

DECEMBER
2021



MEET
MARGARET

KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

STORIES OF HOPE



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

*My soul, wait silently for
God alone, for my
expectation is from Him.*

Psalm 62:5

This year has been both challenging and exciting. As we have endured another year of uncertainty surrounding the COVID pandemic, local and federal health department mandates, one thing remains clear; Our God is an awesome God. Through everything we have encountered, God has proven Himself consistently, lovingly faithful. Our new Women and Children's facility has been a long time coming and we are excited that finally, we are on the verge of opening. Many of you have prayed for us, volunteered within the ministry, and many have supported us financially and for this, we are forever grateful.

Now, as we enter a season of freezing temperatures that some have been looking forward to and others have been dreading, please keep the members of our community who continue to struggle with mental illness and homelessness in your prayers. Many of them, for whatever reason, have chosen to remain outside. While we are hoping they will come in from the cold, we cannot force them to accept the help we offer. Know that KGM is ready to assist them whenever they are ready.

Along with the opening of our new building, we are excited that in the beginning of 2022, our long-term program will take on a new form. A new program structure with redesigned classes and programming features to better encourage and support our program members.

Please stay tuned for more information about our grand opening. We would love to have an opportunity to give you a tour and share more information about all the programs and resources KGM has to offer. This year, our "word for the year" has been, "Expectation". I have encouraged our team to increase our level of expectation as we have prayed. Faith that has no expectation attached to it isn't faith at all. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (NKJV Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the reason for expectation when we pray. This year, we have seen God meet and exceed our prayers time and time again. And as this building project comes to an end, we know this new facility will stand as a testament to the provision of God through the faithfulness of His people.

Merry Christmas and may God richly bless you all!

In October
You
Provided



4,910

Nights of Stay



4,919

Meals Provided



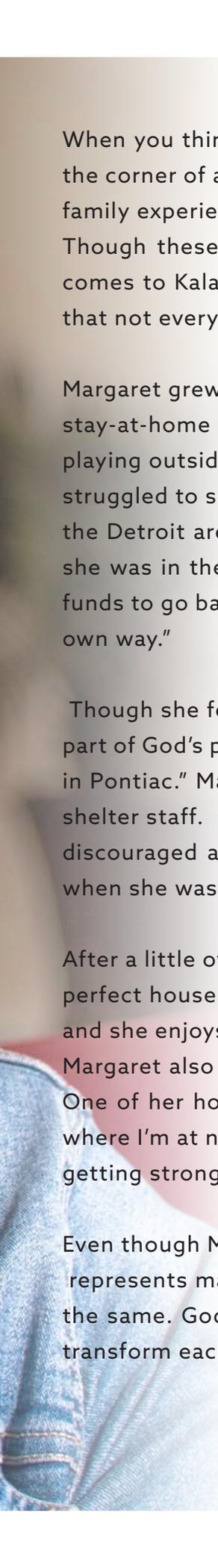
197

Guests Served At KDC



MEET

MARGARET



When you think of someone who is homeless, who do you think of? Do you think of someone on the corner of a street with a cardboard sign? Or maybe a person who didn't grow up with a healthy family experience or someone who made a series of bad decisions that left them without a home? Though these situations and people are real, they don't represent every homeless person that comes to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Margaret, a previous resident of KGM, is a great example that not every homeless person's story is the same.

Margaret grew up in a stable household in Pontiac with her dad, who worked at GM, and her stay-at-home mom. She was always doing something with her family, whether it was bowling, playing outside, or spending time with her grandma. Margaret worked hard at two jobs and struggled to support her family. Eventually, she and her youngest children ended up at a shelter in the Detroit area but were soon asked to leave. Margaret did not want to come to KGM, but while she was in the area, her car battery died, she couldn't afford a new one, and she didn't have the funds to go back to Pontiac. "I did not want to come here. I wasn't familiar with it. But God had His own way."

Though she felt stuck at the mission at first, Margaret learned that her time at the mission was a part of God's plan for her life. "At the end of the day, I've been blessed in here. Way more than I was in Pontiac." Margaret had the opportunity to build strong relationships with many of the women's shelter staff. "They were a blessing to me. They talked me through things. Even when I got discouraged about being here." Some of the staff became close enough with Margaret to know when she was struggling and to be there to help guide her.

After a little over two years, Margaret moved out of Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries and into the perfect house for her and her family. Margaret recently started working on our maintenance team and she enjoys doing the hard work. Not only does she work and take care of her kids, but Margaret also has been taking online classes to work toward her associate degree in social work. One of her hopes for the future is to open a group home for adults with disabilities. "I'm happy where I'm at now. My relationship with God is getting closer. The relationship with my kids is even getting stronger. I am loving where I'm at."

Even though Margaret's story isn't what many people would think of as "typical", her story represents many of the people that stay at KGM on a daily basis. No story, situation, or person is the same. God has given each person a unique testimony and our prayer is that He will uniquely transform each of their lives through our ministry.

Confidence Through Learning at The IDEA Center

"Literacy is a tool that brings dignity and self-confidence to individuals," says Deb Holtz, Education and Life Skills Manager. "It is a priority to help folks gain literacy in all forms at the IDEA Center."

Though there are many facets to helping homeless individuals gain the independence they desire, education and career readiness is crucial in achieving these goals. The ability to read, use a computer, search for jobs, and develop a resume are all basic skills that need to be developed in order to advance.



"Not only do we welcome folks who are currently staying at the Mission, but we have also welcomed individuals who have been staying in the encampments, says Deb. "Anyone who is interested in learning is welcome."

We are grateful for the community's support in providing educational opportunities and access to computer technology. If you are interested in volunteering or providing the IDEA Center with much needed technology resources, please contact Deb Holtz at **269.345.2974**.

Current Needs

Many have asked, "I want to help, what do you need?" Below are some recommendations of items most needed. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Clubb, Director of Development, at **269.356.2974 ext 211** or email her at tclubb@kzoogospel.org

IDEA Center

- Flash Drives
- Over Ear Headphoens
- Small Gift Cards (Walmart, Meijer)
- Ground Coffee and Disposable Cups
- Reusable Water Bottles and Coffee Mugs
- Gently Used Chromebooks

Kids Ministry

- New Kids Toys For Toy Closet
- Healthy Snacks (goldfish, fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels)
- Juice Boxes

Shelter Services

- Winter Coats
- Winter Gloves
- Underwear (New Only)
- Socks
- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Formula
- Shampoo, Lotions, Deodorant
- Tylenol & Motrin
- Blankets & Sheets (twin size)
- Bath Towels
- Study Bibles



SUPPORTING KGM with a DONOR-ADVISED FUND

1 DONATIONS

A donor makes an irrevocable, tax-deductible donation to KGM



2 INVESTMENTS

The donor may advise the investment allocation of the donated assets. Any investment growth is tax free



3 GRANTS

The donor may recommend grants to qualified public charities of his or her choice



So, what exactly is a donor-advised fund?

A donor-advised fund is an account into which you deposit assets for donation to charity over time. You, the donor, get a tax deduction for making contributions to the donor-advised fund. A sponsoring organization manages the account; you recommend how to invest and where to donate the assets.

In addition to providing financial support to charities, donor-advised funds can provide more immediate income tax deductions for donors, as well as potentially reduce capital gains taxes and estate taxes. If you are interested please contact, Tammy Clubb, Director of Development, at tclubb@kzoogospel.org

WE WISH YOU A VERY
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



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