

Feb. 5, 2021

From the Kalamazoo Continuum of Care

We share the community's deep concern for the health and safety of individuals staying in encampments during this bitter winter weather. We're grateful for the quick measures by the City of Kalamazoo and other partners, which include:

- A temporary warming shelter on Mills Street, with 24/7 security by Kalamazoo Public Safety;
- Shelter space at Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, both for overnight and daytime;
- Daytime warming and individual services at The River Church on Ransom Street, which expanded its hours to include the weekend;
- Daytime shelter at Ministry With Community, plus "to-go" meals to make sure everyone is fed; and
- Shelter space at the former Knights Inn, operated by Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, which is quickly preparing more rooms for people experiencing homelessness.

While we celebrate these vital actions, everyone involved knows there's a need to do more.

Over the past year, a broad partnership including the Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care has managed to help people find other housing solutions, dramatically reducing those left in encampments even as the pandemic has limited shelter capacity. [The CoC partners are working aggressively to create more options for people experiencing homelessness.](#)

If you want to get involved in long-term solutions:

- Take part in the virtual housing forum to develop ways to best use Kalamazoo County's Homes For All millage. The forum is happening on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 4 p.m. over Zoom. Details will appear on the county's website, www.kalcounty.com.
- Contact your local state representative or state senator to urge rapid action on COVID Emergency Rental Assistance being considered in the state Legislature.
- Consider making a donation to a local, 501c3 nonprofit working to address homelessness, including our CoC partners.

The Continuum of Care will continue to work tirelessly alongside many in our community to achieve a vision where every person is housed, fed and put on a path to a financially stable future. We applaud all those who share and pursue that passion—in this crisis and beyond.