BUILDING COMMUNITY

HEALING THROUGH CONNECTION



Gospel | Freedom | Transparency | **COMMUNITY** | Service | Development | Respect

STORIES OF HOPE

November 2026



Pastor John Simpson
President & CEO



CREATED FOR COMMUNITY

One of our values at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is Community, and I believe it is essential to the work God has called us to do.

Isolation is one of the enemy's greatest tools. When we are alone, it becomes easier to believe lies about ourselves, our circumstances, and even about God. **For many of the guests who come through our doors, isolation has become a significant part of their story.** Relationships have been broken, trust has been lost, and healthy support systems may no longer exist.

That is why our work must be about more than providing a bed, a meal, or a warm place to stay. Those things are important, **but lasting transformation happens in the context of healthy community.**

Every day at KGM, we have the opportunity to invite people out of isolation and into relationships. It happens when a staff member takes time to listen, when a volunteer serves a meal, when a case manager walks alongside someone working toward a goal, when guests encourage one another, or when someone experiences what it means to be known, loved, challenged, and supported. **Healthy community reminds us that we were never designed to walk through life alone.**

As we enter the holiday season, there are some wonderful opportunities to put this value into action. **Our Thanksgiving meal brings people together around the table, and our Christmas Shop gives moms and dads staying with us the dignity and joy of choosing Christmas gifts for their children.** Both are made possible because people throughout our community choose to give, volunteer, and serve.

I encourage you to visit our website (kzoogospel.org) and see everything happening at KGM this holiday season. Consider volunteering, giving, or inviting someone you know to join you. Together, we can help create a community where people are seen, valued, loved, and pointed toward the hope found in Christ.

Thank you for being an important part of that community.

John Simpson

EPHESIANS 4:2

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

BUILDING COMMUNITY

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another." Hebrews 10:24-25a



Twice a year, the New Life | New Hope program guests and staff travel together to Cedar Bay Camp in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This special retreat allows guests to step away from daily routines, serve alongside camp staff, and deepen their sense of belonging. **Whether hiking scenic trails or joining in friendly games, guests forge lasting bonds and return with renewed strength and hope.**

During a trip in September, everyone was eager to climb a large rock near camp known as Gnome Rock. One guest, who struggles with balance, was determined to reach the top and join the group. What happened next became a true team effort: another guest, already atop the rock, climbed down and offered his help. With patience and kindness, he supported her step by step until she joined everyone at the summit. **Her journey up Gnome Rock reflects the program experience—a testament to the idea that success comes through community.**

Regeneration after trials is challenging—whether it's from trauma, addiction, or loss. Coming back from difficult times feels overwhelming and isolating. For many, the instinct is to believe, "I have to do this myself."

YOU PROVIDED THESE LIFE CHANGING SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2026

16,923
Meals Served

7,564
Nights of Stay

200
Guests Served at KDC

15
Long Term Program Guests







At KGM, we know that true restoration is a journey best taken together. In our NL | NH program, our dedicated staff walk alongside each guest, reinforcing the message: **"We are here to help."** Community isn't just an aspect of the NL | NH program—**it's at the heart of everything we do, because we understand that transformation is most successful through connection and teamwork.**

From one-on-one counseling and group devotionals to trips to Cedar Bay, guests have countless opportunities to connect with peers during their one-year journey to recovery, forming relationships that last beyond their time at KGM. **These shared moments remind every guest: you are not alone. Hope lies ahead, and together, renewal can be found.**

The New Life | New Hope program thrives because of the power of community, built meal by meal, conversation by conversation, and challenge by challenge. This community is only possible because of donors like you! From donations to volunteering YOU are a key part in building a community where guests can achieve their goals and be restored. If you want to join the community consider becoming a mentor at KGM. **By sharing your time and experience, you can be the helping hand that makes all the difference for someone seeking hope and renewal.**

Contact Katrina Raymond at kraymond@kzoogospel.org to learn more.





COMMUNITY IN ACTION:

From Behind the Table to Every Shared Meal

Community can grow in many places, but perhaps it thrives most around the table over a shared meal. At mealtime, strangers become friends, burdens are shared, and hope is restored. For some, not knowing where their next meal will come from is a daily reality. At **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries,** we open our doors to guests and community members for dinner—so that everyone can find nourishment, rest, and genuine fellowship. **Every meal served at KGM is an invitation: to belong, to heal, and to build a sense of community together.**

Behind every meal served at **KGM**, a dedicated community is at work. Through the early morning donation runs made by many faithful volunteers to stores in the community, as well as the careful preparation, cooking, and plating by both staff and volunteers, many hands and hearts come together. People from all backgrounds unite with a shared purpose: **to ensure that everyone is nourished and cared for.** Staff, volunteers, and donors work together for the common goal: helping ease the worry of those unsure where their next meal will come from.

Whether it's the community behind the meal or the fellowship made at the table, **each shared meal is a powerful reminder that no one is alone in their journey.** At KGM, celebration and support go hand in hand, and healing often begins with the simple act of sharing a meal.

Join the table! There is a place for you! Whether it's behind the scenes or chatting at mealtime, we would love for you to join the team in creating a supportive environment for those in our community needing assistance. There are multiple ways to become a staff member or volunteer.

Visit the link below to learn more.
www.kzoogospel.org/volunteer









Picture Credit : Jason Heeres

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Big Rock Market - Apple Cider

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KGM Turkey Drive



NOVEMBER 20TH
10AM-5PM

Help make this Thanksgiving special!

Donate to the KGM Turkey drive by scanning the QR code below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT KZOOGOSPEL.ORG

Christmas Shop

Help provide a sense of normalcy for families currently staying at **Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries**
Donate new toys and gifts for kids this Christmas.

Visit our registries below to donate a new toy.

WALMART

AMAZON



KALAMAZOO GOSPEL MINISTRIES

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