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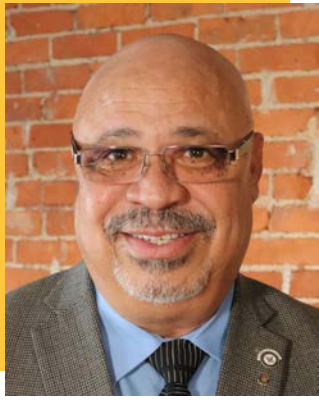


NOVEMBER
2021

MEET GLORIA

KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

STORIES OF HOPE



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

I will give thanks to the Lord
with my whole heart; I will
recount all of your
wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1

I know that this time of year is usually a time when we turn our attention toward "Thanksgiving". At KGM, we recognize the hand of God at work in our ministry, in our lives and in the lives of our guests throughout the year and so we have taken the position that giving thanks is something we will do all year long. We desire to cultivate an attitude of gratitude that is evident every day.

Many of you have been part of our journey to complete the new Women and Children's building. When I think back over the years that we have worked to make this a reality, there is so much for us to be thankful for. In the very near future, we will be celebrating that facility's completion. While the building won't be finished in October as originally hoped, it should be completed by the first of the year. We don't need to wait until then to express just how grateful we are. This new building is an answer to prayer that will bless countless families for years to come.

For the last almost 2 years COVID has claimed the spotlight across this country yet, our ministry never had the devastating numbers of positive cases that many expected. God has truly shown His favor to us. The challenges

of these past 2 years have been a platform for growth for our entire team. Our faith has grown as we have continued to trust God to keep our staff and guests healthy during what has been reported to be, one of the greatest pandemics in our country's history.

I am thankful for all the support this community has shown us, and also for the partnerships forged during this time. Within Kalamazoo's Continuum of Care, there are many great social service agencies who are prepared to assist those who need help getting off the streets when they finally decide they have had enough.

Lastly, we continue to be grateful for your partnership and humbled by your support of this most necessary ministry to the homeless in our community. Your prayers and financial support are appreciated more than you could ever know. May God continually bless you above all that you could ask or think.

Please join me this Thanksgiving Season in letting God know just how grateful we all are for His abiding love for us and the care He continues to lavish on our community. To God Be The Glory!!

In September
You
Provided



4,412

Nights of Stay



8,923

Meals Provided



166

Guests Served At KDC



Meet Gloria

"Hold your head up and stay intent on what you need to do to get yourself back on your feet"

Hurt by people who took advantage of her and struggling with depression, Gloria found it difficult to trust others as she sought shelter at the Mission. Before coming to the shelter, she and a friend moved from home to home throughout Kalamazoo, but eventually, that friend decided to move out of state. Determined to stay in Kalamazoo, but not able to afford her own place, Gloria knew that KGM was the best place for her to go.

God soon started turning things around for her. Eventually, she was able to connect with Katrina, one of our guest advocates. Through her relationship with Katrina, she has received help with necessary life skills, found a deeper connection with the ministry, and gained a helping hand in a time of need. Not only did Gloria build a friendship with Katrina, but she also had the opportunity to make a couple more lasting friendships with fellow guests in the shelter.

Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries didn't just help Gloria gain quality relationships, but also provided an even greater life change. Gloria has been able to connect with God through the daily chapel provided by KGM. God has taught her what it means to have patience, even in the midst of difficulty and pain. Now Gloria no longer suffers from depression like she used to, and God has provided her with housing. Gloria is excited to move out and travel to visit her family and friends in Chicago, but she will never fully leave the mission behind. Her goal is to come back to the mission to serve as a volunteer, so that she can be a light to those who are still going through what she once went through.

KDC On the Move

We are so blessed to have so many faithful and generous donors. Earlier this year, one of those generous partners donated a gently used truck for our warehouse team to pick up donations from the community.

We would also like to thank West Michigan International and the Reitman family for making this truck look new with a new paint job and detailing!

If you have gently used furniture and house wares that you would like to donate to KDC, please contact us at 269.344.7333.

BEFORE NEW PAINT



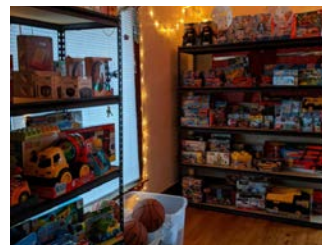
AFTER NEW PAINT



Family Christmas Shop

Last year's Christmas Shopping Experience event was such a success we are bringing it back! We give parents staying with us an opportunity to shop individually for each of their children through the donated toys you provide. We have made it easy for you to give, go to kzoogospel.org/family-christmas-shop to learn more and to donate gifts to fill our Christmas closet.

All items will be shipped directly to the ministry where we will set up a Christmas shopping experience for each parent. Thank you for making this Christmas special for the children staying at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.



Volunteer

From the time the shutdowns began during the pandemic, Jackie and Sarah knew they needed to get out and do something positive in their community. As an essential service, KGM happened to be one of the few places that offered volunteer opportunities. Both Jackie and Sarah committed themselves to helping wherever it made sense. Throughout these last eighteen months, they continued to faithfully serve in the kitchen on a weekly basis, knowing they were making a difference.



Relationships began to develop between staff, volunteers and especially guests. "As moms, we found a connection with guests who are moms themselves. Encouraging one another is an important aspect of why we serve," says Sarah. "It is all about building relationships."

Because of these relationships, Jackie and Sarah make it a priority to serve regularly. They value the services this ministry provides to those who are hurting. "The world is chaotic and when we are serving here, we sense the Holy Spirit is at work throughout the building," says Sarah. "There is a sense of peace that radiates from the staff."

If you are interested in joining our group of core volunteers, people who regularly serve once a week, please contact Matt Furrow, Volunteer Coordinator at **269.345.2974 ext 203** or visit **kzoogospel.org/volunteer** for more information.

From all of us at KGM

We are grateful for you

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

A SHELTER FROM THEIR STORM

KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We want to keep you informed with the most up to date information regarding the Women and Children's Building Project. Up to this point, we have been planning for the building to be completed mid to late October, 2021. Recently, during a meeting with our building contractor, we were informed that they are not going to be able to finish by that date. Our new completion time frame is the middle of December, 2021. AVB has worked diligently to get this project done however, there have been some challenges that could not be avoided.

With this in mind, we are anticipating a soft opening of the building in December and planning a Grand Opening for the public sometime in January of 2022. We are looking forward to opening our doors and welcoming you in after the new year. A couple of things to remember:

1. Whenever something like this happens it is important to view this as part of God's plan and "declare that this will work for our good". (Rom. 8:28)
2. While we were hoping to have more space sooner to help more people, we are currently not at capacity. So, if some of the folks currently in the encampment come for shelter, we will accommodate as many as we can.

Thank you for remaining diligent in prayer for this ministry and cheering this project on as faithful partners. We know that God has a plan, and we are excited to see it become a reality.



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