



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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## **Mayor Jacobs's Small Business Series Focuses on KARM**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Burt Rosen, President and CEO of Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) for his Small Business Series. KARM is a local non-profit that provides emergency shelter to almost 400 men, women, and children each night and offers them a safe place from the elements.

Each week, the Mayor conducts interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any future plans. A new vignette runs each Wednesday on the county and Mayor's social media platforms.

This month, the series focuses on local charities and non-profits across the area.

“KARM has been around since 1960,” Rosen said. “A handful of local pastors got together in response to what was a growing number of homeless people who were coming off the trains and buses to the downtown area. And way back then, they were knocking on the doors of local churches, so (the pastors) thought there should be a better response for that. KARM was incorporated...and, by God's grace, we've been around ever since.”

During the interview, Rosen also talks about his own son, Matthew, who dropped out of Virginia Tech and ended up homeless and on the streets. He's been missing for 21 years.

Rosen initially declined the offer to lead KARM, saying the “pain and anguish of having a homeless son was more than (he) could bear.”

They asked if would pray on the decision and he did. He later changed his mind and decided to join the organization.

The Mayor and Rosen also talked about mental illness, long-term recovery programs, and services and other local agencies that help the homeless.

For more information about KARM, check out the organization's website: [KARM.org](https://www.karm.org).

To hear more of what was said during the interview, check out the [video](#).

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