

***From Quiktrip to Quiktrip:

What can you do on one tank of gas?

If you are in one of the Artists Helping the Homeless vans, you could spend 30 of the next 48 hours on the streets of Kansas City giving help and hope to 45 of our neediest neighbors – and in the process making it possible for police officers, paramedics and others to focus on their public safety responsibilities and saving taxpayers money.

That's an example of what Artists Helping the Homeless accomplished during a typical 48-hour period in August, 2014, thanks to the time, money, goods and services provided by our generous supporters.

It all started with a full tank of gas at our neighborhood Quiktrip. Here's the story straight from our daily log:

- Filled up at Quiktrip. Beginning mileage: 50,562
- Assisted the U.S. Border Patrol to initiate a search to locate a Canadian youth who entered the U.S., but lost all his identification and now is unable to return home.
- Contacted a Mental Health behavioral unit to follow up on our effort to arrange for inpatient treatment for a client.
- Followed up with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services regarding inpatient services for a paraplegic client.
- Met with officials at the New Century Adult Detention Center, in Gardner, Ks, to arrange for an inmate's discharge and overnight lodging in order for him to enter an inpatient treatment program the following morning.
- While at the Detention Center, helped another inmate schedule a court date for later in the week and also arranged for transitional living after his court appearance.
- Worked with an individual from out of town who needed jaw surgery because he fell off a bike, but had no money or insurance. Worked with a doctor to set up surgery for the following day. Recognizing that he has no place to go and no money, we arranged for a respite bed so he will have a safe place to stay until his surgery. Also purchased necessary medication.
- Went to pick up another patient from the hospital. Unfortunately his blood alcohol was above a .45, so we need to follow up later.
- Worked with client at the Social Security office to activate his much-needed benefits.
- Followed up with a client at a respite bed facility and delivered his mail so he could apply for care.
- Arranged for a follow-up appointment for a client who was undergoing wound care treatment.
- Scheduled a doctor's appointment for a client the next morning.
- Went to Mental health behavioral unit and worked with a client to set up a discharge placement.
- Met with a client in a Mental Health behavioral unit to determine if returning to his home in another state where he would not have any support is a viable solution for him.
- Followed up with a client in detox that we had previously placed in a transitional living facility. He is doing well and is actively searching for a job.
- Checked on a client that we had arranged to be moved from a mental health unit to transitional housing yesterday. He is comfortable in his new surroundings. We encouraged him to volunteer in the community
- Followed up with another client in the same facility. He is also doing well.
- Went to an Emergency Room to pick up a client who needed transportation to return home.
- Returned to work with the client whose blood alcohol level had finally come down, so we were able to take him home.
- Worked with an extremely agitated client in the hospital and who had been verbally aggressive. The hospital called to us ask to go and assist in calming him down. When we got there, there were 5 police officer surrounding him. Finally subdued. 50696
- Located the youth from Canada. He had come to the area two weeks ago and stayed with friends in Olathe. His friends left, so the Olathe police referred him to us. We took him to the Greyhound

Bus station to arrange for his return to Canada. Unfortunately all departures were sold out for the next two days. We arranged for him to stay at a hotel until then. We contacted his parents and border officials to determine the best way to get him through customs.

After 13 hours and 140 phone calls, we call it a day, having worked directly with 22 clients.

- A new day begins by working with client at the Johnson County Detention Center, transporting him to an inpatient facility. The transfer goes well. We will follow up to monitor his progress.
 - Met with a client at a detox center to arrange for him to move to an inpatient treatment facility tomorrow morning.
 - Continued to follow up with the Canadian youth. Arranged to have his parents wire money to Greyhound to pay for his bus ticket. Continued to work with U.S. Border Patrol get a passport or ID reissued to allow him to enter Canada..
 - Met with a woman who had already visited a hospital emergency room three times this morning. Recommended placement in a detox center and an inpatient treatment program. Unfortunately she refused and left. She continued drinking and returned to the ER for the fourth time. Clearly, she is not ready or willing to change yet.
 - Followed up with a client in a hospital psychiatric ward. This individual is a sex offender and an alcoholic. He will need discharge planning.
 - Succeeded in moving a client with painful back spasms to nursing home. This has been a challenging situation. Followed up with him at the new facility and although he is still bothered by back spasms, he likes the placement.
 - Visited a nursing home to check on several clients were successfully placed there:
- Followed up with a long-term client who we placed there three years ago. She continues to do well.
- Followed up with a client who has been there for 3 months and really likes the placement.
- Met with another client at the same facility. He has received his prosthetic legs now and can move around.
- Dropped off supplies for these and other clients there.
- Pick up client after his shift at Burger King and took him back to his trailer. He went to AA meeting after work today.
 - Worked with a client to complete the paper necessary to set up doctor appointments. We need to work on his Medicaid application as well.
 - Another client insisted on going to the hospital today and he did not return.
 - Followed up with a client at respite care facility to resolve issues with his Social Security check.
 - Arranged for a client to move into a Platte City transitional living facility. He will need help with groceries
 - Follow up with a client in respite care. Because of his health situation, we emphasized the need for him to take care of himself before he can try to take care of anything or anyone else.
 - Followed up with youth in detox. He relapsed after we arranged transitional housing for him. We will provide information to him for inpatient treatment.
 - Followed up with a client who was evicted from Oxford house. He is back in Salvation Army for five more days on his Housing voucher.
 - A client will be discharged tomorrow from Truman Medical Center Behavioral Unit. We will assist him in arranging for housing.
 - Attempt to locate a client who had been staying in a motel on 40 Highway. By the time we got there, he did not answer the phone. Unfortunate – and disappointing -- because he relapsed, he has lost his transitional housing placement and will need to start over again.
 - A client called from Main and Westport after leaving his behavioral unit today. He now is roaming the streets again. We tried to locate him in the area, but he was nowhere to be found. We will

continue to be on the lookout for him

- Met the Canadian youth at the Greyhound Bus station, where he will catch a 7:45 bus to Willingston, North Dakota. His parents will be at the border to take him home. A very successful conclusion.

It has been a long, but satisfying two days. A new day filled with new challenges begins in just a few hours.

We will be ready.