



KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES
STORIES OF HOPE

JUNE 2021 ISSUE



MEET KEVIN

FEATURED STORIES

- Meet Jeff, A Volunteer Making A Difference
- Community Collaboration



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

We live in a time when change is occurring faster than anyone could have imagined. Two options we each have are to either stand on the sidelines and watch change happen or we can get involved and make sure that we are part of the positive impact of change in our community. Whenever we commit to invest our time and resources, the outcome is always positive. We see this in community groups who make our city beautiful, bring food to the elderly, or even volunteer on days set aside for service.

I saw this recently when Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety hosted an Earth Day Cleanup Event. Many of our community members took the time to clean up trash, rake overgrown sections of the Kalamazoo River, and beautify our city.

Yet, when someone partners with KGM, it goes beyond the positive and turns to the eternal. Our commitment goes beyond helping guests with their immediate needs of food, clothing, and shelter. We know these are all important parts of healing, but the eternal work comes when a person understands they are loved and valued by their Heavenly Father.

It comes when they understand that everyone has been created for a purpose. When a guest realizes they have God-given strengths, and they start utilizing these strengths for His glory, it changes the course of their life. I think about some of our past guests who are now living independently. They are living out their God-given destiny and breaking the cycles of generational poverty. They are no longer living for the immediate but living for the eternal.

Your commitment is what fuels this ministry and we realize that we could not do this effectively without you. I think about the conversations I have with you in the community, and it always blesses me to hear that you have a heart for the homeless and believe in what we do. When you support us in a variety of ways, you are part of that eternal work. Thank you for making a lasting difference in this community by supporting Gospel Powered Life Transformation in the lives of your neighbors.



You Provided
4,164 Nights Of
Shelter In April



You Provided **7,599**
Meals In April



You helped **93**
Guests at KDC In
April



MEET KEVIN

If it wasn't for Kevin's Grandmother, he doesn't know where he would be. When Kevin was young, his mother died and sadly, his father wasn't ever around. Kevin's Grandmother did the best she could, and she always made sure church was a part of his life while growing up.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

As an adult, Kevin is now a father of two sons. The boys' mother struggled to care for them and lost custody of the two boys, and they were moved into foster care. Kevin knew he had to fight for his boys and petitioned the court. It was a bright spot in his life when he gained custody of his sons. Kevin's priority was providing for his family, but his health began to decline. After having a heart attack and several strokes, Kevin found it difficult to work.

This led to becoming homeless. Life was difficult with two boys while staying with friends and family. Kevin and his family arrived at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries in 2019 for a fresh start. "I was hoping to get help with Section 8 housing," says Kevin. "I was also hoping to find peace at the end of the road. I was struggling, moving from house to house."

Kevin has found the support he has needed. With one-on-one support with KGM advocate, Jaron, Kevin has saved and bought a vehicle. He is volunteering his time at Rescued Wheels and hopeful for Section 8 housing soon. As a single Dad, his top priority is to provide for his kids and give them a stable home. "I want to stay in the area, so my boys will have an opportunity for college with the Kalamazoo Promise. I am also hopeful that God will use my experience to help other single fathers who have experienced the same pain I have felt."

We have said it before, but we can't do what we do without our volunteers' constant and tremendous support.

Meet Jeff. After retiring from his corporate job, Jeff wanted to give back in his next phase of life. A friend recommended that he volunteer at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries and now volunteers in the IDEA Center, helping guests with job applications, resumes, money management, and essential life skills. Jeff volunteers several days a week and serves over ten guests that he meets with on a regular basis.



"Being able to provide one on one support with the guests is so important to me. I love getting to know the guests to help them create an action plan for them to reach their goals."

Thank you, Jeff, for the dedication and kindness. You are truly making a difference at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.

We are overjoyed to inform you the building costs have been covered. We are now focusing on making the spaces well equipt and comfortable.

There are rooms available to furnish, below are just a few:



16 FAMILY SUITES 10 AVAILABLE

Each room will be furnished with a comfy bed, sofa, desk, a storage unit, and a well stocked bathroom.



2 COMMUNITY ROOMS 2 AVAILABLE

The community rooms offer a place where women with children have a chance to build relationships and enjoy time together.



2 INTAKE ROOMS 2 AVAILABLE

Help us furnish this room and create a peaceful intake process for our guests. This room will include tables, toys, and storage.



EMERGENCY SHELTER 1 AVAILABLE

Our Emergency Shelter accepts women right where they are at, giving them a safe place to sleep, and the opportunity to decompress.



CHAPEL 1 AVAILABLE

Spiritual development is at the heart of what we do. This chapel will provide a place for daily chapel service, weekend church services and a quiet place to pray.

Your support of A Shelter From Their Storm is a way to share God's blessings with homeless women and children.

To donate please visit
kzoogospel.org/asfts

A SHELTER FROM  THEIR STORM
KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

celebrating COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have restocked our warehouse and freezers with much-needed food items that we use daily to prepare meals for the homeless in our community.

With the help of our community members, Natural Health Center collected and donated over 2,700 cans and boxes of beans, tomatoes, and mac-n-cheese. On May 7th, we Stuffed The Bus full of fresh produce, milk, canned goods, and more.

Thank you everyone who donated items to these food drives. Your donation makes it possible for us to provide food to members of our community who need it most.

Natural Health Center



Stuff The Bus



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GOSPEL
MINISTRIES**

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