



KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES
STORIES OF HOPE

NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE



MEET DEBRA

FEATURED STORIES

- Johnny
- Children's Ministry
- Building Update



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

As I write this letter my heart is full. Full of gratitude for the unwavering consistent support we continue to receive from all of you, in support of this ministry. The cards and letters of encouragement to my staff and I are truly a blessing. Full of gratitude for God's continued faithfulness with the start of our new Women and Children's facility.

This has been a difficult year for our nation and specifically for our ministry, with COVID-19 stretching all of us to find our "new normal". We have been attempting to serve an increasing number of homeless individuals and families while maintaining "social distancing". "Social Distancing" used to be terms like; "at arms-length" and generally thought of as "personal space". Now it's a minimum of 6ft, and even people who are family or close friends, are afraid to violate that space without a mask. But even with all of the challenges, there's much to be grateful for.

I thank God for the fact that at the writing of this letter, we at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries have no active cases of COVID among our guests or staff and haven't had a case since last May. Praise the Lord! God has also been so good to us in connecting us with people of like and precious faith, to ensure the work of caring for those in need in this community, continues even during the pandemic.

As we enter into the winter months and a time when temperatures begin to drop, our numbers usually increase, we have put in place sanitation protocols that help to ensure our facility remains as safe from this virus as possible.

We strategically started the building of our new Women and Children's facility during this time of year in hopes of having to only enduring only one winter of construction. Hopefully, that decision will have us ready for occupancy just prior to winter of next year.

Lastly, I'm grateful to God for you. If you are reading this newsletter, then you are part of what makes this ministry a life changing resource in this community. Without your partnership, so many would not have the opportunity to find hope again, to experience the love of God that's found here or to know what it means to experience purpose again.

Thank you



One of the most effective motivators in life is seeing victory over the challenges we face.

Meet Debra, a guest staying at KGM since January 2020. Previously, she was staying with her daughter, but because of some tension between family members, Debra made the bold move to pack up her belongings and come to KGM. Debra is grateful for this ministry. She has briefly stayed once before during a rough time in her life and truly thankful that KGM is in this community.

When Debra arrived, she knew her situation would be short term. She connected with an advocate. Beth and Debra discussed ways to help her get back on her feet. "I knew I needed to find employment and save money for an apartment," says Debra, "Beth gave me support as I began to search."

Debra found out about a job opening at a local company and immediately applied. She was worried but hopeful because the pandemic had interrupted so many opportunities. Debra was overjoyed to find out she was hired. This was a victory in her life and the next step to renting her own space. "When I stayed at the mission years ago, I gave my life to Christ in a bible study in the Women's Shelter. That day, I knew if I put my trust in Him, He would work things out," recalls Debra. "I know the support of KGM, and my employment is a blessing from God."

Debra is working full time at her new job and staying at the mission at night. This has given her an opportunity to save funds towards a deposit for rent. "I'm working hard towards my goal," says Debra, "and it feels great to know I am close to having my own place. I really want to have my grandkids come and stay with me as soon as I am settled."

WE ARE A MINISTRY WHERE THE LIVES OF THE HOMELESS ARE BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL EVERYDAY.

Last year, we shared a story with you about someone who found their way from depression and incarceration to full time employment on our maintenance team at KGM. His name is Johnny. When we sat down with Johnny last year, he told us he prays that God will use his testimony to help others in similar situations to his. God answered that prayer in a big way when Johnny applied for an opening in our program management team and became a full time case advocate. Using his past experiences as a guide, Johnny is now working directly with guests, helping them along in their journey of hope and healing.



"Because I have been homeless, it has helps me relate with our guests and understand what they are going through. It gives them encouragement that they can get out of this situation and move forward."

Children's Ministry

Education during a pandemic is hard enough, but for families experiencing homelessness, remote learning is especially challenging.

Most local school systems have offered a completely remote or hybrid learning model and the schedules are determined by individual teachers. Compound this with scheduling over a dozen students, it becomes a logistical challenge, but the Children's Ministry staff have successfully created systems to keep everyone on track. Each child learns from a computer with scheduled times for live classroom time and then individual learning blocks.



Volunteer With Us



Volunteers have been vital in making this pivot to remote learning a success. "We are grateful for the volunteers who have stepped in to help," says Kami. "Each child needs support in navigating online learning, staying focused on the material and asking questions about what they are learning." "We are looking for a few more individuals who have a heart for kids and want to help." If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Matt Furrow, Volunteer Coordinator at 269.345.2974 ext 203.

Partner With Us For The Holidays

Thanksgiving Meal



We are still accepting food donations and are in need of volunteers on Thanksgiving day

Visit
kzoogospel.org/volunteer
for more information

2020 Toy Closet



Our first ever free shopping experience for parents at KGM, donate toys for children this Christmas

Visit
kzoogospel.org/toy-closet
for more information

Adult Christmas



We have a goal to provide adults with a practical gift this year. To help us make Christmas 2020 special

Visit
kzoogospel.org/christmas
for more information

BUILDING UPDATE

A SHELTER FROM  THEIR STORM
KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

JOHN SIMPSON Chief Operations Officer

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” (Jeremiah 32:17)

As I ponder this verse from the book of Jeremiah, I am reminded of God’s faithfulness to us as a ministry as we continue the demolition and construction of our new women and children’s building. No project is too big when the Lord Himself is involved. Demolition is well underway as all three of the existing buildings are down and clean-up and removal of the old foundation has begun. (Check out our YouTube page for a live feed of the construction process) Soon we will be backfilling the empty hole and preparing to lay a foundation.

We are thankful that our foundation is ultimately built by the same One who made the heavens and the earth. While the building project continues to build momentum, we are still empowering and equipping our guests with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have recently introduced some new programming classes and revamped some of our existing classes to better meet the immediate and long-term needs of our guests.

So, as the building work continues, so does the life transforming work in the hearts and minds of our guests. There is still time to get involved with either area - financially supporting our building campaign or volunteering to walk alongside our guests in a variety of ways. Either way, please reach out to us and we will get you connected. Continue to pray with us for transformation of both our physical buildings and the hearts of those God is bringing to us each day.



You Provided **4,468**
Nights Of Shelter In
September



You Provided **11,568**
Meals In September



You helped **141**
Guest at KDC In
September



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