



"For where your treasure is,
there your **heart** will be also."

Matthew 6:22

Live the Dream of Providing Affordable Housing for ALL



Partnering Together in Mission for Kalamazoo

The Dream

What is our dream?



Our Dream is to assist a significant number of individuals along the path to affordable housing, as well as increase the number of transitional or affordable housing units in Kalamazoo. We also hope to work with three neighborhood associations and various non-profits to address identified neighborhood needs.

Why are we doing this?

As a church with a long history of reaching out in love and generosity, we feel called to make a difference in our community. As a faith community, we feel compelled to address the housing needs of our neighbors, adults and children, who for any number of reasons have no place to call home.



How will we do this?

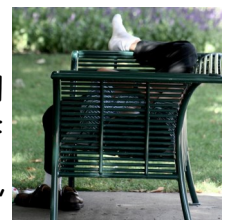


We will partner with several non-profits, the City of Kalamazoo and other organizations who share our dream and goals. The non-profits chosen have extensive experience in providing affordable housing in Kalamazoo. After a year of study and learning, we have chosen to work with and support those organizations that not only provide housing but also provide services that will increase the probability these individuals will be able to remain in the housing.

These organizations will also provide opportunities for individuals and groups to volunteer and become personally involved in their work.

When is the campaign?

First UMC has been involved in housing for over 30 years and the Dream will provide a new approach of collaboration and member involvement. The goal of the Dream is to provide funding for housing over a three to four-year period, 2019 - 2022.



What are our goals?



It is our goal to raise approximately \$1,031,000 to fund additional affordable housing and assist individuals in their journey to find suitable housing. We will work with our partners to provide at least ten housing units that over the next ten years will provide more than 100 individuals stable housing in our community. We will also work with the Eastside, Northside, and Vine neighborhoods in addressing the needs identified in their neighborhood improvement plans.



"Open Doors has been a blessing from God and a second chance at the life I truly wanted."



Open Doors

Open Doors has a 50-year history in Kalamazoo, and is a highly respected model for low-cost housing. Open Doors is in need of additional affordable housing units. Currently they operate 107 rental units and 2 shelters all of which provide support services to their residents.

It is our Dream to provide Open Doors with additional houses or a multi-unit building (or buildings) based on availability and the collaboration of funding.

A troubled past led Matt to Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (KPEP) and Drug Court. He was staying with a relative at the time but it was not a good environment for him to be in while struggling with addiction. He needed to find a safe place and supportive place to stay.

A friend of Matt's told him about the Open Door Shelter. At the Open Door, Matt was able to stay focused on staying sober, getting a job, and saving money. Through his journey at the shelter, he formed a relationship with Director, Stephanie Hoffman. She helped him get a second job cleaning the Open Door offices which helped him get back on his feet financially.

Matt is much happier about his life now. His 2 children are a part of his life again and visit him on the weekends at his new apartment. He has gotten his driver's license and a car, has been clean for 22 months, and is working towards getting his GED. He is on track to graduate in the next 6 months. He has also been promoted as a full-time member of the Open Door's facilities team!

When asked about what Open Doors has meant to him, Matt replied, "Open Doors is a positive place where people have helped me and others like me (who may be less fortunate) find affordable housing."



"Open Doors has been a real blessing in my life, I don't think I could be where I am today if it weren't for them. They have helped myself and my family through a difficult time." -Nathan



**For more information regarding
Open Doors**

<https://www.opendoorskalamazoo.org>

Phone: 269.343.6064

Habitat For Humanity



Habitat for Humanity provides permanent housing and is an organization known for its work throughout the world.

Our Dream will be to partner with our local Habitat on several more houses.

Habitat will provide opportunities for volunteers to pound nails or paint walls alongside future homeowners.



"When I volunteer with Habitat, I am able to connect with other people who are passionate about serving. I absolutely love that it gets me out of that normal of living for myself to living to help other people." - Joe



For more information regarding Kalamazoo Habitat for Humanity

<https://habitatkalamazoo.org>

Phone: 269.344.2443



"They did a lot of work I couldn't have afforded on my own and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart. I am grateful for everything they did." - Ella



"Habitat is an amazing opportunity. You can provide a stable, safe home for your family." -Brandi

"It's all about giving back to the community. Habitat gives me the opportunity to do just that in a very meaningful way." - Ann



Kalamazoo Collective



Kalamazoo Collective has been in existence since 2007. Currently, 30 individuals in five safe, well-maintained houses live in community sharing in maintenance and home upkeep while learning budgeting and conflict resolution. In 11 years, no one has been evicted.

It is the goal of the Dream to provide an additional house to help expand this successful model.

"I learned a lot about the workings of a housing co-op, a bit about board operations, and a whole lot about people in general. It has definitely been a considerable growth experience, and I look forward to continuing that growth relationship mutually with cooperatives throughout my lifetime." — former Meristem member



"The ability to see myself through the eyes of others was helpful to know in which areas of my life I need work, and especially which traits needed to be developed more." — former Fletcher member

**For more information regarding
Kalamazoo Collective Housing**

<http://kalamazoo.coop>

Phone: 269.340.0344



"I feel that KCH and Meristem members are incredibly supportive of many great things, including education, sustainability, supporting local businesses and working together. I love the organization of the houses -- how we meet once a week and share everything from food, and money to chores. I love that everyone in the house has a voice and how we don't make any decisions unless everyone is on board. I think it's so cool how the houses continually change depending on who is living there and it's always different and good. During my three and a half years as a member of KCH, I have met lots of incredible people and made lasting friendships. I'm so excited to see what amazing things KCH will accomplish in the future!" — former Meristem member

YWCA

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
kalamazoo

YWCA currently has 14 units that provide transitional supportive housing and 4 supportive housing units where residents can stay indefinitely. Sixty percent of reported crimes in Kalamazoo County are related to domestic violence which often leads to homelessness.

It is the goal of the Dream to provide additional transitional housing which is a stated need of the YWCA.



*"I was tired of being someone's personal hitting bag and being verbally torn apart. So I made up my mind to get my own apartment and join some type of program . **The YWCA gave me the resources I needed.**"*



"The Transitional Supportive Housing Program provides the wrap around services and support that clients need to be met where they are at and grow into their ideals." YWCA Staff



For more information regarding
YWCA

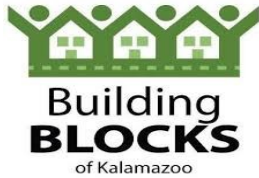
<http://ywcakalamazoo.org>

Phone: 269.345.5595



"During my time as a transitional housing advocate at the YWCA I have seen clients flourish in our program. The ability to have an advocate for two years allows clients to regularly interact with community organizations and obtain housing vouchers, a stable career, or other means to permanent housing. Without this stepping stone, clients often remain in crisis and become stuck." YWCA Staff

*"I had to think about my children and changing our lifestyle. I know most single moms who are in a situation like mine are scared of change, but change is good. I was homeless for two years living with my best friend and her children. I had a job, and a vehicle, but no babysitter, so I had to quit my job. It was the biggest sacrifice I ever had to make but I had to do what I had to do. While I was at the shelter at the YWCA, my advocate told me about their transitional housing program and I could apply for one of the units. **Moving into the house was one of the best things that's happened to me thus far.** I had great support through my advocate. She believed in me and was there for my family and me. I learned to love myself and accept change. I'm so proud of myself because I came a long way. **I am now working, have a reliable babysitter, and housing assistance. It feels so good to be able to exhale now.**"*



“Residents have been able to exchange different things to each other like plants and patio blocks. Everyone’s yard looked better after sharing different things with each other. It was very economical and efficient and developed a sense of community.”

Building Blocks of Kalamazoo organizes residents, one block at a time, to enhance the quality of neighborhood life. People come together in neighborhoods that face challenges associated with poverty and chronic disinvestment. Block-level groups revitalize their street based on their vision and strengths.

Our goal is to assist Building Blocks in working with those living in the Eastside, Northside, and Vine neighborhoods.



**For more information regarding
Building Blocks**

<http://www.bbkazoo.org>

Phone: 269.823.3484



“Had it not been for Building Blocks she wouldn’t have been able to know some of the more elderly or disabled individuals in the neighborhood. It was an absolutely wonderful feeling to help them with different projects that they had. It gave her such a happy heart after doing these projects.”

How can we make this happen?

Learn ... more about the housing situation in Kalamazoo, the issues facing families with minimum wage jobs, and the various discriminatory practices which prevent individuals from obtaining affordable housing.

Pray... for the organizations that we will be working with and the individuals they assist.

Volunteer... to work with one of the partners in this endeavor.

Contribute... to help us reach our goal of raising \$1,031,000 to provide additional affordable housing units in Kalamazoo.

Checks may be written to First United Methodist Church and directed to the Dream Fund. Donations can also be made electronically on the church website under the Generosity Tab and choose Online Giving - Dream Fund. 100% of the funds raised will go to housing.

Questions?

First United Methodist Church website - www.umc-kzo.org

Contact the Dream Team by email at DreamTeam@umc-kzo.org



Dream Team

First United Methodist Church

212 South Park Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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DreamTeam@umc-kzo.org

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We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, open doors.



Live the Dream of Affordable Housing for ALL

Kalamazoo Population and Homeless Information

Population of Kalamazoo - 76,000

- Living in poverty or close to it - 24,320 (32%)
- Individuals living from paycheck to paycheck - 12,160 (16%)
- Individuals determined to be homeless or at risk for homelessness - 4,636* (6%)
 - Individuals who were determined to be at imminent risk of homelessness - 2,233 (48%)
 - Individuals who were determined to be literally homeless - 2,403 (52%)

Demographics

- Single Adults—1,972
- Family Households - 1,230 (1,273 Adults & 1,710 Children)
- Average Age - Adult: 33 Children: 8
- Most common household type: Female Single Parent
- 29% identify as having a disability
- 30% Identify as a Domestic Violence victim or survivor

* Based on a Point in Time Count from 2017 - (The "point-in-time" count is a glance at homeless populations across Kalamazoo at a particular time collected by HRI)