

MEET DAVE



Gospel | Freedom | Transparency | Community | **SERVICE** | Development | Respect

STORIES OF HOPE

September 2026

THE JOY OF SERVING

One of the greatest privileges we have at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is serving others in the name of Jesus Christ. Every meal served, every bed prepared, every conversation shared, every burden lightened, and every act of kindness is an opportunity to reflect Christ's love to someone who desperately needs hope.

The world often encourages us to focus on ourselves—our needs, our comfort, and our success. **Yet Scripture calls us to a different way of living.** Jesus demonstrated that true greatness is found in humble service, and He invites us to follow His example.

Our staff and volunteers do not serve because they are looking for recognition. They serve because they have first experienced the grace and generosity of God in their own lives. **Service is simply giving back what has been so freely given to us.** It is allowing ourselves to become vessels through which God can love, encourage, and restore others.

This is also a principle we intentionally teach in our programs. As guests begin to grow in their relationship with Christ, we encourage them to discover the joy of serving others. **Something remarkable happens when our focus shifts from our own circumstances to the needs of those**

around us. Service cultivates gratitude, builds healthy relationships, and reminds us that God can use every one of us to make a difference in the life of someone else.

In this newsletter, you'll read about faithful individuals who have quietly served for years, lives that have been transformed through service, and ministries that extend Christ's love throughout our community. **Each story is a reminder that God works powerfully through ordinary people who are willing to humbly place others before themselves.**

As you read these stories, I encourage you to prayerfully ask the Lord how He might use you. Perhaps He is calling you to volunteer your time, share your talents, encourage someone in need, or simply take the next step in serving where He has placed you. **God has uniquely gifted each of us, and there is great joy in using those gifts to bless others.**

Together, we have the privilege of changing lives through the power of Christ—one act of service at a time.



Pastor John Simpson
President/CEO

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

MEET DAVE

"I choose KGM because everything is done in Christ's name"



Dave is no stranger to volunteering and serving the least of these. He knows the dedication and the hard work it requires. **Volunteering at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries was a family matter for Dave**, with his father-in-law being an original board member, his father teaching the gospel at Saturday service, and his mother serving meals. Being a part of **KGM's** work has been in Dave's family for generations.

As retirement approached, Dave knew that he wanted to spend the free time he would be given to give back. **"I've got to retire with purpose, I need to do kingdom work,"** said Dave. One day, one of his friends from church, Bill, asked him if he would work alongside him and learn how to be a truck driver for **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries**.

Dave quickly discovered that he had found his calling; not only was he able to help those in need, but he was able to do it with the skill he had. **Dave has been a driver at KGM for almost 19 years.** As a driver, Dave goes out into the community, collects donations from local businesses, and brings them back to the mission for our kitchen to use. During his route, Dave finds himself at places like **Harding's, Little Caesars, and Crumbl Cookie.**

Dave sees the importance of this ministry and the impact it has on the community. **"It is a unique and essential ministry for the community, and it's all done in Christ's name, and that's the only way lives are going to be changed is through the heart,"** Dave said. He knows that as he helps feed the guests' bodies,

YOU PROVIDED THESE LIFE



16,296
Meals Served

CHANGING SERVICES



6,576
Nights of Stay



150
Guests Served
at KDC



10
Long Term
Program Guests

JULY 2026

other aspects of **KGM** are feeding their souls, and that is why Dave volunteers here above anywhere else.

Being a driver is a vital task and helps fill our kitchen with the supplies it needs to feed our guests. In fact, **90% of the food we use comes from donations gathered by our dedicated drivers.** There are five other drivers working alongside Dave, heading out daily to collect these essential contributions from local businesses. But the impact doesn't stop there.

Around KGM, there are many important roles that require caring hearts and a wide range of skills—**JUST LIKE YOURS.** Whether you're interested in driving, serving meals, organizing donations, or lending a listening ear, there's a meaningful place for you here.

If you're looking for a way to make a real difference in your community, **consider joining us as a volunteer.** Like Dave, you can use your unique skills and compassion to help change lives—one act of service at a time.

Visit our website to discover current opportunities and see how you can get involved.

www.kzoogospel.org/volunteer



Volunteer hours served from
June 2025 - July 2026

17,300



*"I really enjoy volunteering at **KGM** because it allows me the opportunity to invest in people while in the framework of the **Gospel.** The unity and like-mindedness of the whole staff is amazing and it's such a pleasure to serve alongside such a wonderful **staff.**"*

David - Teacher



*"Helping KGM is an important part of our journey toward becoming a better follower of Christ. By supporting **KGM**, we feel a sense of helpfulness, allowing us to forge a path forward in our **lives.**"*

Steve and Paula - Food Service



*"I choose to volunteer at **Kalamazoo Gospel Mission** because I desire to help make a positive difference in our community treating others with respect & kindness without judging. The bible frames **volunteering as a core expression of faith** and presenting service as an act of worship and love. It's not always easy, but it's worth it."*

Jayna - Women's Shelter



*"My favorite thing about **volunteering** at KGM is seeing and hearing the success stories. When someone comes in and says it is their last night staying here because they got an apartment or **I see genuine excitement when they let us know that they landed a job.**"*

Brian - Men's shelter

800

Volunteers served from
June 2025 - July 2026



BRIDGING GAPS THROUGH OUTREACH

At KGM, our mission is to reach out to those facing hard times with the love of Christ, while also valuing outreach to everyone in the community! That's why our outreach programs are designed to serve people from all walks of life. From the shower trailer to our partnership with the WMed health clinic, **KGM is out in the community, outpouring the love of Christ to those in need.**

The shower trailer is out in the community 2-3 times a week during the warmer months; the WMed student lead health clinic is open several times a month; right here on KGM's campus. KGM thrift stores had the opportunity to create a mobile store for the residents at StoryPoint nursing home in the memory care unit. This helped them pick out outfits for a special event. The residents smiled with joy as they had an opportunity to shop for clothes that they could call their own, and at the same time, the clothes they were picking out were fueling KGM in helping those in need. **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is always looking for ways to grow our outreach efforts to best meet the needs of Kalamazoo.**

Whether it's providing showers, offering free healthcare, or simply making someone's day, KGM's outreach programs are here to uplift and support. **We invite you to join us**—through volunteering, donating, or spreading the word—as we work together to serve people facing hardship as Jesus did.

To get connected or be a part of the impact, visit our website www.kzoogospel.org



Uplifting The Community



JOIN US FOR HOPE TAKES FLIGHT

A FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026 5:30 PM



AIR ZOO

6151 PORTAGE RD, PORTAGE, MI 49002

**\$50
TICKETS**

LIFT OFF FOR IMPACT
FUEL CHANGE, FUND HOPE

TICKETS

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT
KZOOGOSPEL.ORG/HTF2026
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



YOU MAY HAVE MORE THAN YOU KNOW

Several years ago, an incredible story surfaced in the news. A Michigan man discovered the 22-pound rock he'd used as a doorstop for 30 years was actually Michigan's sixth largest meteorite ever reported!

David Mazurek purchased a farm—and the rock—in 1988. The seller said he and his father saw the meteorite fall and dug it out of the earth. For decades, Mazurek did nothing with the rock except prop a door and allow his children to take it for school show-and-tell. But eventually Mazurek began to wonder what it was worth. Testing confirmed his rock was a legitimate meteorite!—**one he sold for \$75,000, 20% of which he donated to Central Michigan University's Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department.** The rock he'd let stagnate now benefits many.

If you've been saving money in a donor advised fund (DAF), consider this your invitation to **stop propping the metaphorical door and make a difference today.** Here's how:

- 1. Remember your "why."** You had a vision when you started your DAF. Refocus on those plans and priorities.
- 2. Give today.** Discover what your favorite ministries are doing that align with your vision, then make a DAF gift to transform lives right now.
- 3. Create a plan.** Your DAF giving can continue after your lifetime. List Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries as a beneficiary of your DAF account and provide ongoing support for our work.

Create a will that honors your faith and family by visiting kzoogospel.legacywill.org



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

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

