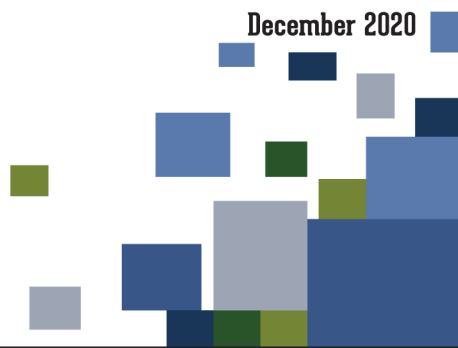


MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

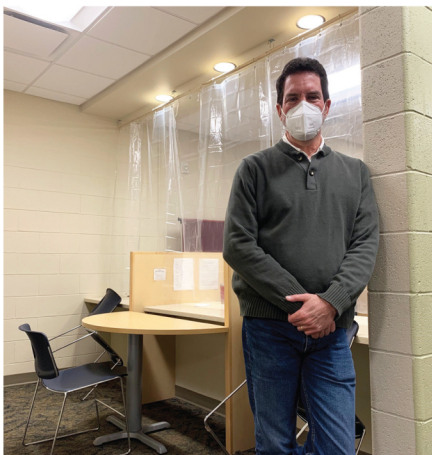
rebuilding lives



The Program Team Provides Stable Support Amid Crisis

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, some staff worked from home to help lower the number of people in our building. For our Program Team members, this was a major shift.

The Program Team is made up of our Social Workers, Member Support Services, and our Peer Support Specialist. Don Jones, Program Director, oversees the team.



Don Jones stands in the programs waiting room.

"I have a great crew for this," says Don. "We have a lot of trust. I was amazed at how well we adjusted to working remotely. We realized that most of our work is not typical office work. Kelly (Ministry with Community's Executive Director) gave us flexibility from the beginning to do what we need to do to stay safe and keep serving our community."

Below are some details on how our Program Team is meeting the needs of our members.

The Importance of an ID

"I would say that 90% of my work is helping people get their birth certificate, an ID, or both," says Evelyn Lewis, Member Support Services. "I'm working on 10-12 birth certificate applications a day right now."

The pandemic has increased the need for personal identification documents, making Evelyn especially busy. "You can't do anything without one," she explains. "If you need a job, if you're applying for housing, if you're trying to cash your stimulus check, you need an ID."



Evelyn Lewis in her office.

And to get an ID, you need a birth certificate."

The pandemic has also made the process slower. "Most government offices closed for at least a few months," she says. "Some still haven't fully opened back up. There is a backlog of applications for birth certificates. People are frustrated." But Evelyn is still optimistic. "Whatever we're working on, we get it done. We get results."

Building Trust

"Our members are in distress more than they were before," says Gwen Lanier, Peer Support Specialist. Gwen focuses on supporting members with recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness. "I used to be able to bring people into my office, hug them, reassure them, shake



Gwen Lanier with Terry, a member of the Men's Group, at our 2019 Open House.

their hand. We can't do that now. I can't use body language or eye-contact to show that I'm paying attention to them, so I have to get creative to build trust."

Gwen has gotten creative in a few ways. "I repeat what they say back to them so they know that they're being heard. I do as much as I can over the phone, but I've found ways to safely meet members out in the community and help them get their medications too. I'm also calling every member of The Men's Group every day to check on them."

The Men's Group is MWC's recovery support group. Before COVID-19, they would meet every morning in our facility to work on sobriety together. "That meeting is medicine to them," Gwen says. "They've found ways to meet remotely here and there, but I make sure to check on them every day. That's my job."

Same Needs, Greater Intensity

“The need for what we do has never been greater,” says Phil Boothroyd, Social Worker. Phil says that there is less need for help with transportation, but otherwise, he’s assisting with many of the same needs he did before the pandemic. “I’m still helping our members with housing, filing



Phil Boothroyd working from home with his dog, Sophie.

for unemployment, and helping people get uniforms and work boots to start new jobs, but the pandemic has made every need more urgent.”

“When I speak to our members over the phone, I know that many of them have slept outside overnight,” Phil says. “A lot of them are struggling to get ahold of anyone for help because so many places are closed. I can hear the desperation in their voices. Other places may shut down, but we don’t. We just make it work.”

Phil notes that many people he speaks with lately feel like giving up. He also says, “I don’t know where they find the strength and will power to keep looking forward to the future but they do. I’m always inspired by our members. They can be in the middle of a crisis, and they stop and ask me how I’m doing. They’ll check in with me just to see how my wife and dog are doing. They have so much resilience.”

The Frontlines

“I’m here to be the hands and legs of the team,” says Sarah Cain, Social Worker. Sarah has been working from her office at our facility full-time since September. “Being available on-site means that I can grab coats and hygiene items and get them directly to members. It also means that I can see them if I need to.”

The Program Team has set up a long table in their waiting room where Sarah sometimes meets with members. “We each sit at an opposite end and there is a plastic barrier between us,” she says. “We wipe everything down before and after we meet. We keep our masks on. It’s a lot, but it lets us meet in person which we need to do sometimes.”

“I’m seeing new faces every day,” says Sarah. “It feels like a lot more people are reaching out to us. Housing is one of the biggest needs. There is a lack of affordable housing, but people need to get out of the cold.”



Sarah Cain in her office.

Despite the barriers created by the pandemic, Sarah feels confident in what she and her team are able to do. “It’s amazing how much MwC and our team have been able to keep things going as smoothly and safely as possible for our members. They tell us all the time that they are grateful for it.”

Keeping things going smoothly is Don’s biggest goal. “It’s about both custodial care and transformational care. People need to eat today, and they want to be able to sustain themselves in the future. And to do that, we have to be the steady, consistent, predictable place for our community.”



Elise Layton, Social Work Intern, in her office doorway.

Want to know what it’s like to have an internship during a pandemic?

Head to the MwC blog to read about Elise’s experience as a Social Work Intern at ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcblog

I’m not a young person anymore. I don’t know how much longer I can do what I do.

I thought I would work at Ministry with Community for a couple of years. That was back in 2001.

I can’t express my gratitude enough for the work I get to do.

It changes us and fills out who we are. It makes us appreciate humanity.”

- Phil Boothroyd, MwC Social Worker



Underwear Week Recap

Underwear Week 2020 was a big success! We gathered over 6,500 pieces of clothing and raised over \$28,000 to keep our members safe and warm this winter and throughout the year!

Despite the difficulties that this year has created for everyone, our community came through for our members. Throughout the week (and weeks leading up to it) donors supported the event online, mailed donations of warm clothing to us, rang the doorbell to deliver items in person, and humbled us with an incredible show of support.

Underwear Week was presented by Cliff Mulder of Raymond James and Molina Healthcare.

For photos and more details about the event, head to the MwC blog at www.ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcblog

In Memory Of:

Elizabeth Aulds
Dennis and Vicki Konzen

Dennis Bacon
Barbara Albanese

Joe Effrice Barbee
Chiquita Elmore-Barbee
Jennette Tarver

Renee Bair
Rev. David and Mary Boley

Ellen Brinkley
Rev. David and Mary Boley

Bonnie Brown
Shirley Palmer

Janet Louise Buchtrup
Charles and Kathy Buchtrup

Ronald Commissaris
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton

Sharron Cooley
Sharon and Evan Kokales

Jerry Diment
Nancy M. Diment

Evan Ebling
Lois E. Ellis

John Galopin
Mark and Ann Austin

David Gray
Barbara Albanese

Harold L.J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion

Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion

The Halvorsen Family
Lenore J. Lorion

Jay Scott Heckler
Diane and Jay Heckler

Robert Hegel
Anita Kaye Bennett
Richard Welch and
Cindy Stewart
James and Sara Van Buren
William J. Venema
Gerald and Marilyn Wilson

Fr. Mike Howell
Gail E. Brown

Pat Klein
Joe and Rosalie Novara

Robert and Charlotte Koestner
Thomas Swiat and
Priscilla Cronley-Swiat

Dr. Michael Kudlas
Bobbe V. Orr

Ted Little
Richard and Christina Fink

Peter Livingston
Bruce and Cheryl Briney

Shirley Luckey
Helen Brodasky

Charles "Charlie" Mackey
Marie N. Mackey

Linda Mason
Joseph Keleman
Linda and George Dunn
Shirley A. Freeman
Beth and Billy Gibson
William and Alma McCarty
Gayle Morton
Paul and Christine Simon
The Staff at MwC
Henry Winslow
Charles and Lynn Zhang
Raye Ziring

Arlen Miller
Anita Kaye Bennett
Stewart and Laura Davenport
Mike Hardy
Jennifer Kolosar

Raymond G. Miller
Shane, Jeannie, Zachary
and Ethan Kirtner

James R. Mosby, Jr.
Sue A. Schiller

Peter and Helen Moskalik
Robert and Judy Moskalik

Edwin Page
Patricia and Leonard Wilcox

Patricia Pettinga
Kent and Deborah Fisher

Douglas Rapp
Prudence McCabe
Barb Ogrin
Robert and Judy Rapp
Karen VerHage

Phyllis Rappeport
Anne Okon

Joan Rohs
Mike and Linda Gay

Ruth Rosegrant
Tim and Margaret Franklin

Ken Sarkozy
Stephen Allen and
Andrea Trautman
Amy Louise Anderson
Karen Chadwick
Dave and Phyllis Chenery
Martha R. Cohen
Ronald and Nancy Crowell
Robert and Mary Doud
Stuart and Caren Dybek
Stephen and
Constance Ferguson
Evelyn I. Garner
Judith Gay
Caroline Ham
Andy and Jack Hopkins
Alice and Michael Kemerling
Alexander and Anne Lipsey
Lorraine Mosier
Joe and Rosalie Novara
Mary F. Oudsema
Ann and Donald Parfet
David and Mary Jo Reilly
David Sarkozy
Joelle Sarkozy
Don and Sharon Schmidt
David and Dhera Strauss
The Staff at MwC
Karen and Klayton Woodworth

Gerry Schma
Jessie and Benjamin Bierlein

Benjamin Sherriff
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton

Norma Shields
Jennifer Perry
Herman and Dolores Smith
Susan Snyder

A. W. Sinha
Elizabeth Roelofs

Joan Split
Sue Split

Toni J. Sullivan
Judith A. Sullivan

Thomas L. and Jetta Swiat
Thomas Swiat and
Priscilla Cronley-Swiat

Leona Sykes
Sandra M. Williams

Richard Tomlinson
David and Marilyn Milko

Eleanor VanStrein
M. Low

Thomas M. Virgo
Victoria Okuniewski

David S. Warner
Beverly Warner

Sid Weaver
William and Karen McNulty

Florence, Barney, and John Westra
Karl Westra

Don and Ruth Wisser
Judy and Jeffrey Smith

Lawrence Ziring
Raye Ziring

In Honor Of:

Kaye Bennett
Mike Hardy

Ann Berger
Cynthia and Mark Schauer

Ryan T. Chase
Lenore J. Lorion

Makena Clawson
Wanda Clawson

Pam Fenno
Ethlynn Dewitt

Joan Havenga
Kay C. Vermeulen

Fr. Michael Howell
Bruce Martin and
Vicki Nelson

Don Jones
Edward J. Pawlak

Janet Karpus
Katherine Houston

Hildy and Howard Kerney
Michael and Sherry Kerney

Laura Lam
Ginnie Edwardson

Susan Lampinen
Sally Korth

Betty Mason
Andy and Jack Hopkins

Prudence McCabe
Arthur Roberts and
Betty Lujan-Roberts
Jean Schultz

Paul and Mildred Matyas
Luvina and David Matyas

MwC Kitchen Staff
Prudence McCabe

MwC Staff
Linda Stieve

MwC Staff and Volunteers
Evelyn I. Garner
Cindi Kindig

**Dr. Diane Owen-Rogers and
Lori Owen-Rogers**
TC and Marie Rogers

Valerie Palmer
Allan and Shirley Heavey

Julie Rogers and Dr. Ed Orloff
TC and Marie Rogers

Paul Sizer
Judith Evind
Larry LaBonté
Amanda and
Peter Ziemkowski

Ritie and Mike Szyperski
Lenore J. Lorion

Mary Tyler
Andy and Jack Hopkins

**United Party Rentals and
Steve Dastoli**
Robert and Judy Rapp

Volunteers at ACS Discovery Shop
Norma Dearborn

Charles and Lynn Zhang
Patrick O'Hara and
Nancy Groenewold

In Celebration Of:

Amy Anderson's Birthday
Susan L. Caulfield

Allen Buhl's Birthday
Brian Vollmer-Buhl

**Pastor Paul Fazio and
Jennifer Fazio for Pastor
Appreciation Month**
North Park Reformed
Church

Jim and Mary Grace's 50th Anniversary
Cynthia and Mark Schauer

Janine Johnston's Birthday
Brian and Janine Johnston

Ken & Marlena Kirton's 65th Wedding Anniversary
From The Hjelmquist, Kirton,
and Corsi Families

Ricky and Lynne Meek's 20th Wedding Anniversary
Lynne and Ricky Meek

Dick Schmitt's 90th Birthday
Julianne Schmitt
Richard and Karen Schmitt

Adam Stubbs' Birthday
Garrard and Moira Macleod

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were July 7, 2020 through November 19, 2020.

Memorial and Honorees received after November 19, 2020 will appear in the next newsletter.

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

Our Annual Award Winners

We typically hold our Annual Award ceremony during our September Open House. Of course, the Open House just wasn't possible this year. But that didn't stop us from presenting awards to our five amazing winners.

This year's winners are:

The Judy Sarkozy Spirit of Community Business Award
Winner: JB Printing

The Dorothy Markusse Community Volunteer Award
Winner: Joanne Brundage

The Cheever Treatment Center Young Volunteer Award
Winner: Andrew Peters

The Roscoe Turner Volunteer Member Award
Winner: Deb Haas

The Sisters of St. Joseph Group Volunteers of Excellence Award
Winner: Landscape Forms

A big thanks to all of our winners for their support of Ministry with Community and our members!

Sponsor a Meal



November 10: MerriKay Burkey in memory of her husband Jeff Burkey and in recognition of the service of all Veterans

November 13: Breakfast and Lunch: John Mason in memory of Linda Mason

November 14: Beverly Warner in memory of her husband David S. Warner on his birthday

November 15: Breakfast and Lunch: Westminster Presbyterian Church Men's Breakfast Group in memory of Walter Risk

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 mclaus@ministrywithcommunity.org to sponsor a meal!

July 8: Sue Caulfield in celebration of Amy Anderson's 91st birthday

July 13: Breakfast and Lunch: The Culver Family in memory of Rita Culver

July 16: The Notre Dame Club of Kalamazoo

July 23: The Kalamazoo Italian American Club

July 30: Breakfast and Lunch: Annette Maccardini

August 16: Nancy Acker in memory of Coach George Acker

August 27: Ted Vlieg in memory of Joyce Vlieg

September 12: Lutheran Church of the Savior Kalamazoo

September 30: Breakfast and Lunch: Rick, Jane, Robert, Barbara, Stephen and spouses in celebration of Dick Schmitt's 90th birthday

October 1: Breakfast and Lunch: Mark and Ann Austin in memory of John Galopin

October 8: Breakfast and Lunch: Dee Dee Hoy in honor of MWC Staff and Members

October 10: Breakfast and Lunch: MWC's friends from Westminster Presbyterian Church in honor of Nancy Husk

October 15: Breakfast and Lunch: Marie Mackey and Arnold Mackey in memory of Charles "Charlie" Mackey

October 16: Breakfast and Lunch: North Park Reformed Church in honor of Pastor Paul Fazio and Jennifer Fazio for Pastor Appreciation Month.

October 22: Keith and Megan Hayden in honor of their wedding guests

October 23: Breakfast and Lunch: Joe and Elaine Stockoski in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

October 26: Philip Cutler in celebration of Julia Karnemaat's birthday

October 27: Andy and Jack Hopkins in honor of Betty Mason and Mary Tyler

October 29: Breakfast and Lunch: Anonymous

Our Annual Award Winners

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This year's winners are:



The team at JB Printing



Joanne Brundage



Deb Haas



Andrew Peters



The team at Landscape Forms

OCTOBER 2020 NUMBERS

We are currently welcoming up to 68 members at a time into our facility. Even with capacity restricted, we are still seeing an increase in service use since the summer months.

6,609

Boxed meals were served.



915

Showers were taken.

1,224

Loads of laundry were washed.



351

Members received their mail.

110

Members worked on their goals with our Program Team.



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.

•••••

"Your office and service desk staff are awesome!

I can go in, pick my mail up,

and see the smart ways

the staff communicates with the citizens.

I am able to shower and wash and dry

my clothes as well.

**I believe this increases my reasoning power
of handling bad situations much better."**

- Wendy, MwC Member

Wish List

Can you help us by donating these much needed supplies?

Deodorant (travel size)
Shampoo (travel size)
Soap (travel size)
Conditioner (travel size)
Lotion (travel size)
Lip balm
Two-blade razors
Tampons
Maxi-Pads
Toothbrushes
Shaving Cream
Band-aids

Adult size pull-up diapers
Bath Towels & Washcloths
Sugar (packets or bulk)
Peanut butter
Jelly
Coffee mugs (standard 10 oz. size and shape)
Washcloths (dark colored, terry cloth)
Underwear (new, adult size)
All weather shoes (adult size)
Belts (adult size)
Metro transit bus tokens
Two-wheeled luggage
Duffel bags
Backpacks

For a list of other general needs, please visit our website at www.ministrywithcommunity.org.

Get social with us!

Follow Ministry with Community on Facebook and Twitter to stay up-to-date with news, events, inspirational stories, and more!



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



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

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Design and layout are generously provided by Bev Kirk.

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 you duplicates of any mailings
- You would like to be removed from our mailing list

Contact Laura Perron at 269.343.6073 x132 or at office@ministrywithcommunity.org to have your record updated or corrected. Thank you for helping us maintain a correct and efficient database!

Ministry with Community
500 N. Edwards St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3600

Staff phone line: 269.343.6073
Member phone line: 269.343.5880
Fax: 269.343.0508
www.ministrywithcommunity.org

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