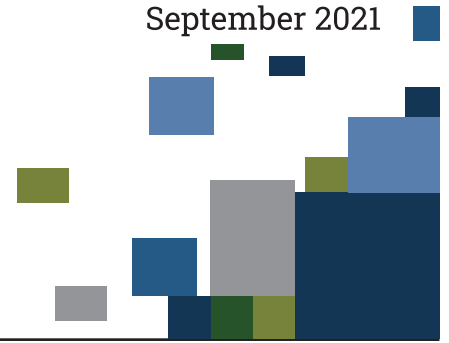


MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

September 2021



Five Years in Our New Home

At 6:30am on September 15, 2016, every staff member at Ministry with Community stood in the Commons Area of our brand-new facility at 500 North Edwards Street. Full of excitement and anticipation, we unlocked the doors and welcomed our members in for the first time. As the space filled, there were smiles, cheers, fists raised in joy, hugs, and high fives. In that moment, the hard work that went into fundraising, designing, and constructing the new building was all worth it.



Members entering the building for the first time on opening day, September 15, 2016.

It's hard to believe, but that joyful moment was five years ago. In the time since, we have grown a thriving garden where we have harvested more than 2,000 pounds of fresh produce for our kitchen. Members have washed 92,776 loads of laundry in our 6 washers and dryers. 67,789 showers have been taken in our spacious and accessible private shower stalls.

An abundance of natural light has poured in through our many windows. Extra office spaces have been utilized by numerous outreach organizations to meet with members onsite. The loading dock and staging area have allowed us to safely receive large donations and keep meal costs reasonable, and so much more.

The list of advantages offered by the new space are endless, but a few features have proven to be essential in ways we never planned for.

“I don't know how we would have navigated the pandemic in our old building.”

**– Kelly Henderson,
Executive Director**

“I don't know how we would have navigated the pandemic in our old building,” says Kelly Henderson, Executive Director. “The layout and space in our current facility have afforded so many efficiencies and safety options.”

When physical distancing became a must in March 2020, the extra 9,800 square feet of space we now have meant that more people could be indoors, safely using our services. The Welcome Desk, a booth positioned directly in front of the entrance where volunteers would greet and assist members,

became the perfect spot for our Security Team to do temperature checks and hand out clean masks to all who came through our doors. Even our HVAC system contributed to our safety with its ability to bring in more fresh, outdoor air and allow for special filters that trap the virus and other airborne particles. This building was a major factor in our ability to remain open and serving our community during the pandemic.

While we wouldn't trade a moment in our beautiful new home for anything, we haven't forgotten our old facility or the incredible impact it had on so many lives.

“All of my memories of the old building are good,” says Gwen Lanier, Recovery Support Specialist. “That's where I got to step back into the real world and rebuild my life.”



Moses, Safety & Security (R) poses with a member in front of our building last Spring.

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

Gwen started out washing dishes in our kitchen in 1992. “I kept working my way up to new positions and they helped me get my GED. Now, here I am, helping others rebuild their lives. It’s really a privilege.”

Though her memories of the old building are good, Gwen emphasizes that our new facility is much better suited for serving our members. “Because we have more space here, we can offer more programs and really personalize the type of outreach we provide. There is also much more privacy in the Social Work wing and that is key to helping people, especially those seeking recovery from substance use.”

Gwen also notes that the atmosphere in our current space is a major improvement. “There is music playing over the speakers and plenty of sunshine coming in through the windows. It’s much more open and welcoming. And after more than 20 years, I finally have a window in my office,” she says with a laugh.



Gwen Lanier, Recovery Support Specialist, enjoying her office in 2017.

Words cannot accurately express how grateful we are, especially now, to do the work we do in such a truly perfect space. So many people in our community made it possible, and

so many people in our community need our services.

To ensure that we preserve this incredible space, we have a full-time Facilities Coordinator. Phil Behrens came to us with decades of valuable experience and keeps things running smoothly, from mechanical issues to paint touch-ups to landscaping.



Phil Behrens, Facilities Coordinator, poses with one of the special filters that our HVAC system uses to trap viruses and other airborne particles.

We also have a Building Maintenance Fund. This endowment was created by generous donors so we shouldn’t have to face the difficulties we did in our former location as our facility ages. We haven’t gotten used to how beautiful our new home is, and we plan to keep it that way.

If you gave to our last Capital Campaign, donated to our Building Maintenance Fund, or have supported us in any way since, we thank you. We are able to do what we do because of you.



FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE NUMBERS 2016 - 2021

The following service numbers were taken from September 2016 through August 2021.



677,213

meals have been served.



67,789

showers have been taken.



92,776

loads of laundry have been washed.



6,416

individuals have used our services at least once.

Be sure to follow along on Facebook and Twitter this month as we share photos and memorable moments from the last five years!

 [facebook.com/KzooMwC](https://www.facebook.com/KzooMwC)

 [@KzooMwC](https://twitter.com/KzooMwC)

In Memory Of:

Robert Abramowitz
Vivian Abramowitz
Robert Addux
Kay C. Vermeulen
Tim Allred
Michael and Sherry Kerney
Jane Baley
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Joe Effrice Barbee
Chiquita Elmore-Barbee
Bill Barnes
Maureen Metty
Audrey Beck
Gene and Jean Miller
Joyce Beebe
Mark and Jane Bainbridge
Mary Lou Bellanger
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Breezy Brown
Barbara Albanese
Janet Louise Buchtrup
Charles and Kathy Buchtrup
John Burkhardt
Kaye Bennett
Barbara M. Chmiel
David and Shelley Chmiel
Patricia Coleman
Elizabeth Roelofs
Eleanor May Cooley
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Bertha Louise Davis
Jennifer S. Naylor
Jerry Diment
Nancy M. Diment
Tie and Harriet Easton
Dick and Jane Easton
Evan Ebling
Lois E. Ellis
Bruce J. Ellis
Judson and Marie McKinley
Eric Gilbert
Don and Sharon Schmidt
Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
John Guema
Mary J. Guema
H. Sidney Heersma, MD
William J. Venema
Peggy Hegel
Kaye Bennett
Teresa Crawford
Ann and Gary Fergemann
Carol L. Hodges
Claire Micklin
Connie and Phil Micklin
Linda and Joseph Mills
Robert and Jenny Snyder
William J. Venema
Bob and Peggy Hegel
Alven and Helen Neff
Leon J. Hikade
Bob and Mary Page
Robert Jongeward, MD
A. Gregory and Mary Ann Laurell
Ken and Betty Judd
Dick and Jane Easton
Thomas Kasdorf
Roger and Kristy Lepley
Richard King
Greg and Melissa Locke
Launa J. Rogers
Larry Kozminske
Gary and Michele Kozminske
Nellie Kroeze
Richard and Elen Fox
Dr. Michael Kudlas
John Hoek and Mary Meagher

Lyle LaPine
James and Sally Gunderson
Latella
Mary E. Livingston
Ted Little
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Brian Lucas
Amy and Dennis VanDalen
James M. Manley
George and Gladys Manley
Dorothy Markusse
Wayne M. Conner
David and Dorothy Markusse
Robert and Mary Poel
Jackie Martinez
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Linda Mason
Paul and Christine Simon
Marilyn McKinley
Nancy Draayer
Greg Melvin
Joan B. and Gary A. Melvin
Thomas Michelhaugh
Ruth Michelhaugh
Robert Miles
Alice and Michael Kemerling
Margaret Mary Mosher
Rosellen McAlear
Jack Nyhof
Colleen Crabiell
Lana Olney
Barbara Albanese
John Oosterbaan
Mary E. Livingston
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Nathaniel Pollard
Bev and Alton Pollard
Douglas Rapp
Judy Rapp
Phyllis Rappeport
Paula and Franklin Presler
Jack Raseman
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Eric "Rick" Rodbard
Sue and David Goldenberg
Myral and Jerry Robbins
Sally Root
Temple B'Nai Israel
Cassy Ronk
Dinah Eisenberg
Pat Rooney
Fran Rooney
Ken Sarkozy
Martha R. Cohen
Roger and Kristy Lepley
Irma Shull
Sheila R. Goole
Mary and Ed Vander Kooy
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Marcia Sizer
Jack Sizer
Frank Somers
Barbara Somers
Devere G. Tays
Wilma Tays
Glenn Terborg
Anonymous
Winship Todd
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Jean Tolin
Kay Perry
Jack Tuitt
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Dale E. Van Antwerp
Leona Van Antwerp
William Van Meter
Elizabeth Roelofs
Eleanor VanStreain
M. Low

Joyce Vliet
Ted Vliet
Florence, Barney, and John Westra
Karl Westra
Amelia Wilhelm
Layla Jabboori
George and Leona Yoder
Robert and Judy Moskalik

In Honor Of:

Nancy Acker
Don and Ellen Frisinger
Phil Boothroyd
Marilyn Vineyard
Karen E. Brooks
Kay Chapman
Ryan T. Chase
Lenore J. Lorion
Dr. Susan Caulfield
Ronald and Jane Kramer
Joli A. Fytzyk
Lenore J. Lorion
Marlin Gerber
Bernard and Helen Rodee
Heidi and Tim Gergely
Margaret Guthaus
Bill and Deb Hughes
Patricia and Leonard Wilcox
Rev. Mark and Erin Jennings
Joan E. Willemstyn
Don Jones
Marilyn Vineyard
Janet Karpus
Katherine Houston
Kitchen Staff
Prudence McCabe
Madeline Knapp
Edmond and Mary Buczkowski
Knights of Columbus Council 1616
Ruth and Dan Barrett
Loved ones past and present
Mary A. Smyser
MwC staff, volunteers, and members
David and Joan Wendling
Donna Odom
Joe and Rosalie Novara
Laura Perron
Prudence McCabe
The Shurtz, Sanderson, and Quinones Families
Anonymous
Joellen Silberman
Lisa Silberman
Tuesday Volunteer Group
Anne May
Leona Van Antwerp
Dick and Carol Van Antwerp
Volunteers
Ethlynn Dewitt

In Celebration Of:

Stephen Allen's Birthday
Stephen Allen and
Andrea Trautman
The Marriage of Esther and Mark Geib
Betty Anne Geib
Arnold F. Hentschl, DVM
Matthew and Mary
Hentschl-Early
John and Liz Rohs' 50th Wedding Anniversary
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Dave and Jan Snyder's Anniversary
Cindy Bushouse

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received March 10, 2021 through August 3, 2021.

Memorials and Honorees received after August 3, 2021 will appear in the next newsletter.

To correct any errors, please contact Laura Perron at 269.343.6073 x132 or at office@ministrywithcommunity.org.



**"I'm thankful for
Ministry with
Community. They are
a great organization
that has been helping
me through my state
of homelessness.
Without the services
of MwC I'm not sure
where I would be. "**
— D., Member



**"This is a great place
for help when life
deals you peril."**
— L., Member





Sponsored Meals Ministry with Community

March 10: Breakfast & Lunch: Third Christian Reformed Church

March 18: Kellogg Community Credit Union

March 23: Breakfast & Lunch: In celebration of Ellyn Davidson's 50th Birthday

April 7: Breakfast & Lunch: The Frostic School of Art Faculty at WMU

April 10: Society of Muslim Women

April 11: In memory of Chuck Corella

April 12: Kellogg Community Credit Union

April 17: Kalamazoo Italian American Club

April 19: Breakfast & Lunch: The Notre Dame Club of Kalamazoo

April 27: A friendly community neighbor whose birthday wish is to offer lunch today

May 1: Kalamazoo Italian American Club

May 3: Breakfast & Lunch: People's Church Kalamazoo, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chalice Circle Ministry

May 8: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Everett Dill

May 9: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Rick Rodbard by his fellow Temple B'Nai Israel Volunteers

May 10: Kellogg Community Credit Union

May 17: Mary Smyser for loved ones past and present

May 19: Breakfast & Lunch: Prudence McCabe in honor of the Kitchen Staff

May 22: Breakfast & Lunch: John and Carol Vail

May 24: Breakfast & Lunch: In celebration of Sue Caulfield's birthday

May 26: Breakfast & Lunch: Joan and Dave Wendling

May 29: Grant Fletcher

June 1: Breakfast & Lunch: Paul Smithson

June 3: Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of the Shurtz, Sanderson, and Quinones families

June 12: Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Dr. Chris & Mary Lou Rohwer, from the Men's Breakfast Group at Westminster Presbyterian Church

June 13: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Rick Rodbard by his fellow Temple B'Nai Israel volunteers

June 17: Breakfast & Lunch: John Mason in memory of Linda Mason

June 19: David and Janet Scarrow

June 21: Breakfast & Lunch: Mary Stack

June 23: Breakfast & Lunch: In celebration of Dick and Jean Schmitt's wedding anniversary from their kids, grandkids, and great grandkids

June 24: Breakfast & Lunch: Paul Smithson

June 26: Breakfast & Lunch: Cody Allkins and Brandon Jeannot in celebration of their birthdays

June 27: Brian Colopy

June 29: Eileen and Richard Phillips

July 7: In celebration of Bill and Alma McCarty, celebrating their 80th birthdays, from their loving children

July 8: Breakfast & Lunch: George and Linda Dunn in celebration of Amy Anderson's birthday

July 22: Breakfast & Lunch: Paul Smithson

Correction: We omitted the following sponsored meal in our April 2021 Newsletter. Ken Tindall and Beth DeWaters sponsored breakfast and lunch on December 24, 2020. We are grateful for their support!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Sponsor-a-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.

A gift of \$350 provides a 3 course meal for 300 people. A gift of \$500 provides both breakfast and lunch for 300 people.

On the day your meal is served you and your honoree will be recognized on Facebook, Twitter, and by mail.

Please contact Matt Claus, Development Director, at 269.343.6073 x131 or via email at development@ministrywithcommunity.org to sponsor a meal!



Our Summer 2021 Garden

One of the best spaces at our current facility is our beautiful garden. This summer marks our fourth year of growing our own vegetables to supply the kitchen with fresh produce.

Each year, this space has been maintained mostly by members and volunteers, with the oversight of staff, including Sarah Cain, Social Worker and Garden Lead. This year, we were grateful to a group of Kalamazoo College students for growing all of our vegetable plants from seed and prepping and planting all of them for us!

Check out a few of our favorite photos from this Summer's garden below. And if you're hungry for more, follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.



A Kalamazoo College student plants one of the seedlings their volunteer group grew for us.



Fall Bike Celebration and Multi-Charity Bikeathon

On Saturday, September 18, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo is holding their first-ever Multi-Charity Bikeathon, and Ministry with Community is one of their chosen organizations!

Information and a link to registration can be found on our blog at ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcblog.

Love dignity?

Love hope?

Love food?

Love community?

Love rebuilding lives?

Leave a legacy of what you love.

Leave your legacy at Ministry with Community.

Your Legacy at Ministry with Community

Your gift today is a legacy that will live on in another's journey. You can also establish a different kind of legacy by including Ministry with Community in your will or estate.

Planned gifts may include:

- Wills and bequests
- Life insurance
- Gifts of securities
- Retirement assets and other giving options

To discuss how to leave your legacy at Ministry with Community, contact us at development@ministrywithcommunity.org or 269.343.6073 x131.

677,213

Meals have been served in the five years we've been in our new building!

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



facebook.com/KzooMwC



[@KzooMwC](https://twitter.com/KzooMwC)

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 Matt Claus 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.

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United Way of the
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Kalamazoo Region
changethestory.org