

Kobets' contribution

Steve Penn's column "Spreading hope amid uncertainty" (3/19, Metropolitan) missed a facet of Godfrey Kobets' work in our area. We at Rockhurst University have good reason to know and appreciate Kobets because he exemplifies the "service" aspect of our educational mission.

His athletic days at Rockhurst prepared him to participate later in professional baseball, after which he came back to serve in coaching capacities at both Rockhurst High School and Rockhurst University (then Rockhurst College)

In 1982 he was installed in the Rockhurst Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 1983 he received the university's "Pro Meritis Medal," primarily for his work with DeLaSalle Education Center.

What Penn didn't write about was what Kobets started in 1991. He founded the Benilde Hall program, which served homeless men — homeless because of their addiction to drugs and alcohol — in Kansas City. He developed a sub-

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stance abuse program emphasizing the personal worth of the individual.

- The location on the Paseo was, from its opening, too small to handle the need. In 1999 Benilde Hall acquired a vacant site at 3220 E. 23rd St, originally St. Vincent Hospital and St. Vincent Home for Infants.

The new area is a square block with facilities to house 50 men. Last year, Benilde Hall and the Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated the new Godfrey Kobets transitional living campus.

The program relies heavily on volunteer help. For more information, contact the president of the board, W.J. "Bill" McGraw, (816) 842-5836.

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