP information coming soon!

## SAVE THE DATE: JOURNEY OVER LUNCH

Journey to New Life is one of the best kept secrets in Kansas City and we want to change that! Please join us for a Journey Over Lunch, an opportunity to gather with friends, break bread with some of our staff and clients, at one of our locations to learn about the impact we have in the community and enjoy a casual lunch while being educated on reentry info in Missouri.

**Journey House**  
2918 Tracy Ave  
Kansas City, MO  
64109

12pm - 1:30pm

**RSVP at [journeytonewlife.org](https://www.journeytonewlife.org)**

### Remaining Dates:

Thursday, April 6th

Tuesday, May 9th

Wednesday, June 7th

Tuesday, July 11th

Wednesday, August 9th

Wednesday, September 6th

Tuesday, October 3rd

Tuesday, November 7th

Wednesday, December 6th

## WAYS TO GIVE



### MATCHING CONTRIBUTION

Does your company match charitable contributions? If so, make sure you submit the giving request.



### PLANNED GIVING

Remembering Journey to New Life in your will is a great way to create a lasting legacy that reflects your support of the organization's mission.



### MONTHLY RECURRING GIVING

If you're giving by credit card, simply check the box to make an ongoing monthly contribution.



### VOLUNTEER OR DONATE ITEMS

Journey to New Life is always in need of volunteer assistance and basic living and hygiene items.