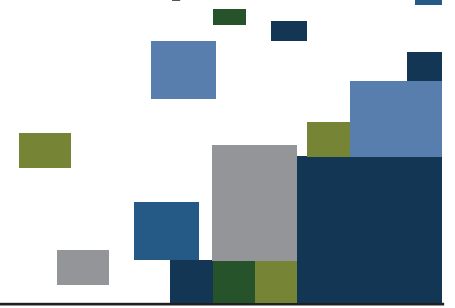


MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

September 2022



New Program Director Removes Barriers and Amplifies Strengths

In December 2021, Johnny Anderson III joined the Ministry with Community (MwC) team as our new Program Director. Recently, we sat down with Johnny to learn more about programs, outreach, and what our Social Work Team is focusing on.

MwC: Describe your position at MwC for our readers.

Johnny: My job is to see that our Safety and Security Team and Social Work Team serve the most people with the highest quality of service. I make sure that my teams have the tools and time they need to do their jobs well and help remove barriers for our members.

MwC: Do you have a philosophy, perspective, or viewpoint that you bring to this work?

Johnny: I try to keep myself humble and respectful at all times and with all people. I don't think of myself as an expert and I don't have all of the answers. Socrates said, "I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing." By taking the approach of not knowing, I can keep an open mind.



Walter (left), our Custodian, and Johnny (right) pose with some freshly picked cherry tomatoes in the garden at Ministry with Community.

We evaluate what people already have going for them and play off of those strengths. Our members are some of the best representatives for local resources and sometimes they educate us.

MwC: Is there anything that our members are experiencing at this moment in time that is particularly challenging?

Johnny: Housing. It's always going to be housing. Shelter is right there at the bottom of the pyramid of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, along with food and safety. That's where a lot of our members are stuck. Nothing else can really happen without meeting those needs first.

How can you expect to improve your life if you are in a constant state of fight or flight and uncertainty? That's why it's so important for us to provide stability and safety for the individuals we serve.

People also need a support system. They need someone they can trust that will listen to them and encourage them.

MwC: Trust is a big part of our work, isn't it?

Johnny: Many of our members come to us because they know we will listen. We provide support to those who may not have a family or people who they can trust who are

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

encouraging them. We have to walk the walk and have our words and actions align.

James Baldwin said, “I can’t believe what you say, because I see what you do.” Making sure that we do what we say we will is what builds that trust and rapport.

When it comes to creating trust and a support system, it really takes a whole community to do that.

MwC: Speaking of community, let’s talk about some of our community partners.

Johnny: We have several other organizations onsite on a regular basis. Family Health Center, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, Hope Through Navigation, Disability Network, Priority Health, and others. We’re always working to bring more services onsite that our members need.

Having resources in one place helps our members to navigate this complex system and not have to worry about transportation to multiple service providers.

MwC: Have we made any recent changes to better serve our members?

Johnny: We recently hired a Restorative Justice Coordinator. That’s big for our members because it gives those who make a mistake the chance to learn from the experience, reflect on what happened, heal from it, and make positive changes for themselves going forward.

We created a new position for Evelyn Thompson. She’s our Program Coordinator now, which is great because we can share our power. Sharing power is important because it strengthens the team and

keeps us faster and more flexible when serving members.

I just started to oversee our Safety and Security Team. They see a lot of what our members are going through, even before the Social Work Team does. Often, they can provide some insight on what someone needs from us, or they will have a bigger picture of what a member is currently experiencing. Everything we do is interconnected, and by working across departments, we are better able to meet our members’ needs.

MwC: So, what brought you to Social Work and how did that bring you to Ministry with Community?

Johnny: I did my undergraduate degree in Social Work with a focus on Holistic Health, but as early as junior high, I could sense when someone was feeling down. I often gave words of encouragement and tried to be supportive. One day, after a classmate confided in me, she said, “You should be a Social Worker,” and I said, “What’s that?”

It’s a calling. I never really chose it. I thought I would be a case manager, but I found that I needed to be in a position where I could make systemic change. That appealed to me about my current position. I just try to go where I’m needed.



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

 facebook.com/KzooMwC

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

Summer Fun

Thanks to the Kalamazoo Growlers for making us their Nonprofit of the Night on Saturday, July 30, 2022!



Board President, Dr. Sue Caulfield, poses with Porter.



Staff, Board, and volunteers at our info table.



Our Garden

Once again, our garden was a highlight of our summer.

Several staff, volunteers, and members worked to maintain the space and harvest the produce.



Mobile Pet Clinic

This summer, the Kalamazoo Humane Society held two clinics in our parking lot to serve our members' beloved pets.

Several dogs and cats were vaccinated, microchipped, received health checks, and were scheduled for spay/neuter appointments!

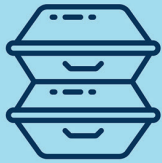


**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
THROUGH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
9:00AM – 4:00PM DAILY**

**MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY
500 N. EDWARDS ST.
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007**

482

Meals were served on July 18, 2022.
That includes breakfast and lunch.



Increased Need for Meals

The need for meals is on the rise. On July 18, 2022, we served 482 meals including breakfast and lunch. That's the highest number of meals we have served onsite in a single day since before the start of the pandemic.

We have many ways of saving on food costs, but even with those efforts, our food bills have almost doubled.

With this in mind, sponsoring a meal is more impactful than ever. See below for details on how to sponsor a meal at MWC.



Sponsored Meals

April 14: Breakfast & Lunch:
In memory of Frank Somers

April 16: Breakfast & Lunch:
Society of Muslim Women

May 2: In honor of Julie
Luginbill's birthday

May 8: Breakfast & Lunch:
Karol Dill in memory of
Everett Dill

May 10: Breakfast & Lunch:
Prudence McCabe in memory
of Mike Johncock

May 13: Breakfast & Lunch:
Maggie Ebrite

May 19: Cornerstone
Technologies

May 24: Breakfast & Lunch:
Sue Caulfield in celebration of
her birthday

June 1: Breakfast & Lunch:
Susan Kavanaugh in memory
of Dr. Thomas Kavanaugh on
his 89th birthday

June 6: Breakfast & Lunch:
Kaye Bennett in honor of the
Hardy family

June 16: Breakfast & Lunch:
John Mason in memory of
Linda Mason

July 8: Breakfast & Lunch:
George and Linda Dunn in
honor of Amy Anderson

July 29: Breakfast & Lunch:
Maggie Ebrite

August 9: Westra's Wonders in
celebration of Marley Westra's
birthday

August 20: Breakfast & Lunch:
Society of Muslim Women

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Sponsored 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 sponsors breakfast or lunch. A gift of \$500 sponsors both breakfast and lunch on the day of your choice.

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@ministry-withcommunity.org to sponsor a meal!

In Memory Of:

Karen Angele
Patricia Ysais
Joyce Beebe
Mark and Jane Bainbridge
Agnes Bennink
Richard Bennink
Scott and Sharon Peterson
Arthur Roberts and
Betty Lujan-Roberts
Sue and Tom Wright
Bruce Binns
Margaret Binns
Linda Boyle
John Everts
Robert Dale Brouwer, MD
Romulo and Maureen Abueva
Glen and Greta Douglass
Gary and Cynthia Ruoff
Carol and John Trittschuh
Carol Buck
Tim and Margaret Franklin
Thomas Chase
Lenore J. Lorion
Joyce Cleasby
Constance L. Douglas
Dave Cretsinger
Nancy and Robert Cretsinger
Jim and Dee Davidson
Kent and Deborah Fisher
Tom Deem
Jean Beemer
Steve and Margo Beemer
Stephen Friedman
Kathy J. Hageman
Carol and Rick King
Nancy Mein
Joe Pridgeon and Noralyn
Ludwig-Pridgeon
Don DeYoung
Sally Bawtinheimer
Alicia and Lydia Boner
Paul and Aedin Clements
Phil and Betty DeYoung
Janice L. Drolen
Harold and Ellen Grevenstuck
Esther Kellay
Al and Jennie Ko
Alexander and Anne Lipsey
Mark and Donna Oudersluys
Michael and Shari Pruis
Donald and Carol VerHage
Ina Way
Paul and Julie Yelsma
Don and Jackie DeYoung
Joe and M. Rebecca Schmitt
Fred and Marie Zuidema
Dennis Dixon
Michaelyn Page
James HC Duncan
Judy Smith
Evan Ebling
Moyra Ebling
Lois E. Ellis
Frank Erich
William and Paula Andrus
Dennis and Bonita Banghart
First National Bank of Michigan
Pat Foley
Terry Dorcy and Karen Hiler
Mark and Mary Sue Hoffman

Ronald and Patricia Johnson
Ken and Dee Lintz
Dave and Cheryl Martin
Marshall Schau
Joe and M. Rebecca Schmitt
Rose Fear
John Fear
David Gray
Barbara Albanese
Harold L.J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Bob and Peggy Hegel
Judith H. Halseth
Fr. Mike Howell
Patrick O'Hara and Nancy
Groenewold
Robert and Charlotte Koestner
Thomas Swiat and
Priscilla Cronley-Swiat
Dr. Michael Kudlas
John Hoek and Mary Meagher
Dorothy Markusse
Wayne M. Conner
Greg Melvin
Joan B. and Gary A. Melvin
Jack Moss
Mike and Margaret Low
Jackie Nemedi
Ron Nemedi
Wenda Newhouse
The Andrews Family
Dr. Edward Orłowski
Allan and Rita LaReau
Samuel Davis Parker
George and Gladys Manley
Greg Plano
Allan and Shirley Heavey
Donald Shull
Pamela and Mark Cassino
Bruce and Alice Cleveland
Bob and MaryAnn Hayward
Prudence McCabe
Judy E. Park
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Elaine Spieldenner
Don and Irma Shull
Leona Van Antwerp
Ilan Stenesh
Jochanan and Mabel Stenesh
Tom and Jetta Swiat
Thomas Swiat and
Priscilla Cronley-Swiat
Dale E. Van Antwerp
Leona Van Antwerp
Joan Van Zoeren
Charles Van Zoeren
Joyce Vliet
Ted Vliet
Florence and Barney Westra
Karl Westra and Kristine Pioch
Florence, John, Barney, and Shirley Westra
Karl Westra and Kristine Pioch
Patricia Will
Marie N. Mackey
M. Gayle Stephenson
Donald Wiltshire
Elizabeth Roelofs
Richard Wisser
Judy and Jeffrey Smith

In Honor Of:

Charles and Florence Brown
Carolyn Murphy
Ellen J. Chase
Lenore J. Lorion
John F. Chmiel
David and Shelley Chmiel
Robert and Ann Kilkuskie
Jon and Michelle Crooks
James M. Minich
Mikka Dryer
Shawn and Nita Dryer
First Presbyterian Church of Richland
Andrea M. Trautman
Marlin Gerber
Jacqueline L. Wylie
Janet Karpus
Katherine Houston
Tom and Mary Losiewski
Laurel E. Hazel
Prudence McCabe
A. Gregory and Mary Ann Laurell
Joan and Gary Melvin
Constance L. Douglas
Sam and Mary Oberlee
Laurel E. Hazel
William and Nancy Richardson
Carolyn and Sid Williams
Street Medicine Kalamazoo
Ron and Carmen Tanis
Leona Van Antwerp
Dick and Carol Van Antwerp
Nancy Zielke
Lenore J. Lorion

In Celebration Of:

Kathy Dickason's Birthday
Donna Harmon
Jane and Justin's Wedding
Arlan and Sara Gulker
Brian and Dar Root
Doug Wolthuis
Kaye and Carl's Birthaversary
Mike Hardy
Marlena Kirton on Mother's Day
Dennis and Pamela Hjelmquist
Jane and Thomas Norton's 50th Anniversary
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton
Dave and Jan Snyder's Anniversary
Cindy Bushouse

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received March 26, 2022 through August 25, 2022.

Memorials and Honorees received after August 25, 2022 will appear in the next newsletter.

To correct any errors, please contact Matt Claus at 269.343.6073 x131 or at mclaus@ministrywithcommunity.org.



WISH LIST

Rain ponchos
Nail clippers
Shampoo (travel size)

Lotion (travel size)
Bars of soap (travel size)
Deodorant (travel size)

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DAILY FROM 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. AT THE BACK DOOR NEXT TO OUR LOADING DOCK. PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL AND A STAFF MEMBER WILL ASSIST YOU. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS UNATTENDED.

Check out our wish list at ministrywithcommunity.org/wishlist.



facebook.com/KzooMwC



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

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