

STORIES OF HOPE

NOVEMBER
2022



MEET
ANGELA



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?"

John 5:6

Well, Fall is upon us, and Winter isn't far behind. As the temperatures begin to fall, we tend to see an increase in the number of people looking for shelter. We function as a night-time shelter and work in tandem with area partners to provide services to anyone in need.

Ministry With Community does a great job of providing daytime shelter. They have both the staff and daytime services to support anyone who would choose to come to their facility.

At KGM, guests who are not in our long-term programs are allowed to come inside if they are willing to volunteer to help with daily chores that keep our facilities running smoothly. They have the option of helping in the kitchen, the warehouse, or any number of other places inside the mission that supports the services they receive, from the meals they will receive to the shelter that is provided at the end of the day.

The men and women who are in our long-term program have made the choice to work with our program staff to change their current situation. They have decided to seek long term solutions as provided through life skills and other classes.

In John 5, Jesus met a man at the Pool of Bethesda, He first asked him if he wanted to be made well, which should have been obvious but, Jesus wanted him to commit to what he wanted first. Then Jesus told him to do something he previously couldn't do, "Take up your bed and walk". The man's healing was in his obedience. He had to choose to do something different to receive something different. Everyday people make choices that will either change their situation or allow them to continue on their current path. We are here to walk alongside anyone that comes to KGM and support them in moving forward, no matter the path they choose.

I encourage you to give us a call and schedule a tour so that you too can see first-hand the facilities and programs we provide. We are always happy share our ministry up close and personal.

We continue to thank God for your ongoing support of our ministry.

MEET ANGELA

After graduating high school, Angela was told to leave her home and become an adult on her own. That's when her depression set in. "After leaving my home, I felt confused about what I was supposed to do next," said Angela. It was during this time that her oldest daughter was born. Angela felt the best thing for her daughter would be to put her up for adoption. Instead, her family decided to raise her baby for her, but the pain of giving her up caused Angela to slip into a drug addiction that took over her life.

"I was always looking for a reason to get high. Anything to help my depression."

With her drug addiction calling the shots in her life, from time to time, Angela would find refuge in the safety and consistency of the Gospel Mission. "I used to come into the shelter at night so high on drugs that I would wake up in the morning and not know how I got there," said Angela. She was in and out of the mission for almost eight years before she began to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

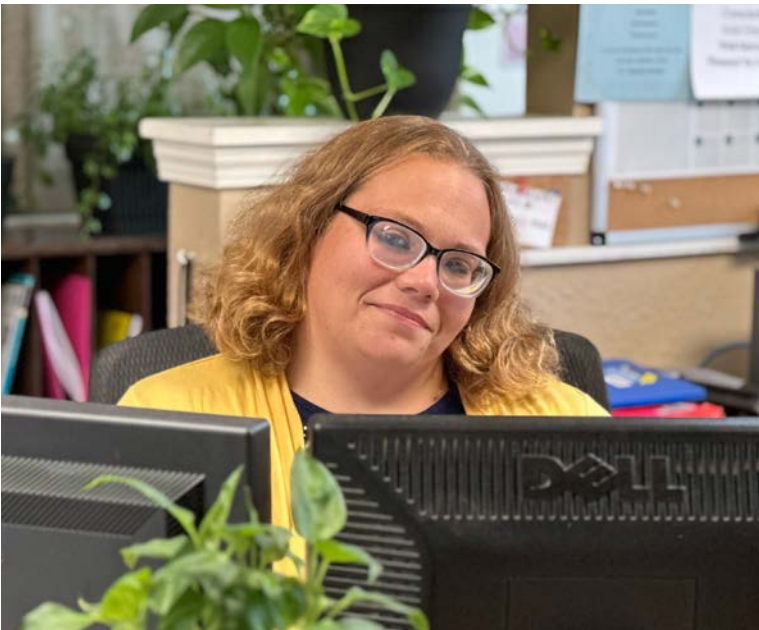


About a year ago, Angela started seeing posters taped up around the mission advertising the relaunch of the long-term program, New Life | New Hope. For the first time, Angela felt she might have a way to break free from her addictions. Angela attended a meeting to learn more about the program and felt the Lord calling her to take the first step toward making a fresh start.

Soon after joining the program, Angela began to see the differences a healthy lifestyle can make. She began job training classes in the Career and Education Center, where she learned administrative and people skills. "The Career and Education Center has been an exciting place for me to grow, and I've enjoyed working with the staff and volunteers at the Career and Education Center," said Angela.

Last month, Angela celebrated one year sober from her past life of drug use. Having the stability that the New Life | New Hope program provided, Angela was able to apply for an apartment and has applied to work at the Career and Education Center so that she can continue to learn and train with the staff and volunteers there.

"I thought that God had turned His back on me, but here I am, free from my addictions and in my first apartment. Only God can transform lives like this."



In September You Provided



8,392

Meals
Served



6,661

Nights
of Stay



198

Guests Served
At KDC



106

Showers
Provided



13

Long Term
Program
Guests

10% Off
Your Purchase

Not valid with any other offers
exp. 12/31/22

**See Store
For Details**



We are excited to announce that **Simple Treasures** has a new location! The newly reopened thrift store is located at **311 W. Kilgore**, in the old Lee's Sporting Goods location. This ministry site will offer our community unique, gently used items at great prices. Every purchase will benefit ministry efforts by generating funds from the sold items. When you purchase items at Simple Treasures or Rescued Treasures, **it provides shelter for someone in need.**

"We are looking forward to a larger space and more opportunities for job training with guests of KGM," says Laura Shields, Director of Retail at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. "We regularly offer on the job training to guests in our long-term program, New Life | New Hope."

We have also expanded our donation drop-off locations. The additional donation drop-off is located at **185 Old Kilgore Rd**, which sits adjacent to the new Simple Treasures. This new donation drop-off will provide easy access for those who want to donate from surrounding communities. With ample space, the donation center will distribute to Simple Treasures and Rescued Treasures for resale. Stop by the new store and say hello! Thank you for making a difference by shopping with us.

"Every day there's a new job, a new thing to fix, or a new system to install, but amid a busy work day, God is always a constant, and we can rely on him when things get tough. I love my job because of the opportunity I get to share the love of God with the men and women I work with here."

- James Crosswhite



Meet our Maintenance Team! These men and women are masters in their trade and are called to significant roles at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. James, Vern, and the team have broad skill sets, from changing a water heater, renovating the new Simple Treasures to keeping the the Main Campus tidy and working well. James and Vern have been part of KGM for decades, both of them coming through the long-term program and then on staff. Their unique experiences provide ministry opportunities with guests who have made a commitment to one of the many programs we offer.

The maintenance staff is a blessing to KGM . They are often behind the scenes but make a positive impact on a daily basis. If you are interested in volunteering with the maintenance team, please contact mfurrow@kzoogospel.org or call **269.345.2974 ext. 203** for more information.

THANK YOU

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ HOPE TAKES FLIGHT

It was an incredible night at the Air Zoo as we celebrated the men and women who have chosen to take a year out of their lives and learn a new way of living through our long term program, New Life | New Hope. We appreciate everyone who came to support KGM and the amazing things God is doing in our midst.

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS HAPPEN

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Favors

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From all of us at KGM

We are grateful for you

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



KGM
269.345.2974
info@kzoogospel.org
448 N. Burdick St. Kalamazoo

KDC
269.344.7333
info@deconconference.org
1010 N. Westnedge Kalamazoo

