

MEET BONNIE



Gospel | **FREEDOM** | Transparency | Community | Service | Development | Respect

STORIES OF HOPE

June 2026



Pastor John Simpson

President/CEO

Psalm 107:13-14

“Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.”

Freedom That Lasts

At Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, we define freedom this way: **breaking bonds, eradicating suffering, and healing shame to create a life of gratitude.** It’s a beautiful picture—and a deeply needed one. But it’s also important to say clearly: **real freedom doesn’t happen overnight.**

In Psalm 107, we read of people crying out to the Lord in their trouble—and He delivers them from their distress. In Romans 5:8, we’re reminded that God demonstrates His love for us in this: **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Freedom is initiated by Christ in a moment—but lived out over time.

That’s why one of our core commitments is not just Truth and Grace, but Time.

The individuals we serve are not just facing material needs—they are often carrying years of brokenness, trauma, and shame. **True freedom means more than a warm bed or a meal for the day.** It means walking with someone as God restores what has been lost or broken.

That’s the heart behind our Next Steps Program and our New Life | New Hope Program. These programs create space for transformation—not just relief. Through consistent relationships, biblical guidance, and intentional structure, men and women are given the time they need to experience lasting change.

Freedom is not a quick fix. It’s a journey.

This month, you’ll read about Bonnie, a recent graduate of our New Life | New Hope Program. Her story is a powerful reminder that

when truth is spoken, grace is extended, and time is given, freedom is possible—and lasting. We invite you to be part of that freedom story. Whether through giving financially, mentoring a guest, volunteering your time, or praying faithfully, you are helping create the space where transformation can take root. **Together, we can walk alongside men and women as they move from crisis to calling—and into the lasting freedom found in Christ.**

YOU PROVIDED THESE LIFE CHANGING SERVICES IN APRIL 2026



15,162
Meals Served



7,436
Nights of Stay



164
Guests Served at KDC



18
Long Term Program Guests



MEET BONNIE

Bonnie felt hopeless living in a tent on the streets and crippled by her bad habits. She realized, **"I can't do this anymore."** Bonnie longed to break free from addiction and reclaim her life. **Freedom finally felt possible when she entered the New Life | New Hope program at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries.** Classes, work training, staff support, and time gave her the tools she needed to be successful in her recovery.

Bonnie grew up all around Kalamazoo, and life was a struggle due to several family members being abusive. The abuse led Bonnie to seek stress relief in drugs, and they would have a tight grip on her for years to come. Bonnie had been homeless since 2016 and was struggling, feeling like she had no purpose. One day in 2025, she couldn't take it anymore. **Bonnie prayed to God for help and freedom from her addiction.** She wanted a change and to get back to normal life. God answered her prayer and led her to Kalamazoo Gospel

Ministries' door, and once she came in, she felt relieved and ready to work on breaking her drug dependence.

After seven days in the Next Steps program, Bonnie heard about the New Life | New Hope program. She felt that entering the program would be the step she needed to achieve her goals. **"I knew a rehab program of 30, 60, or 90 days wouldn't work for me; I needed something different."** Once she entered the NL | NH program, she felt like a part of a family and valued by the staff and fellow guests.

Bonnie discovered that the program wasn't just about recovering from addiction, but about taking care of all her needs and making sure she had all the tools to be successful. **Bonnie found the classes beneficial, but what was crucial to her success was meeting with a tutor one-on-one.**



she has been estranged for over 10 years. With one of her kids attending her graduation, that process has already started.

We see many people with stories similar to Bonnie's who desire to be free. Freedom takes time, support, and the right resources that make it possible. **The services KGM provides are only possible because of generous partners like you.** If you feel called to help those on their path to freedom, like Bonnie, visit the link below to learn how you can give back.

www.kzoogospel.org

This opened many new opportunities for Bonnie and brought her learning to a whole new level, showing that it can make a real difference when you look at someone individually and address their specific needs. Bonnie continues to express the impact the program has made in her life, talking with other guests and encouraging them to join. **"Bonnie has been an advocate for the program since day one, telling others, 'It will change your life,'" says Katrina, Director of Programming.** The NL | NH program truly transformed Bonnie, and it shows not only in how she is personally doing but also in her passion to share with others the impact it has had.

Bonnie has been sober for a year, and since graduating from the program in April, she feels ready to create new goals. **Her current goals are to find independent housing and to work at the mission to give back.** Bonnie also wants to reconnect with her kids, with whom

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-KATRINA, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING**



ONE YEAR JOURNEY: FREEDOM TAKES TIME



Breaking habits—whether they’re positive or negative—can be a challenging journey. When the desire to change emerges, the path towards freedom from those familiar patterns often feels impossible. **Yet through small, deliberate actions, true freedom is within reach.** This is the essence of what **KGM** strives to offer our guests.

Our New Life | New Hope program is designed to help guests achieve their goals. We recognize that the path to recovery is different for everyone and that renewal takes time. Our New Life | New Hope program **is more than just 30 or 90 days, but a course of 9 months of programming and 3 months of transition.** A whole year dedicated to change can be daunting for anyone, but we have found that

hard work leads to better outcomes and longer-lasting change. Even though the program can be challenging at times, no one is alone on their journey; dedicated staff and volunteer mentors stand by them every step of the way.

Do you feel called to support others on their path to freedom? As a mentor, you have the incredible opportunity to walk alongside guests as they navigate their journeys, guiding them toward their goals. Visit our website to become a mentor and make a lasting impact on their lives. **Together, we are working to bring freedom to those we serve.**

www.kzoogospel.org/volunteer



FREEDOM

HOPE TAKES FLIGHT IS BACK

Join us at the Air Zoo on
October 22, 2026

If you would like to be a sponsor for our fall fundraising dinner,
please email Mary at mdenison@kzoogospel.org

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

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

