



STORIES OF HOPE

Meet Rose

November 2023



Pastor Michael L. Brown

President/CEO

This is the time of year when we notice the changing of the colors of the leaves and a drop in early morning temperatures. Many of us hold out hope that Michigan weather will be a little less brutal than in years past. We at **KGM** always think about what the changing season means to our guests and those who are homeless who refuse to come inside the shelter for much needed help. Some are reluctant to come into our shelter because of the bondage of mental illness and addiction. Although we are ready to serve these individuals, we understand their need to get to a place where they genuinely desire change. We have the most impact when we focus on guests who will engage in restoration. We are here to help, but never force that help on anyone who isn't ready. We pray daily for God to deliver them from any confusion and break free from the things that keep them in a destructive cycle.

KGM has, for over 90 years, been a beacon of hope to those who are hurting and homeless in and around the city of Kalamazoo. We recently hosted our annual **Hope Takes Flight Event** at the **Kalamazoo Air Zoo**, which was a great success. Thank you to all of you who came out and participated and those who sponsored the event. This is the lean time of year financially for so many non-profits, so your

support is especially important now. **As the Holiday season approaches**, we are truly thankful for those of you who partner with us to make the vital services **KGM** provides available. The daily meals, especially those Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, are really something our guests look forward to. The acts of love and kindness that you, our partners, show by supporting this ministry encourage us and help create a sense of normalcy for the kids and parents during an otherwise stressful time in their lives. **Our Christmas Closet allows parents to shop, free of charge, for their kids so that even while they are temporarily displaced**, they still know the joy of Christmas. Thank you for all you do!

We believe that by partnering with the ministry of KGM, you are actually partnering with what God is doing at this crucial time in their lives.

God bless,

James 1:27 NKJV

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.



MEET ROSE

Rose found herself in a hard place. She was abandoned by a man she loved and ended up with a broken heart. Rose cried over this situation for several years. But in a life changing moment, she gave her life to Jesus. Although her heart began to heal, things got worse before they got better. Rose found herself in a season of being unable to keep a job, and in a situation where she needed help.

Rose lived in her car in the woods with little food and water, sometimes going days without it. **God revealed to her that there were people that could help;** Rose left the woods and went to a fire department for help. She found herself in a mental health facility in Indiana. Several weeks passed, and the staff of the facility made a decision to drive Rose to **KGM**.

“
"I am thankful for KGM
because they were there
when nobody else was."
-Rose

”

Coming to **KGM**, Rose had a hard decision to make. She could either return home and try to get a job and fight to keep her belongings in storage or join the **New Life | New Hope Program at KGM** and find a new beginning.

As Rose was in the program, she found it hard to acclimate because she had been alone for so long, but she started to make friends and enjoyed the company of staff. **One of the staff members who helped her along the way was her case manager, Beth.** She was there to help Rose process her struggles. Rose is thankful that the program helped her better understand God, understand her gifts, and the opportunity to work at the mission. Rose is now working at **KGM** and is blessed with independent living. Her future is stable and she is looking forward to what God has for her. She is grateful for all KGM has done to help her heal.

YOU PROVIDED THESE LIFE CHANGING SERVICES IN 2023



74,242
Nights of Stay



76,509
Meals Served



41
Long Term Program
Guests



1,635
Guests served at KDC



Share Your Story This Christmas

God has given you a story to steward. The Christmas season is a great time to share it with loved ones.

Talk about traditions. You'll preserve memories, remember God's goodness, and bring deeper meaning to routines.

Go online. There are apps and web-based tools available to prompt and help you capture stories.

Impact others. Including a gift in your will to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is a beautiful opportunity to continue your story beyond your lifetime.

*For the full version of this article, request a **FREE** copy of "4 Ways to Share Your Story this Christmas" by contacting Lynn Russcher at 269-345-2974 ext. 213 or lrusscher@kzoogospel.org - Visit christianwill.org/kzoogospel to bless your family with an up-to-date will.*



I'm thankful for..

I am thankful for KGM and the many people who work here who have answered the Lord's call to serve those in need with love, compassion, and prayer.
-Mary (Staff)

"I am thankful for KGM because it's a gospel mission reaching out to the homeless."
-Dan (Volunteer)

"I am thankful for the opportunity to make beauty from my ashes in helping others."
-Beth (Staff)

Christmas Shop

More information to come.

For the most updated information visit:

www.kzoogospel.org

Help us provide a sense of normalcy for families currently staying at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND ATTENDEES OF HOPE TAKES FLIGHT

It was a wonderful night at the Air Zoo where we ate great food, played fun games, and heard stories of how God is walking beside our staff and guests through our programs. Over 225 people came for the fundraising dinner, and we are beyond grateful for your generosity. We saw God move hearts and we reached our fundraising goal of \$75,000! These funds will continue to provide hot meals, a safe place to sleep, and resources that break the cycles of homelessness.

Mach 3

Buist Electric

Mach 2

Anonymous

AVB

Consumers Concrete Corporation

Cornerstone Technologies

First National Bank of Michigan

Main Street Financial Advisors

Parker

RKA farms

Mach 1

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Stealth Sponsors

Thomas Rossi-State Farm, Insurance Agent

Tom & Colleen Breitenbach

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In-kind Donors

Air Zoo Family Membership

ChocolateTea

Anonymous - Gilmore Car Museum

Continental Linen Service

Pastor Jonathan Lam

Lowe's on West Main

Dale & Debbie Shugars

Wenke Greenhouses

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



KGM is thankful for you this season

Happy Thanksgiving



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

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

