



KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES  
**STORIES OF HOPE**

FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE



# MEET JULIE

---

## FEATURED STORIES

- Men's Shelter
- Leave A Legacy
- Construction Update



# Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

## Jeremiah 29:11-14

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity;

With all that has been going on in the country and around the world, I'm excited to have a new vision for 2021. While I've heard so much this year about how divided our nation is, it has only given me a desire to focus more on the work God has given us to do as a ministry. It has also helped me to draw closer to God and appreciate His love for us.

We, at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries have never been more confident that God is involved with us and continuing to allow His Kingdom work to be done here at KGM. We are believing that 2021 will be a year that the chains of addiction will finally be broken from some of our guests who have been caught in a cycle of wrong thinking.

Many who struggle with homelessness have learned how to "play the system" just to get by. Others have even convinced themselves that they don't deserve to have a place of their own but, we know that God has a plan and a purpose for everyone who comes to us.

We are more committed than ever to share the love of God with every person until they truly know His unconditional love. We are believing that this will be the year that the power of the Holy Spirit will be more evident than ever before in the lives of those we serve. We are expecting a tangible anointing that changes lives, miraculously and immediately.

For many people change comes when, "The pain of change is less than the pain of staying the same." Joel Brooks, Stones Church, Kalamazoo MI.

With more and more people standing on corners with signs that read, "Homeless. God Bless you", we are echoing the call of Jesus to the lost that says, "28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

**(Matthew 11:28-29 KJV)**

Many on our team know first-hand what it feels like to come to that place of rest in Christ, and I believe that many of you reading this letter know that feeling too. As we have heard over and over again in 2020 that, "these are unprecedented times;" we have a vision of unprecedented times for the Kingdom, in the lives of the lost in Kalamazoo. Unprecedented numbers of souls being saved, unprecedented numbers of people being healed of mental and physical illness, unprecedented numbers of people obtaining jobs and then housing that they themselves, are able to manage.

Yes, we at KGM have a vision for 2021, and an expectation that God will bring it to pass.



You Provided  
**68,206** Nights Of  
Shelter In 2020



You Provided  
**137,848** Meals In  
2020



You helped **1,818**  
Guests at KDC In  
2020



# MEET JULIE

Last year was a challenging year, but even more difficult and complex for Julie. She was staying with a family member in the early months of 2020, but when that came to an abrupt end, Julie had nowhere to turn. Julie's local church offered support in helping her make the right decision. They toured KGM and helped Julie make the transition to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.

Julie found herself fearful and even angry at the situation. She even lashed out at a few staff members. She felt sad and very alone until Dawn, a KGM Women's Shelter staff member, reached out to her. Through conversation and texts, Dawn became more than a staff member; she became a friend.

In March, when the women and children were placed in a local hotel to self-quarantine during the pandemic, Julie struggled with the change. She felt more alone than ever. If it wasn't for Dawn, Julie doesn't know where she would be today. Dawn reached out daily with encouragement, prayer, and friendship. The connection she had with Dawn was essential to Julie's healing.

Over the summer months, Julie met with a KGM staff member, Beth. Working together, they were able to secure an apartment. Moving into her own place was a very bright spot through a challenging year.



**"More than anything, I want people to know that they can turn to KGM when they need help."**

---

Though difficult, Julie is grateful for all that has happened over the last year. She sees how her KGM experience shaped her into who she is and God's plans for her life. Julie has always had a love for kids and wants to help families in the future. She is confident that God has a plan for her life and looking forward to what He has for her in the future.

# MEN'S SHELTER

Meet Ron and Lorenzo, both Lead Supervisors in the Men's Shelter. Lorenzo and Ron are uniquely equipped to serve our guests and know what it's like to be on the receiving end of our services. Both have stayed in the past, and God uses their experiences to minister to men who have chosen to stay at KGM.



**LORENZO**

**"Working in the shelter is challenging, but it is a place I can be open when sharing my faith," says Lorenzo. "My experience has helped me to connect with the guys, knowing I've experienced some of the same things they are going through."**

**"Everything that I've been through in life has culminated to what I am doing today. It has helped me understand the brokenness and fear. I've learned that being open with my experience helps others."**



**RON**

## LEGACY GIVING

You may have heard the term "legacy giving" but weren't sure what it meant. Here's a basic definition: it is simply planning to make a difference, both for yourself and for a cause that you believe in, through a charitable gift. The goal of such gifts is to "leave a legacy" that can make an impact for future generations.

Legacy giving is part of overall good financial stewardship of the gifts that God has entrusted to us, not only while we are here on earth, but also as part of our Kingdom legacy in engaging future generations to know Christ, grow in Christ and help others do the same.

Planned gifts may be revocable or irrevocable and include bequests through your will or living trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy beneficiary designations, charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities. Through planned giving, your personal financial goals are documented in a well-conceived estate plan. You may set up these bequests through your financial planner, estate planner or lawyer.

Please contact Tammy Clubb, Director of Development at [tclubb@kzoogospel.org](mailto:tclubb@kzoogospel.org) for more information on how to leave a legacy gift to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.





**JOHN SIMPSON**  
Chief Operations Officer

Progress continues to be made on the construction of the new women's and children's building. We have completed the footing/foundation work and the rough grade for the building pad is done. With the mild temperatures we've been able to start electrical underground rough-ins and installed the main service conduits.



Any day, we will begin receiving our first shipments of structural steel and decking, so we can begin assembling the steel framework. As we complete the steel construction phase, we will move into exterior walls. It is an exciting time as we begin to see vertical building movement. We are still tentatively scheduled for completion of the new building sometime late fall.



We are thankful for your ongoing prayer and financial support. There are still opportunities to get involved as we finish up the capital campaign and begin to raise funds to furnish the new building. Keep an eye out for updates on our website with opportunities to purchase specific items for the new building or even furnish a whole room. We continue to give God the glory for all that is being accomplished through you as you partner with us.

## DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DONATE YOUR CAR TO KGM?

Vehicles that are donated, help support Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries directly. 100% of the proceeds from Rescued Wheels are sown back into the ministry. Donations are tax deductible.

**RESCUED  
WHEELS**  
A MINISTRY OF KALAMAZOO  
GOSPEL MINISTRIES

**269.743.1288**

[kzoogospel.org/rescued-wheels](http://kzoogospel.org/rescued-wheels)



**KGM**  
**269.345.2974**  
[info@kzoogospel.org](mailto:info@kzoogospel.org)  
448 N. Burdick St. Kalamazoo

**KALAMAZOO  
GOSPEL  
MINISTRIES**

**KDC**  
**269.344.7333**  
[info@deaconsconference.org](mailto:info@deaconsconference.org)  
1010 N. Westnedge Kalamazoo

