

## Launching the Dream Together

by the Dream Team



On behalf of our partnering non-profits and the Dream Team, a heartfelt “thank you” for your response to the Dream Fund Capital Campaign. Sunday, May 12, marked the dedication of 110 pledges equaling a commitment of \$662, 823.00, with more pledges anticipated in the coming weeks.

If you have not pledged, you can find additional copies of the pledge card in the pews or you can go to the church website ([www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)) and under the Generosity Tab, choose Online Giving - Dream Fund. Please consider pledging your prayers, your participation, and/or your financial resources, as we move forward in launching the Dream.

Those of you who have had the privilege of buying a home, or planning and building a house, know that neither are overnight accomplishments. Helping dreams become reality involves many steps and much patience wrapped in hope. We, too, move forward with hope—listening carefully to the needs of our partners, while understanding that there will be many steps toward the realization of each part of the Dream.

The team will begin by prioritizing the chosen projects, with the intention of beginning our first project this summer. As funds become available, we hope to begin an affordable housing project every 3-5 months over the next three years. Meanwhile, we are continuing to build on the relationships that have been built with each of our partnering non-profits and eagerly anticipate the announcement of the first Dream housing project.

Look for regular communication from the team, announcements of opportunities to get involved and plan to join us in celebrating the launching of the capital campaign on June 16 immediately after the 10 a.m. service. With gratitude to God who has faithfully led us to this point, and gratitude to each of you for entrusting us with the opportunity to dream, we look forward to all that lies ahead. We ask your ongoing prayers as we work together to provide affordable housing for ALL.

**Employer Matching Gifts for the Dream Fund.** During the pledge campaign, we were asked about the potential of donating directly to one of our partner agencies in order to have their employer match their gift. This is an option that we would like to explore. To aid us in this, if you are interested in a direct matching gift, we would appreciate it if you would contact us via the Dream Team email address, [DreamTeam@umc-kzo.org](mailto:DreamTeam@umc-kzo.org) and provide us the following information: the name of the matching gift company, the terms of the match, 100%, 50%, etc., the partner agency that you plan to donate to, and if possible, a copy of the matching gift form with instructions. After we discuss this process with your preferred non-profit, we will provide you an update as soon as possible.

## June Mission of the Month: First Day Shoe Fund



First Day Shoe Fund has delivered more than 33,000 pairs of shoes to local children in the organization’s first decade. Their goal is to provide 1 new pair of athletic shoes at the beginning of the school year to each elementary aged child who is eligible for free/reduced price lunch. For our June mission of the month, we ask you to consider helping FDSF build their inventory for the 2019-2020 school year as they plan to reach out to more children in Kalamazoo County. There are two ways you can contribute:

- Purchase a non-canvas pair of gym shoes in any size, toddler 8 up to men’s 10 or women’s size 8, and place it in the basket in the office.
- Write a check to First Day Shoe Fund and deposit it in the shoebox that will be at the Welcome Desk on Sundays. All checks will be delivered to First Day Shoe at the end of June.

New shoes help foster self-esteem, allow participation in gym and sports, and fulfill a need that parents may not be able to afford. Please direct any questions to Donna Oudersluys as we work together to help every child put their best food forward.