



KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES
STORIES OF HOPE

APRIL 2021 ISSUE

A close-up portrait of an older man with long, wavy, light-colored hair and a friendly smile. He is wearing a dark zip-up jacket over a grey shirt. The background is a neutral, textured grey.

MEET JOHN

FEATURED STORIES

- Hope for 2021
- Donor-Advised Funds



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Recently, we have seen the number of people joining our long-term programs increase; many of them talk about feeling lost, at the end of their rope, and without "hope". The Bible says in Proverbs 13:12 that, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life".

I've realized that for many of our guests, they have seen challenge after challenge which, over time, has caused them to lose the hope they once had. At some point, everyone has a dream of what they want to be when they grow up, but for some, life has a way of causing those dreams to fade.

Disappointments, rejection, setbacks and other circumstances beyond our control have a way of taking the wind out of our sails and before you know it, we are way off course. Through our programs, they once again realize they have value and a purpose which God wants them to fulfill. As hope returns, they begin to see those lost desires come to life.

As I toured the construction site of our new facility today, I was encouraged, knowing that we will have the ability and the resources to impact more and more lives, once this new facility is completed.

As excited as I am to have an impact on the adults that will come, I am more excited to know that many children will get the encouragement they need to never lose the hope they have of, "what they want to be when they grow up".

Every time you pass our new facility, or write a check of support, I want you to think of the lives that are being changed at that very moment. Think of the hope that is being restored everyday because you decided to take action and make a positive impact in someone's life for the Kingdom of God. And, whenever you open our newsletter and read the stories of success, know that you had a hand in restoring hope.

Hope



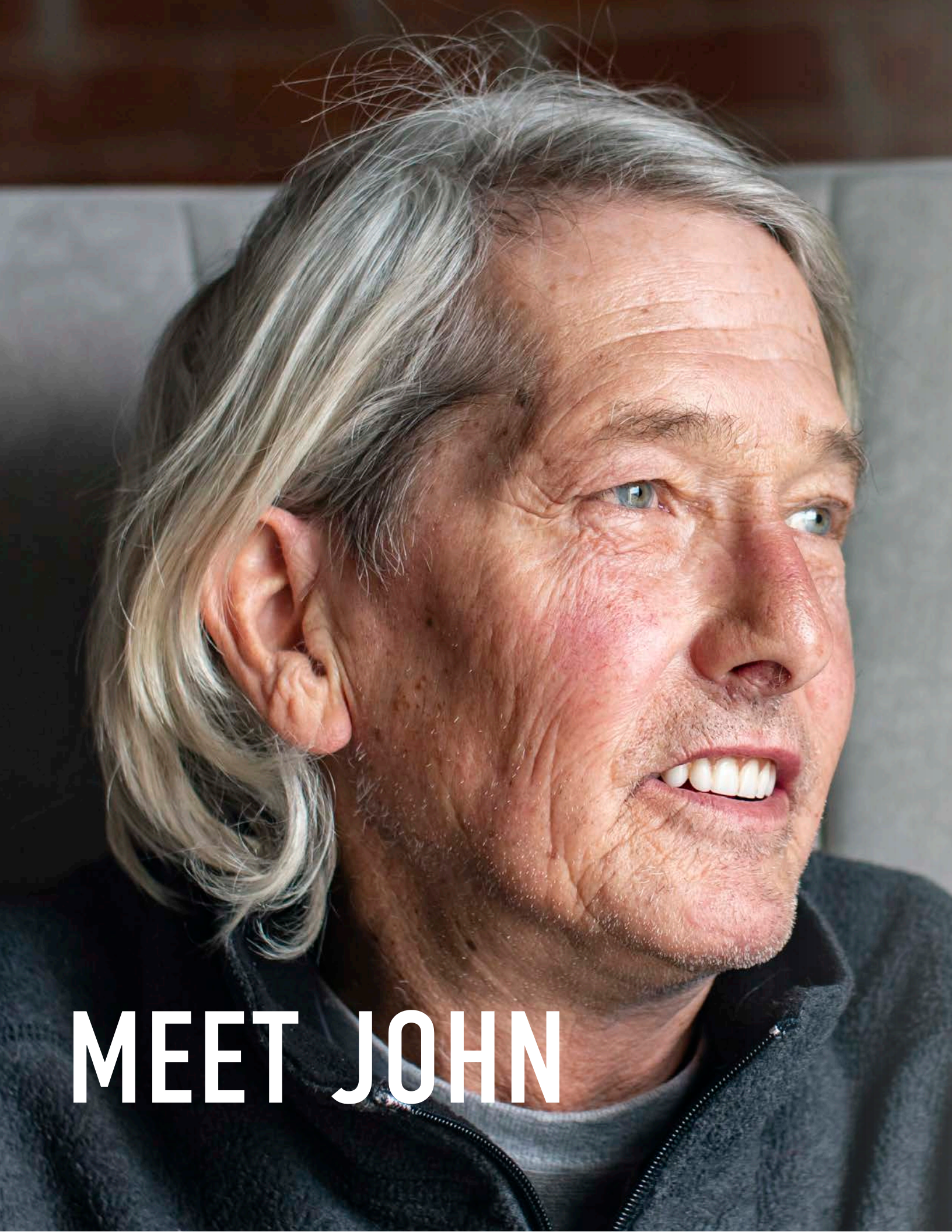
You Provided
4,668 Nights Of
Shelter In February



You Provided **7,779**
Meals In February



You helped **109**
Guests at KDC In
February



MEET JOHN

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, John knew at an early age, that he liked to run. In high school, he joined the cross-country team, and his talent continued to grow. As an established member of the team, John regularly had the fastest times. This led to a scholarship for a local college and John was honored to be able to work towards a degree.

With an earned degree, John coached various teams over the years, and felt he was making a difference in the lives of young people, encouraging them to pursue their own talents.

But a dependence on alcohol took its toll. Binge drinking led to a series of seizures, and doctors advised him against drinking again or alcohol could take his life. He spent several months at a local rehabilitation hospital for healing. When his rehabilitation was complete, John had nowhere to go.

He was dropped off at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries with no idea of what to expect. He certainly was aware of the landmark, always knowing we were here, but never knowing the kind of programming we offered.

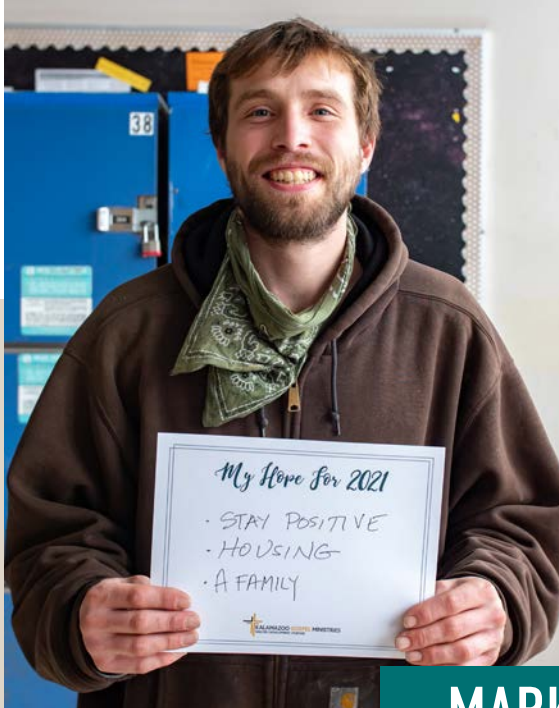
John knew he had to make some changes in his life and sought out the help of Johnny, one of KGM's guest advocates. Because John had a plan and knew the direction he wanted to go, Johnny was able to assist John in getting his birth certificate, his state identification, and help John make an application for social security benefits.

John has faced challenges over the last year, but recognizes God is making a way for him. He sees how KGM has supported him over the last six weeks and is truly grateful. "Johnny and I instantly had a connection," says John. "We understand each other and that is why I am seeing progress in my life."

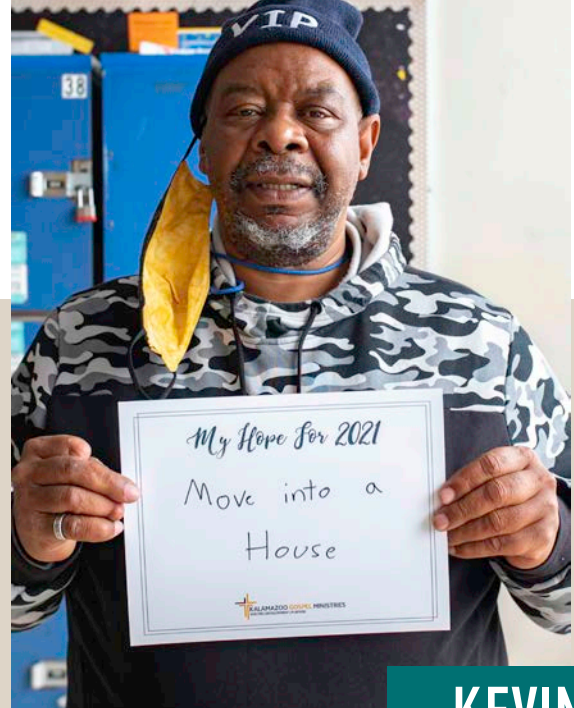
John has a positive outlook on life and knows his path will be different. He is hopeful for housing soon. Just like cross country running, John doesn't see what's around the next bend, but he sees a clear path, and he is committed to following it to a healthy, independent future.

MY HOPE FOR 2021

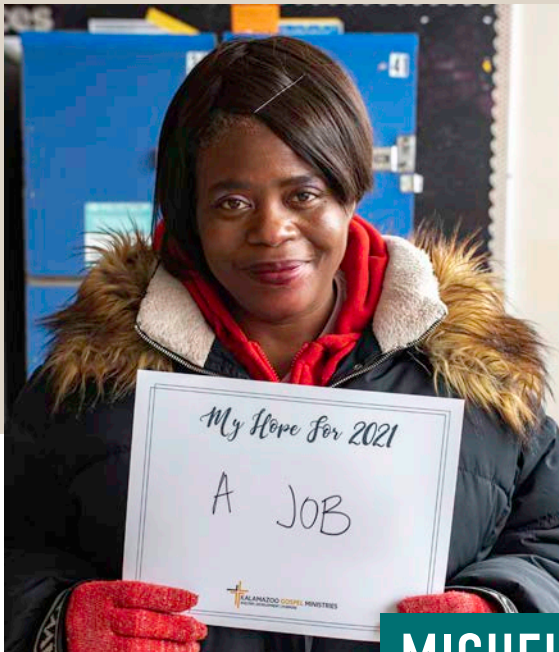
Even in difficult circumstances, hope brings an expectation that God will move on our behalf. Would you join us in praying for these guests, as God makes a way for their dreams?



MARK



KEVIN



MICHELLE



TOYA

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope

SUPPORTING KGM with a DONOR-ADVISED FUND

HOW DOES A DONOR-ADVISED FUND WORK?

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, or DAF, 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. You do not have to be wealthy to get into a DAF; some have no minimum initial contributions. If you are interested in more information on donor advised funds, and how contributions to ministries like KGM would benefit, please contact, Tammy Clubb, Director of Development, at tclubb@kzoogospel.org

Happy Easter

FROM KALAMAZOO
GOSPEL MINISTRIES



*HE HAS
RISEN*



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