

## "When I chose recovery... **I chose to LIVE & not to die.**"

I write to you with pride and gratitude as First Call closes another year of hard work focused on prevention, education, and recovery from substance use disorder. **First Call is working with purpose to lessen the impact of addiction in Kansas City**, and we need your help as we face these hard realities:

- **Overdoses are the #1 cause of accidental death** in our country, accounting for more deaths than breast cancer, car accidents and guns combined.
- Every day, roughly **261 people die from alcohol related issues**. Combine that with the staggering overdose rates, and Substance Use Disorder is the 3rd largest cause of death in the nation.
- **Only 1 in 10 people who need treatment ever receive it**, often not because of a desire to receive treatment, but due to insurance coverage, stigma, financial burdens, childcare issues, and availability of treatment centers.
- About 65% of those in state prisons qualify as having substance use disorder. Without reentry treatment and wrap around support to assist with housing, clothing, food and identification services, **citizens reentering our communities from the justice system find it nearly impossible to break the cycle of addiction and incarceration, often leading to a cyclical pattern repeated through the generations.**

**But there is hope.** Just as we have been doing for the last 60 years, First Call is here to answer the call of anyone who walks through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay.

In response to the crisis in our community, **First Call is leading the way in harm reduction strategies, increasing our school based prevention education team, and expanding our recovery support programs for children, families and individuals.**

**Will you please join us in providing hope to those who call on us?**

Your gift of would mean we could reach more children through prevention education, more families through support services, more individuals through recovery advocacy.

Simply put, more lives saved.

With gratitude and hope this holiday season,



Emily Hage  
President & CEO



### A STORY OF HOPE...

"I had an addiction problem for over 30 years and I never thought that I would change. I came to First Call when I was incarcerated and participated in many programs they facilitated because I knew that I needed to change my life and my behaviors. I was homeless when I was released from incarceration and First Call stepped in and helped me get into a transitional living program. I went to treatment and got many certificates that I worked hard for. That's when I made my decision that I wanted to do recovery and First Call helped me do that. I'm five years clean and sober and since then I have gained full employment, I have my own vehicle and a place to live and I'm living my life like it's golden."

Kimberly  
former First Call client



**IN HER WORDS, LISTEN IN.**