

Meet Patrick



STORIES OF HOPE

December 2023



Pastor Michael L. Brown
President/CEO

2 Corinthians 9:8-9 (NKJV)

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

As we wrap up our 90th year of ministry, I am truly grateful for all the love and support you, our ministry partners, continue to show. **KGM would never have made it this far without the support of this wonderful community.** When I think about how every time our numbers increase, you, our ministry partners, have answered the call. And your support is not only financial. While we still have volunteer opportunities available in all areas, we are beginning to see more and more of you show up to **truly be the hands and feet of Jesus**. Also, we are so thankful for all the special fundraisers that have been done this year to help meet the growing need. Whether you attended one of our galas or hosted a concert or other special event, every act of kindness helps. As our numbers have increased, so has your love and support. And make no mistake, our guests appreciate it as well. **This year, we have had two partners give significant matching financial gifts, which will increase the impact of the gift you might offer.** Also, Proclamation Brass and The Singing Crusaders invited us to be part of a concert at Bible Baptist Church. While it was projected that we might bring in **\$10,000, the actual receipts for the night totaled just over \$12,000.**

It's essential to understand the reason these gifts and support are so needed and appreciated. While we served **105,000 meals last year, we're seeing a 16% increase in meals served this year.** The number of men has increased by 32%, while the number of women has increased by 33%. During this same period, **the number of children has increased by 43%.**

Many programs that receive government funding have the luxury of knowing that their budgets will be covered as taxes increase. **KGM**, along with many other Christian ministries, have committed to honor God in our programming, so we don't qualify for government funds. We

truly understand that for many of you, **your support of KGM is a partnership with what God is doing locally, and for this, we are grateful.** Now, with 90 years under our belt, there is still much work to do, and we are counting on you to go with us boldly into the future. Here are some things you can do going forward:

Pray for KGM and other Christian ministries that God would cover us as we strive to serve Him. Legislation in 2024 does not favor religious organizations. Pray that rescue missions and other Christian organizations seek God's wisdom in responding. Next, pray about how you might be a fit for one of the many volunteer opportunities we still have open. **We still need mentors for the folks in our long-term programs, volunteers in the stores and warehouses, and Direct Response Servants at the KDC location.** Think about KGM at times when God blesses you with abundance. Scripture talks about in **2 Corinthians 9:8-9 (NKJV) 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."**

The staff of KGM and I pray for you continually. We cherish your partnership as we continue to honor God while caring for His people.

May God richly bless you!



A portrait of Patrick, a Black man with glasses and a black cap, smiling. He is wearing a dark jacket. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a storage area with yellow boxes.

Meet Patrick

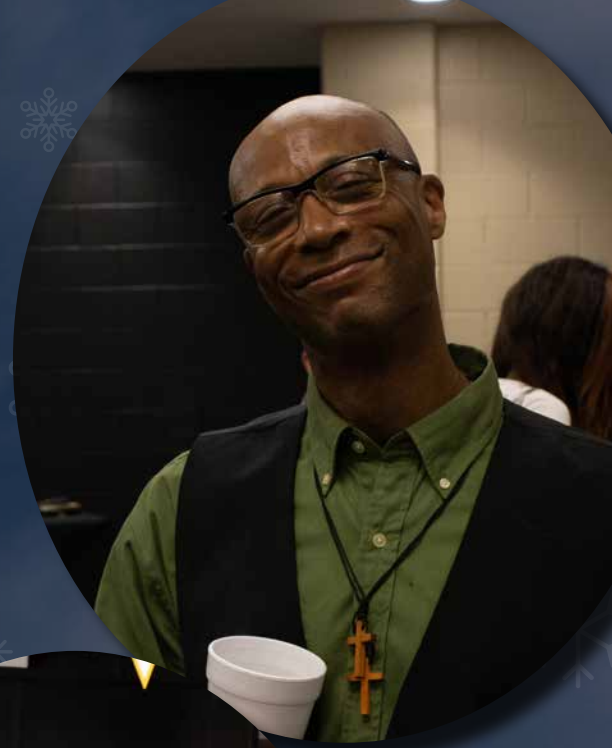
Patrick was born in Albion and grew up in Battle Creek with his mom, stepdad, and five siblings. They didn't have much, but they had each other and were happy. While Patrick did not graduate high school he acquired a GED as an adult.

**"Learning that I could stay here until I got on my feet gave me the courage to work on breaking my addictions."
-Patrick**

Patrick struggled to keep a job due to being far out of town and not having proper transportation, leading to Patrick receiving an eviction notice. **He was shocked by this news, full of emotions, and unsure of what to do.** Patrick was homeless and lost, hopping from place to place. When he exhausted all other options, Patrick had no choice but to go to the mission. Thinking he could only stay for one night and then have to move on, Patrick found out KGM does not limit nights you can stay; Patrick could remain at the mission.

"Learning that I could stay here until I got on my feet gave me the courage to work on breaking my addictions," Patrick said. Although it took a while, and he would come and go from the mission for five years, this last time, when he came back, he wanted his outcome to be different. Patrick wanted to change for the better. He bravely decided to join the long-term program. The program gave him the tools he needed to re-enter society, **"when you've been out on the streets and alone, it's hard to remember how to interact with people," he explained.**

KGM has helped him feel comfortable and give him tools to interact with people. When thinking back, if there was a specific relationship he had made at **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries** he thought of Lynn, a teacher from one of his classes. Lynn taught about ways we hide in relationships and that impacted Patrick. **Now, Patrick is a part-time Life Servant at KGM working in the kitchen and he enjoys it;** he is thankful for the staff and is up to the challenges of the job. **Patrick is looking forward to doing God's will and is trusting that God will provide for his needs in the future.**



YOU PROVIDED THESE LIFE CHANGING SERVICES IN 2023



85,419
Meals Served



82,820
Nights of Stay



1,855
Guests served
at KDC



41
Long Term
Program Guests

THANK YOU BOARD MEMBERS

As our 90th year of ministry is coming to a close, we are reflecting on the many people who have given of themselves to ensure KGM is a thriving organization. Board members throughout the years have stepped into roles of servant leadership, governing over the policies to protect the integrity and longevity of **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries**. We recently sat down with a group of board members to highlight their roles at **KGM**.

Ken Goodenough faithfully served **KGM** through multiple terms as a board member over the decades. From teaching in chapel services, to even staying the night to fill in for staff members, **Ken** has always been there when it was needed. He preached the Gospel anytime he had a chance and believed in the power of prayer. *"We would walk the block around the mission, praying that God would help us to expand the ministry because the need was so great,"* recalls **Ken**. *"God is faithful, we saw opportunities open up that we could not have orchestrated."*

Current Board chair, **Don Edgerly** understands the value of serving **KGM** in this capacity. *"I love everything KGM stands for,"* says **Don**. *"Sharing the love of Jesus and serving those most in need."* Recently, the KGM Board of Directors meticulously updated the ministries' bylaws, ensuring they align with best practices.

Previous Board Chair, **Kristie Abruzzo**, was instrumental when **KGM** and **KDC (Kalamazoo Deacons Conference)** joined as one organization. *"Although the process was arduous, seeing the two ministries come together provided greater impact in this community,"* says Kristie. *"It has given KDC and KGM mutual support and a broader scope of reach."*

Each person who has served on the **KGM board** has made an impact on the ministry but has also been blessed by the individuals they have met. From staff members to guests of **KGM**, everyone has a unique story and experience. God intersects our lives here in the ministry to help each other heal and grow from past hurts. *"We become family at KGM and keep up on relationships years after our service has completed,"* remarked Kristie.

If you are interested in serving as a board member, please contact, **Wanda Best**, wbest@kzoogospel.org for more information.



Ken Goodenough



Kristie Abruzzo



Don Edgerly

Give hope
this holiday season

Check out our website and click
to make a difference
this holiday season

Ways to Help this
Thanksgiving

Learn More

Christmas Gifts
for Kids

Learn More

Christmas Gifts
for Adults

Learn More

Volunteer your
Time

Learn More

Cold Weather
Needs List

Learn More

Be a Prayer
Partner

Learn More

www.kzoogospel.org

WE NEED YOU IN 2024

KGM is always seeking individuals with a heart to serve the community through volunteering. As a faith-based non-profit organization providing food, shelter, and other essential services, volunteers can partner with our staff in a life-changing ministry. **KGM has a variety of volunteer needs that suit various schedules and skills.** We aim to connect our volunteers with opportunities that best fit their passions and gifts. Some of our areas of need right now include working one-on-one to teach and mentor those in our long-term recovery program. In addition, we have several daily, ongoing volunteer needs such as serving food or sorting through clothing donations. These positions don't require a long-term commitment and serve as an **excellent entry-level volunteer opportunity for those who want to come in on a trial basis.**

Consider joining us in 2024 to impact lives. Go to <https://www.kzoogospel.org/volunteer> to get started

Merry Christmas From
Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries



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