

MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

December 2021

A Year of Successes and Challenges

As we wrap up 2021, we find ourselves reflecting on the unique year we've had. The pandemic is no longer new, but it is still presenting new challenges. Below is a look at some of those challenges and a few of our successes this year.

Staff Stepping Up

Hiring is difficult everywhere, and we too are experiencing a lack of applications for open positions. As we try to fill gaps, many staff members have stepped up to cross-train and serve in other areas. Greg Thompson, our Service Desk Lead, oversees the daily functions of the desk and supports staff there. On days when we need additional security presence, he assists the Member Safety Team with checking members in at our Welcome Desk, keeping things running smoothly during meals, and helping wherever else he can.



Greg Thompson, Service Desk Lead, in his office.

"I enjoy it," says Greg. "It's good to know some of the other jobs, just in case it's ever needed. We have fewer links in the chain, but those links are stronger now."

Healthcare for People and Pets

Healthcare is important anytime, but especially during a pandemic. Throughout the year, we've worked with Family Health Center and Ascension Borgess to provide on-site COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to our members. Students from WMed have held health clinics in our classrooms so members can ask questions, have their blood pressure checked, and receive help navigating follow-up care.

In October, the Kalamazoo Humane Society held a pet clinic in our parking lot. Members were able to get their beloved animals vaccinated, microchipped, and signed up for the free spay and neuter program. Bags of food and treats were also given out to four-legged friends that day.

Both people and pets need coats to stay healthy and warm. While we provide coats for our members each year, we are grateful to have coats for their pets this year, too. Thanks to a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the help of Bark's 5th Avenue, we now

have an assortment of dog coats to keep everyone safe in the cold months ahead.



The Humane Society pet clinic was held in our parking lot in October. 16 dogs received care that day.

Unhoused and Experiencing COVID

Some of our unhoused members have found themselves with a positive COVID diagnosis and nowhere to safely quarantine. Thanks to funding and assistance from United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region and Continuum of Care, our Social Worker, Sarah Cain, is helping to place individuals and families in hotel rooms so they can rest and recover without exposing others to the virus.

When someone tests positive in Kalamazoo County and they don't have a home to go to, a Social Worker or Nurse from one of the local hospitals will contact Sarah. From there she coordinates safe transportation to a nearby hotel that is willing to assist. Sarah makes sure that the individual or family has meals for that day and everything

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

they need until a team member from Integrated Services of Kalamazoo steps in to ensure that the patient's needs are met throughout the rest of their stay.

“When someone finds out that they will have a place to stay while they recover, there is a huge sense of relief,” says Sarah. “One man broke down crying over the phone to me and said, ‘Are you serious? Thank you! This is the answer to my prayers!’ I don’t need to be thanked, but it’s nice.”

Underwear Party Week 2021

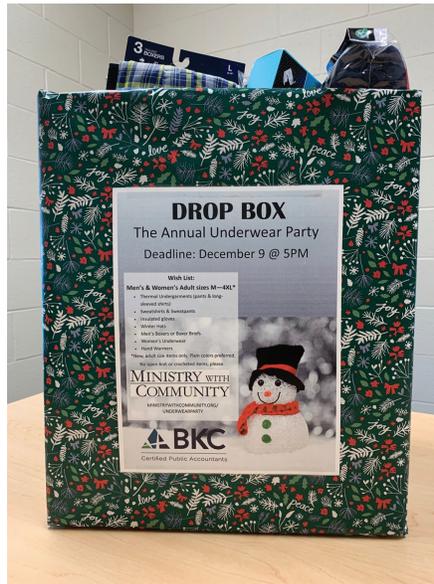
Underwear Party Week was a success! Thanks to our incredible sponsors and donors, we raised over \$35,000 and gathered thousands of warm clothing items to give to our members on Christmas Day.



Our back door decorated for Underwear Party Week.

In the weeks leading up to Underwear Party Week, we saw packages arrive in the mail daily, full of wish list items. When it was event week, our doorbell rang, and more gifts flooded in. Some got their entire neighborhoods involved in collecting donations. Others searched sale racks at local stores. A few gathered items from guests at their Thanksgiving celebrations weeks before. It was inspiring to see.

On Christmas Day, as our members get their meals, they will also receive a reusable drawstring bag filled with new, warm clothes. If you supported this year's event, that moment is thanks to you.



A donation from Brink, Key, & Chludzinski who also supported the event as a Winter Wish List Partner.



Dog coats, leashes, and collars thanks to a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and help from Bark's 5th Avenue.

Thank You

We will always face challenges, but with support from community members like you, we are better able to successfully navigate them. Thank you for helping to see us through another year.



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



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



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

Samuel's Blankets Keep Community Warm

For seven years now, we have received an annual donation of new, warm blankets thanks to Samuel's Blankets for the Homeless.

Samuel, an incredible and kind young man, saw a need in our community and decided to fill it.

Each year, he spends months gathering blankets from generous donors before organizing them and delivering them to several area agencies serving our unhoused neighbors in Kalamazoo.

A big thanks to Samuel for the blankets and for his compassion for others!



Samuel and his mother pose with a recent donation of blankets.



A close-up of the very warm and soft blankets we received from Samuel this year.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

FY 2021: OCTOBER 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

2,002

Individuals accessed at least 1 service at MwC. This number does not include those that only came for a meal or a place to rest.



689

Of those 2,002 individuals accessing our services were **coming to MwC for the first time**.



1,049

Members used MwC as their mailing address. That's approximately **52% of the people we served last year**, which underscores the impact of housing insecurity on their lives.



2,789

Meetings took place between members and Social Workers or our Peer Support Specialist to make progress on housing, substance use recovery, employment and more.



96,621

Meals served.



13,966

Loads of laundry washed.



10,783

Private showers taken.



6,546

People have used at least one of our services in the last five years.

In Memory Of:

Robert P. Amrhein

Anonymous
Joe Effrice Barbee
Jennette Tarver
Phil and Bill Barnes
Kate Barnes
Joyce Beebe
Mark and Jane Bainbridge
Laurel E. Hazel
Bruce Binns
Bob and Jan DeShazo
Carol L. Hodges
Marsha McKenzie
Mark and Donna Oudersluys
Ellen and Bradford Portis
Sharon Boudeman
Thomas and Melissa Gauntlett
Janet Buchtrup
Gail K. Hummell
Margaret N. Buehler
Mason and Victoria Coleman
Violet Charkowski
Margaret Mosby
Barbara M. Chmiel
John Chmiel
Janet Christianson
Carol Christianson
Dean Clark
Verda Clark
Jim and Dee Davidson
Kent and Deborah Fisher
William A. Decker
Greta Decker
Gerald Diment
Nancy M. Diment
Evan Ebling
Moyra Ebling
Lois E. Ellis
Mary Etter
Robert and Candis Warner
Lou Farraye
Barbara Farraye
Lawrence Field
Lenore J. Lorion
John Galopin
Mark and Ann Austin
Virginia Green
Jim and Vicki Martin
James Greene
James and Mary Grace
Harold L.J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Kyle Goidosik
Susan L. Larner
James Gunderson
Peggy LaPine
Bob and Peggy Hegel
Anonymous
Robert Hegel
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Richard King
Julie and Tom Wheat
Camilla Klinesteker
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Bob Knight
John and Mary Whyte
Robert and Charlotte Koestner
Thomas Swiat and Priscilla Cronley-Swiat

Thomas A. Kozminske
Patricia Kozminske
Fran Kremlick
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Tim Lagerberg
Alan and Dorothy Lagerberg
Natalie Lagoni
Bill and Joyce Truscott
George B. Mackey
Marie N. Mackey
Marilyn McKinley
Valerie L. Wynne
Thomas Michelhaugh
Ruth Michelhaugh
Devlin Miller
Barbara and Mark Pearson
Jackie Nemedi
Ron Nemedi
Albin, Esther, and Diana Obed
Pamela and Martin Obed
Douglas T. and Robert T. Rapp
Judy Rapp
William C. Richardson
Alice and Michael Kemerling
Barbara Sechler
Robert and Barbara Felkel
Paul and Patricia Fitton
Leslie Greene
Evelyn R Hamilton
Joyce and John Petro
Patti Shirley
Anonymous
William Shannon
Frank and Margaret Erich
Charles Skuza
Linda and Terry Johncock
Kyle Sloan
Suzanne Sloan
Mary Smyser
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Joan Split
Sue Split
Bob and Sandy Slutz
David and Stephanie Slutz
Ruth Stoeffler
Charles and Kathy Buchtrup
Thomas and Jetta Swiat
Thomas Swiat and Priscilla Cronley-Swiat
Mary Lou Todd
M. Gayle Stephenson
Joyce Vliek
Ted Vliek
David S. Warner
Beverly Warner
Faith Joy Werdin
Nathan Drummond
Florence, Barney, and John Westra
Karl Westra and Kristine Ploch
Steven Weurding
Deborah Weurding
Sherry Yeats
William and Martie Schinzer

In Honor Of:

Agnes Bennink
Penny and Philip Bennink
Kristi Blythe
Shirley Palmer
Sarah Cain
Nancy and Robert Cretsinger

Ellen and Tom Chase

Lenore J. Lorion
John Chmiel
William and Mary Denise Clegg
Tim Collins
George Hubka
Ron and Nancy Crowell
Rita J. Stevens
Ethlynn Dewitt
Pam Fenno
Jim and Sharon Froom
Beverly J. Schmitt
Nancy Hamilton
Eldon and Carol Hamilton
Kelly Henderson
Gregory and Ann Feldmeier
Patti Huiskamp
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason
Brian Jacobs
Trudi Giffin
Don Jones
John and Debbie Mellein
Janet Karpus
Margaret Bayless and Frederick Hall
Katherine Houston
Alice Kemerling
D. Terry and Sharon Williams
Prudence McCabe
Arthur Roberts and Betty Lujan-Roberts
Midwest Collision Center
David and Linda Mayer
Nancy Stroupe
Robin Davis-McNabb
Stryker Medical
Quality Tool and Stamping
Louise and Chip Tayloe
Kaye Tayloe Collins
Thommen Family
Ricky and Jane Gerteisen
Ron VanMeter
Megan Gernaat
Jackie Wylie
Marlin Gerber
Charles and Lynn Zhang
Patrick O'Hara and Nancy Groenewold

In Celebration Of:

Allen Buhl's Birthday
Brian Vollmer-Buhl
Marlena Kirton's Birthday
Dennis and Pamela Hjelmquist
Amy McClain's Birthday
Karen E. McPhail
Kay Vermeulen's Birthday
Joan Havenga

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received August 4, 2021 through November 27, 2021.

Memorials and Honorees received after November 27, 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.

“Very nice staff answered all my questions about amenities that are offered. Very clean. I felt very safe. Highly recommend to anyone struggling. Showers, laundry, phones, food. Very nice.”
— K., Member



“I’m happy that they took the time to help me find a place. I know sometimes it takes some time but I wanna thank Ministry with Community for everything.”
— H., Member



Sponsored Meals
Ministry with Community

August 9: In celebration of Millie Karnemaat's 90th birthday from her whole loving family

August 13: Mary Meagher in memory of Dr. Michael Kudlas

August 14: Breakfast & Lunch: Chris and Dick Thomas in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

August 16: Breakfast & Lunch: Paul Smithson

August 21: Society of Muslim Women

August 31: Gayle Stephenson in memory of Mary Lou Todd

September 8: Breakfast & Lunch: Family Health Center in celebration of their 50 years of providing the best healthcare to the best community

September 12: Lutheran Church of the Savior

September 20: Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Dick Schmitt's birthday from his kids, grandkids, and great grandkids

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

September 30: Breakfast & Lunch: Sharon Schmidt in honor of Don Schmidt's birthday

October 7: Breakfast & Lunch: Harry and Mary Kaye Bird

October 9: Breakfast & Lunch: The Congregation of the Gull Lake United Methodist Church

October 14: Breakfast & Lunch: Anne Jakubowski in memory of Jake Jakubowski

October 16: Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Ken Sarkozy

October 27: Breakfast & Lunch: Pam and Tim Loveland in memory of Shirley Guy Schau

October 29: Breakfast & Lunch: Maggie Ebrite

November 4: Robert and Judy Moskalik in memory of George and Leona Yoder

November 6: Breakfast & Lunch: Pam and Tim Loveland in honor of Eva Marie Loveland

November 8: Ted Vlieg in memory of Joyce Vlieg

November 10: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Jeff Burkey (whose birthday is today) and to thank military members for their service

November 11: Breakfast & Lunch: John Mason in memory of Linda Mason

November 13: Marie McKinley in celebration of Denny Yetter and Jane Hyche's wedding

November 14: In memory of David S. Warner on his birthday from his wife, Beverly Warner

November 15: Howard and Hildy Kerney

November 19: Idris, Hameed, and Labib Daranijoh in honor of their birthdays this month

November 22: In honor of Joan Melvin's 80th birthday from the Melvin Families

November 23: Sue Beadling in memory of Virginia Gilbertson Aschenbeck

November 25: Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Sean Micklin and Heather Richeson

December 1: Ken Tindall and Beth DeWaters in memory of their parents

Correction: We omitted the following sponsored meal in our September 2021 Newsletter. Robert and Judy Moskalik sponsored a meal in memory of George and Leona Yoder on May 27, 2021. 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!

