

MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

December 2023

Impact Report: Services and Support in Fiscal Year 2023

How have gifts to Ministry with Community made a difference over the past year? Below is a snapshot of our service numbers and what donors made possible in fiscal year 2023.

Responding to Rising and Record Need

We all experienced the effects of inflation this year. With rent and food costs rising, a record number of people in our community turned to us to help make ends meet.

Individuals Served

- Last fiscal year, 2,734 individuals used our services.
- This year, we served 3,676 individuals.
- Of those served this year, 1,760 people were using our services for the first time.

Meals Served

- Meals have always been our most popular service. Last year, between daily breakfasts and lunches, we provided 155,242 meals.



(L to R) Robin, Service Desk Manager, Missy, Kitchen Assistant, and David, Security, at our Service Desk.

- Before this summer, we had never served more than 15,000 meals in a single month.
- In July, we served 15,941 meals.
- In August, we broke the record again and served 16,415.

Some of this increase is likely due to inflation, especially at the grocery store, but the end of COVID-era SNAP benefits in February 2023 led to a summer of steadily rising need for meals.

Thanks to general fund gifts and Sponsored Meals, we were able to purchase and prepare enough food to meet the higher needs.

Interested in sponsoring a meal? Contact our Development Director, Andrea Tramel, at 236-366-3098 for pricing and details.

A Steady, Dependable Safety Net

Showers

- Our members took an average of 37 hot showers daily in our four private shower rooms, a 13% increase from last year.

Laundry

- Laundry services were also up by 13% this year with members washing 17,405 loads of clothing to stay healthy and clean for work, school, and daily life.

The mission of Ministry with Community is to empower people to make positive life changes.

Mail

- On each day of the week, we sorted and distributed mail for 1,282 of the individuals we serve.



Kitchen Assistants, Tonio (left) and Gabriel with a bread delivery.

Supporting the Achievement of Goals

Social Services

No one achieves big goals on their own. Thanks to you, our members have the support of our Social Services Team in working toward their goals.

Our data show that the more frequently a member uses basic services in our facility, the more likely they are to meet with a Social Services Team member.

Impact Insight: What Your Gift Made Possible

- The Social Services Team met with 1,407 people working on their next steps in life. That's a 14% increase over last year.
- 142 people obtained their birth certificates or ID's, making it possible to apply for jobs, find housing, and more.
- Social Service Team members held more than 76 one-to-one meetings with members each week, an increase of more than 43% from the previous year.

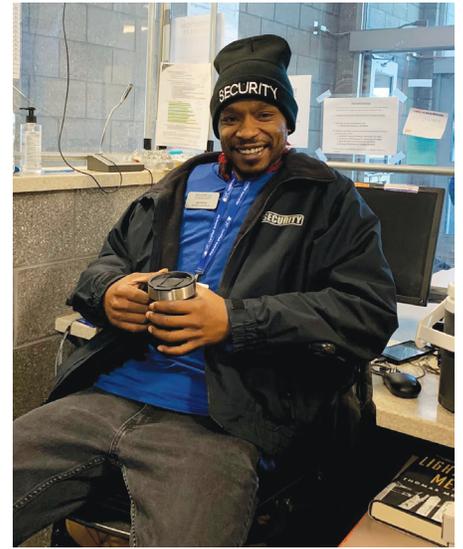
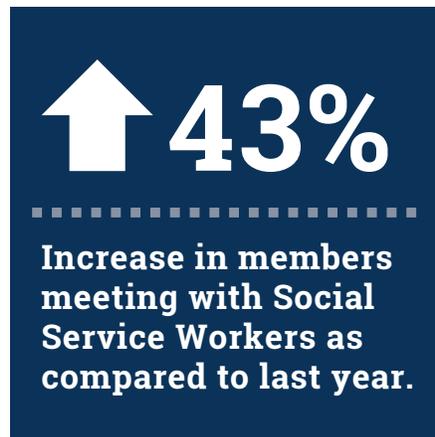
Restoring, Repairing, Transforming

Restorative Justice

One of the most exciting changes in 2023 was the addition of the Restorative Justice Program. Thanks to a grant from the Colef Fund and support from other foundations and individuals like you, we were able to hire Steph Guyor as our Restorative Justice Coordinator. A recent K College graduate, Steph rolled out the program she created for Ministry with Community in July.

Now, when a member breaks one of our community expectations, they can restore their access to services sooner by working with Steph to make amends for their actions, work through what caused the incident, and heal so they can transform their life and relationships.

**"This will give people the opportunity to not be defined by a single action."
— Steph Guyor, Restorative Justice Coordinator.**



Joe, Security Coordinator, at the Welcome Desk.

The Work Continues With Your Support

A quick and agile response to rising need, the safety net we provide, the dignifying services we offer, the goals reached, and the transformations are made possible by our supporters.

Join our work and support our community members:



Follow us on Facebook to keep up with news, events, and more at MwC.



A Note About Community Needs

We are often asked if people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and other results of systemic inequity come to Kalamazoo because of our services and those of other local organizations. In past surveys of those we serve, we have found the number of people from outside of our town or state to be few.

There is and has been a need for our services among longtime Kalamazoo residents.

- The latest ALICE Report (which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed households) from The Michigan Association of United Ways found that 40% of households in the state are financially insecure.
- In Kalamazoo alone, 56% of households are financially insecure.
- Loaves & Fishes of Kalamazoo reports in a recent newsletter that 26% of those using their services are employed full-time.

Anyone who comes to Ministry with Community is welcome to receive services regardless of where they are from or how long they have been in Kalamazoo, but most of the people we serve live, work, and are from our community.



Thank You For Your Support of Underwear Party Week!

We would like to thank our sponsors, supporters, and community for showing up for our

members during Underwear Party Week 2023!

For weeks leading up to the event, packages of wish list items arrived in the mail. During event week, our doorbell rang and we were thrilled to see both new and familiar faces delivering warm clothing. When we were concerned about running low on a few items, our supporters made sure we had what we needed.

Thanks to everyone who participated for making it another successful event! We are so grateful for your support.



The drop-off door for the event.



We received more gloves this year than ever before!



Gift bags organized by size and ready to go.

In Memory Of:

Dennis Bacon
Barbara Albanese
Joe Effrice Barbee
Chiquita Elmore-Barbee
Jennette Tarver
Joyce Beebe
Mark and Jane Bainbridge
R. Bruce Binns
Margaret Binns
Mary C. Brown
Donald Brown
Carol and Harry Madison
Charles S. Buchtrup
The Buchtrup Family
Philip Carey
Joan Carey
Carolyn Chormann
Richard Chormann
Charles Christianson
Sue Kovats-Bell
Martha Irons
Wade and Kim Lawrence
Diane M. Snyder
Patricia Coleman
Elizabeth Roelofs
Melody Couch
Linda Stieve and Dan Coyne
Dave Cretsinger
Nancy and Robert Cretsinger
Marshall Draper
Joyce Draper
Joe Engemann
Nancy Engemann
Mary Ellen Fischer
David Fischer
Barbara Frisbie
Roger Hinshaw
Sylvia, Eileen, and Catherine Gelder
Mary E. Hoag
Mike Gray
Barbara Albanese
Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Leroy Green
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Harriet Hagadone
John and Joan Schultz
Gitti Huff
Norma Dearborn
Don and Sharon Schmidt
Mort Judd
Dick and Jane Easton
Chad King
Demmen and Brenda Deyoung
Sara and Thomas Drenth
Gail Dudek
David Huizinga
Susan King
Gary and Janet La Pine
Pamela Rhodes
Susan and Randal Rhodes
Connie and Daniel Schlukebir
Sandra and Charles Stephens
Debra and Kenneth Tuinier
Patricia Weatherwax
Laura King
Anonymous
Dr. Michael Kudlas
John Hoek and Mary Meagher
Gretchen LaReau
Allan and Rita LaReau

Aubrey Lipsey
John and Gloria Beatty
Paul Locey
Michael and Sherry Kerney
Linda McCall
Kevin McCall
Martha "Marty" Meininger
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason
Donald Nakken
Gregory Nakken
Jackie Nemedi
Ron Nemedi
Nancy Owen
Thomas Owen
Duane Peekstok
Laurel E. Hazel
William "Bill" K. B. Potts III
Joann S. Brown
Mary Carlson
Dr. and Mrs. H. Scott Gregory
Nat and Jean Harris
Eliza Kirkpatrick
Frances Potts
Warren Reilly Jr.
Bernard and Helen Rodee
Dr. Claude and Carolyn Warren
Jon Robinson
Mary E. Hoag
John Shane
The Buchtrup Family
Kathleen Simpson
Doris Scheffel Symonds
A. W. Sinha
Elizabeth Roelofs
Gary Smith
Mary E. Hoag
Barbara Somers
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason
Josephine Steger
Angela Jackson
Danny Thompson
Edward J. Pawlak
Sheila Ware
Marguerite LaPine
Faith Joy Werdin
Nathan Drummond
Florence and Barney Westra
Karl Westra and Kristine Pioch
Leonard and Richard Wilcox
Michaelyn Page
Evelyne Bundrant Wills
Linda Wills Comer
Donald and Ruth Wisser
Judy and Jeffrey Smith

In Honor Of:

Cody Allkins Jeannot
Janis Frizzo and Patrick Allkins
Dr. Susan Caulfield
Sharon and Evan Kokales
Harold L. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
John Hart
Rathco Safety Supply
Prudence McCabe
Cindy Semark
Ministry with Community
Anonymous
Patricia and Michael Moon
Andrea M. Trautman

P.E.O. Chapter EZ
Andrea M. Trautman
Phoenix Community Church
Anonymous
Todd Price
Nancy Goldsmith
Nancy and Jen Richardson
David and Rosemary Gardiner
Margarita and Mike Szyperski
Lenore J. Lorion
Wilma Tays
Phyllis and Andrew Jackson
Nancy Zielke
Lenore J. Lorion

In Celebration Of:

Linda Dunn's 75th Birthday
Linda and George Dunn
Linda Mayer's Birthday
David Mayer
John Rohs' 80th Birthday
R. Thomas and Linda Powell

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received August 26, 2023 through December 1, 2023.

Memorials and Honorees received after December 1, 2023 will appear in the next newsletter.

To correct any errors, please contact our Andrea Tramel, Development Director, at 269.343.6073 x131 or at development@ministrywithcommunity.org.

Sponsored Meals

August 31: Breakfast & Lunch: Maggie Ebrite

September 3: Breakfast & Lunch: Lynn and Mike Wathen in celebration of Ann Kilkuskie's special birthday.

September 4: Breakfast & Lunch: Prudence McCabe in honor of MwC's amazing kitchen staff!

September 21: Breakfast & Lunch: Ann and Mark Austin in memory of her father, John Galopin.

September 24: Shawn Lewis-Lakin in honor of Sue Caulfield.

October 10: Breakfast & Lunch: Richard Chormann in memory of Carolyn Chormann.

October 16: Breakfast & Lunch: Southern Heights Church

October 19: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Portage

October 27: Breakfast & Lunch: Lutheran Church of the Savior

November 2: Mary Powell

November 10: Breakfast & Lunch: MerriKay Oleen-Burkey in memory of her husband Jeff Burkey and to honor all Veterans.

November 30: Breakfast & Lunch: Linda C. Dunn's 75th birthday.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Sponsored Meal program!

If you're looking for a way to thank someone, celebrate a milestone, or remember a loved one, consider sponsoring a meal at Ministry with Community.

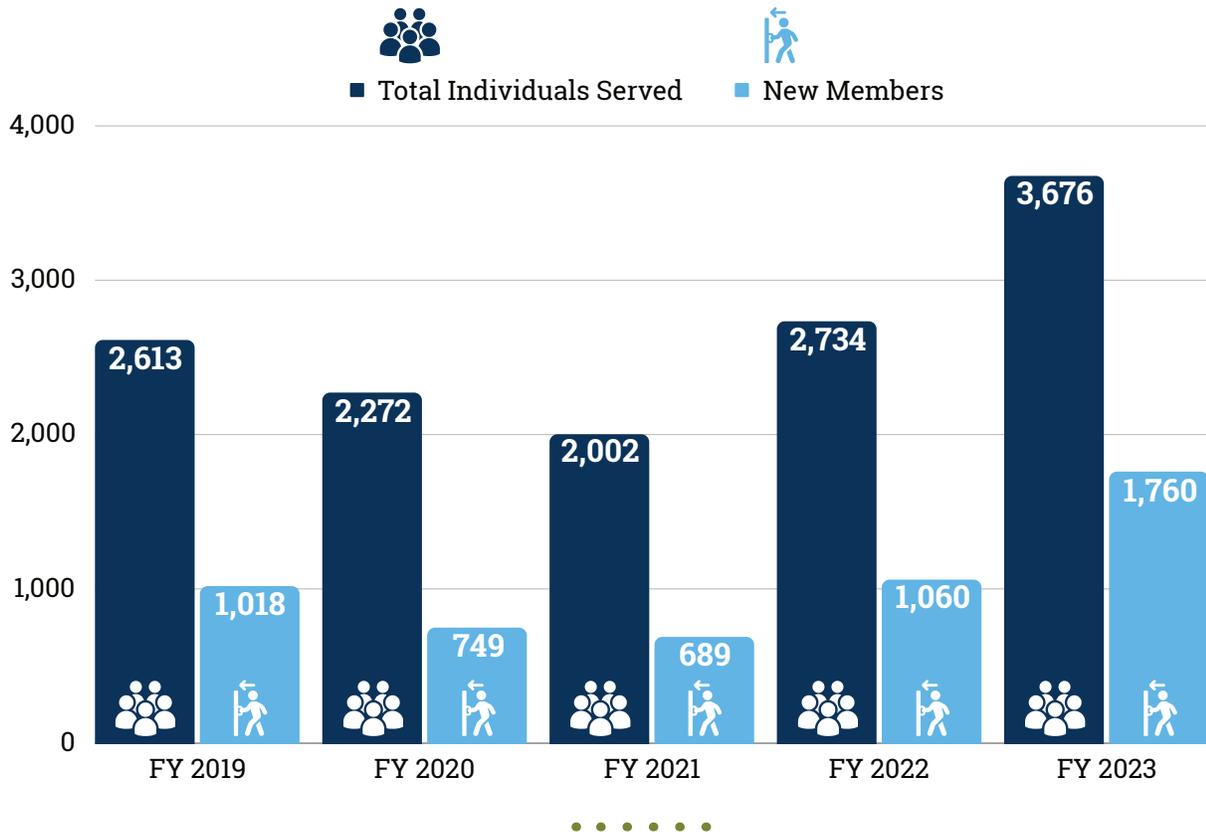
Please contact Andrea Tramel, our Development Director, at 269.343.6073 x131 or via email at development@ministrywithcommunity.org for pricing and information on sponsored meals.



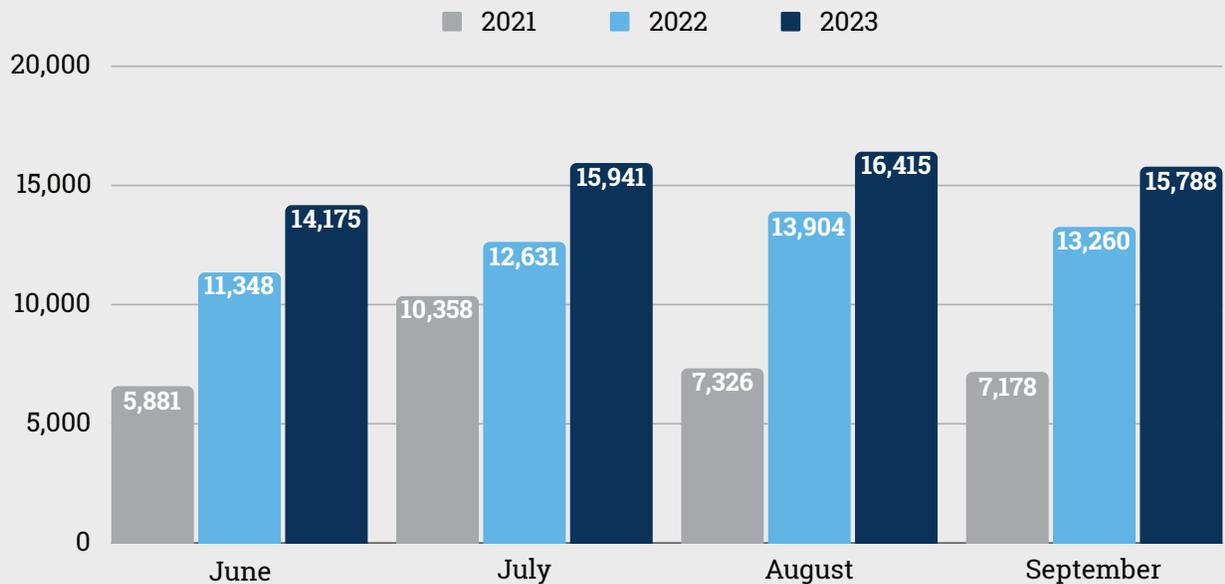
Impact Insight: What Your Gift Made Possible

With needs rising significantly, your support made it possible for us to respond quickly and efficiently.

Number of Individuals Served Annually: 2019 - 2023



Number of Meals Served Onsite Monthly: June - September 2021 - 2023



WISH LIST

Hand Warmers
Backpacks (new or gently used)
Winter Boots in Adult Sizes (new or gently used)

Duffel Bags (new or gently used)
Wheeled Luggage (new or gently used)
Rain Ponchos

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DAILY FROM 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. AT THE BACK DOOR NEXT TO OUR LOADING DOCK. PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL AND A STAFF MEMBER WILL ASSIST YOU. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS UNATTENDED.

Check out our wish list at ministrywithcommunity.org/wishlist.



Have we made any mistakes in our database?

Please let us know if:

- You have moved or are planning to move
- You have a seasonal address you'd like us to use
- The name(s) on your newsletter need an update
- We are sending duplicates of any mailings
- You would like to be removed from our mailing list

Contact our Development Director, Andrea Tramel, at 269.343.6073 x131 or at development@ministrywithcommunity.org to have your record updated or corrected. Thank you for helping us maintain a correct and efficient database!

We will never sell, rent, or share your personal information.

Ministry with Community
500 N. Edwards St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3600

Phone: 269.343.6073
www.ministrywithcommunity.org

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