

Friends, Family, and the Dream

by the Dream Team

In June, the Dream Team shared the results of the capital campaign to date that will help those struggling with homelessness in Kalamazoo. We also announced our first project, working with the YWCA for the construction of a transitional house for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Since that time, we have made significant progress in raising funds for the YWCA.

In July, the Team met again to discuss other projects that we can undertake in the coming year. We hope to finalize these plans over the next several weeks and communicate them to you in August.

Up to this time our church has maintained a rather low profile related to the Dream. However, the word is spreading through the community and just recently we received two inquiries from other organizations asking how they could become involved and support our efforts.

Have you talked with your family and friends about what your church is doing to provide affordable housing? Our experience has been that people are surprised, encouraged, and curious to learn more about the potential of becoming involved in some way. If you have not had these discussions, we encourage

you to think about having them and spreading the word of how First UMC is working to improve Kalamazoo.

Additional copies of the Dream Fund trifold will be available on information tables and at the Welcome Center. Please share this tri-fold with your friends and family in the weeks ahead. We look forward to hearing your stories and once again, we thank you for your efforts in making the Dream a reality!



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21

August Mission of the Month: school supplies

Ready or not, it is time to think about a new school year! Providing school supplies for Spring Valley Elementary will again be our August Mission of the Month. Donations will be distributed to the classrooms by the Community in Schools Coordinator at Spring Valley. These supplies are very much appreciated by both students and teachers! Please leave donations in the basket in the office during the month of August. Thank you for your support!



Items needed are: (NO scissors needed)

- Dry erase markers
- Wide ruled spiral note books
- Washable colored markers
- 2 pocket folders in groups of 30 of the same color
- Box of 24 crayons
- No. 2 pencils
- Glue sticks



Helping Children Put Their Best Foot Forward

Thanks to the generous support of UMW and our congregation, our June Mission of the Month contributed 6 pairs of shoes and over \$2,000 to First Day Shoe Fund. We discovered that Spring Valley Elementary was already sponsored, so the more than \$2,000 gift will sponsor shoes for ALL qualifying children at Edison Elementary in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Together as a congregation we continue to find new ways to support our neighboring children on their path to the Promise. Thank you, First UMC!

- The Outreach Team