

**KALAMAZOO  
GOSPEL  
MINISTRIES**

**STORIES OF  
HOPE**

FALL 2019

**PREMIERE ISSUE**

**MEET  
CARLOS**

**MEET CARLOS**  
A STORY OF HOPE

**MEET HANNAH**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN  
THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

**MEET BRADLEY**  
GAINING MOMENTUM  
IN LIFE

**FEATURED  
STORIES**



Pastor Michael Brown  
President/CEO

## A Word of Encouragement From Pastor Michael Brown

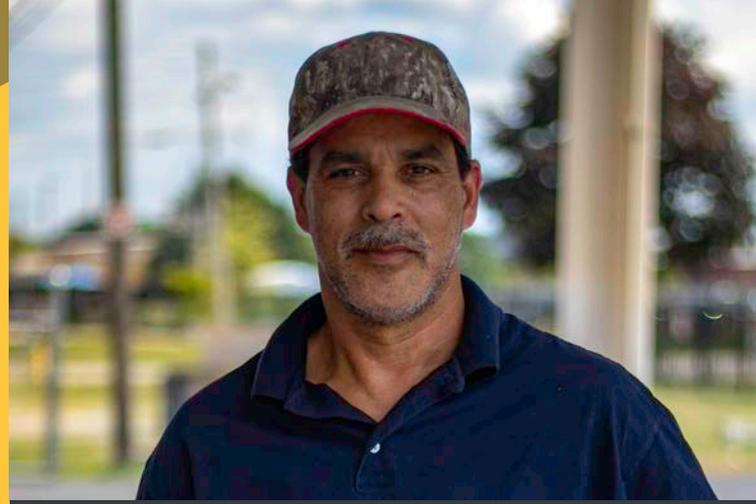
Welcome to the premier edition of "Stories of Hope". I know you'll be so encouraged by the growth of our ministry with the combining of Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and Kalamazoo Deacons Conference. Together, KGM & KDC has the ability to change our community for the better, as we provide many new and improved resources to the most vulnerable among us.

I invite you to prayerfully consider coming down to one, or both, of our campuses for a tour so you can see what God is continuing to do to ensure the success of our guests. Many of you have been partners together with us for many years. Now, there are so many more opportunities for you to get connected in all areas of ministry. Stay tuned for more exciting developments as God continues to lead us in providing Gospel-Powered life transformation for those who come to us for help. With each edition, we will share exciting stories of guests who have found success because of the ministry you've made possible.

Please consider making a generous gift today to confirm your continued partnership, you'll be so glad that you did!

### **Philippians 2:1-2**

*Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*



## Meet Carlos

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Carlos came from a stable household. He had family who loved him, but as he progressed through his teen years, Carlos got caught up in friendships that exposed him to drugs.

In his late teens, Carlos tried cocaine for the first time and began to experiment with crack. Even though a part of him realized he was making bad choices, something kept drawing him towards the escape he found when he was high. *"It was a way to run from life's problems,"* says Carlos as he recalls the early years. *"It led me down a dark path".*

As Carlos became an adult, he managed his job and family life, but the pull of his addiction was always there. He tried rehab several times yet found himself back into addiction soon after.

Life began to unravel when his family moved out. His addictions took over and Carlos found himself homeless. He remembers the immense shame he felt during that time. He didn't want his family to find out where he was staying. In those dark moments, Carlos reconnected with his faith in Jesus and started to live his life for Him. That's where the changes began to happen. *(continued)*

After finishing recovery and re-establishing a relationship with his son from Michigan, Carlos decided to make a fresh start here in Kalamazoo. When first arriving, Carlos was hopeful but had few resources. While looking for a church in the area, he was introduced to KDC. Kenny, Larry and the staff welcomed him, listened to his needs and assisted him in clothing, furniture and ID recovery. As Carlos was seeking employment, Kenny told him about a job opportunity at KGM.

Carlos was hired to the maintenance team here on the main campus, moved into his own apartment and is now reconciling with his family. The past is now behind Carlos and he is full of hope for the future. He is now seeking ways to encourage KGM guests who are currently struggling with the same things Carlos conquered.

## New Name New Logo



As our ministries become one, you will see Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries as the main logo. Each campus specializes in reaching people right where they are in life. Our new logo consists of four "L" shapes, all individual in size representing that each one of our stories look different. Each one of us is on a journey through life. At the cross we find freedom, but we also find connection with others who have experienced a life changing moment where our path changes course. The colors in the logo express that even though, a portion of our journey may have been dark, the rest of our lives is not dominated by that darkness.



You provided **9,224** nights of shelter in July



You served **13,117** meals in July



You helped **359** guests at KDC in July

## Meet Hannah

Meet Hannah, a volunteer making a difference in the Women's Shelter. While working on her college degree in social work, she felt prompted to set aside any preconceived notion or feelings of intimidation and volunteered her time leading a bible study and working within the Women's Shelter two nights a week. She is passionate about building relationships with our guests and taking the time to listen. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Matt Furrow, Volunteer Coordinator, (269)345-2974 ext. 203. Visit [kzoogospel.org](http://kzoogospel.org) and sign up online.



# Meet Bradley

Bradley's life unraveled when the engine in his car gave out. With no transportation, it led to the loss of his job and with no funds coming in, he lost his apartment.

A friend told him about Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, where Bradley could find the help he so desperately needed.

Over this past year, while staying on the main campus, KGM provided three meals a day and a place to sleep. But, more importantly, Bradley was offered educational opportunities through a partnering program called Momentum.

Momentum, an Urban Alliance program, is a course that connects unemployed and under-employed individuals to sustainable employment opportunities and job skills training.

Bradley is gaining momentum in life and hopeful for new employment opportunities.



There are a lots of ways to help those in need, one of those ways is donating stocks. The process is simple and easy.

Contact our stockbroker to get started:

Paul Seals  
Paul E. Seals & Associates  
Ameriprise Financial  
1090 10th St. #200 Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269.544.6000

## Stocks To End Homelessness



## Check Out Our New Website

We have redone our website from the ground up. Take a second to go check out all of great new features we have available! [www.kzoogospel.org](http://www.kzoogospel.org)



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