Celebrating 50 Years

50 years is such an exciting and humbling anniversary. Praise God and thanksgiving for all of you, our dedicated supporters, and for the multitude of blessings we have received! Milestone anniversaries also bring us to reflection. We understand the importance of recognizing God’s faithfulness in our history as we examine, celebrate, learn from, and bring history lessons to the present.

The Kalamazoo Deacons Conference began in 1968 in response to volatile social concerns. The Church felt it needed to DO something and in 2018 KDC is still DOING daily weekday work. We remain a faithful, critical, Christian relief agency in the lives of the working poor of Southwest Michigan.

As you are reading this, we ask you to reflect on your Easter Sunday celebration. As a Christian agency, we have the privilege of sharing that story and countless other Bible stories with our guests every day. A powerful new Christian movie, I Can Only Imagine, tells the amazing true story of an abusive, alcoholic father transformed by God. Do you believe that God can bring His transformation, to every father, mother and child in our community?

We do.

We show up every day at 1010 North Westnedge to be Christ’s hands and feet; convinced and convicted that Triune God works through all of us at KDC to reach struggling working poor individuals and families in our community.

Help us celebrate 50 years. Show us that you believe in God’s transforming power with prayer and financial support.

In Christ,

The Staff and Volunteers of KDC

For several years now we have come to you with our Just $10 Spring Campaign. With Just $10 we expressed how we believe that a few dollars each month from thousands of supporters all across our community will quickly add up to big dollars all year long.

This year in honor of our 50th year, please consider replacing Just$10 with Just$50!
Meet Trudy

Trudy has volunteered for many years at KDC. When asked how she got involved with KDC and why she stayed involved, this is what she said, “I began to volunteer after I retired. I knew I wanted to be of assistance to my fellow man. When I was working fulltime and raising my family I didn’t have enough time to volunteer, but now that I am retired, I have the time.

I am passionate about KDC because I see how they help folks that are truly in need. Caseworkers are compassionate and thorough, and they are able to assist a wide variety of people. At KDC, I wear many hats – from working the front reception desk to any administrative projects that need to be done. Volunteering is a great way to give back and say thank you to the Lord for all the blessings you have had during your life plus it keeps me out of trouble!”

To all of our KDC volunteers

THANK YOU, for the countless service hours that you have dedicated to the mission of KDC. Without your commitment, our mission would not be possible.

Shane Davis Gives Back to KDC

My name is Shane Davis. I have recently been given the honor of becoming a volunteer for Deacons Conference.

When I first moved here to Kalamazoo at the end of 2014, I experienced a number of great difficulties. I was introduced to the kind people of KDC and received prayer, encouragement, and resources, I was given much of the help and support I needed to get back on my feet. It was more than I ever imagined. That is why I consider it such an honor to help those who have helped me, and pay it forward to help others.

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY WALLACE, DRS SUPERVISOR

Every day, KDC opens the doors to those in need in our community. Just recently, Marcina came to KDC in need of special orthopedic shoes which she needed for her new job as a janitor in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. She had a prescription from the doctor but the pharmacy refused to honor it as she isn’t a diabetic. I contacted Corey’s Bootery, in Kalamazoo, to see if they could help. I took her to the store and Mike VanDenBerg did a custom fitting and provided the shoes and insoles for her at no charge - a BIG thank you to Mike!! This is just one of many KDC stories highlighting what happens when we all work together and one of the many reasons I work at KDC. Larry

Another KDC Success Story – Kelvin

Kelvin came to KDC in March for clothing and personal care items. He is in the KPEP program. Kelvin shared with me that he is an alcoholic, which landed him in jail 31 times. He has been free of alcohol since April 2017, when he committed his life to Jesus while he was in jail. I spent time with him, sharing how this new relationship with God can turn the corner in his life if he was really committed to it. He was encouraged to put good people in his life to help him in his new journey. Kelvin is now doing community service at KDC, and receiving our support on a daily basis.

Over the last 5 years, KDC has heard and responded to over 12,000 stories of people in distress and provided over $80,000 to people in need; 10,000 people received free clothing and thousands more received free furniture, household and personal care items.

To support KDC:

WEB

BANK

MAIL

DONATE NOW

3721 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-492-7335
Mon-Friday 10am – 5pm Sat 10am – 2pm

KZODC.org

Make checks payable to Kalamazoo Deacon’s Conference 1010 N. Westnedge Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Kalamazoo Deacon’s Conference
1010 N. Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
KDC is excited to announce our new partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). We partner together to offer clothing, free of charge, to the more than 700 children currently in the foster care system in Kalamazoo County.

Children who are court-ordered into out-of-home placements with relatives or foster parents often enter these placements with only the clothes on their backs. In many instances, their clothing is in deplorable condition and must be discarded. Relatives and foster parents most often need financial help to raise and support these children. They are given a daily stipend to care for the children, but it is minimal.

Each child entering foster care receives an initial clothing allowance upon entering care, and then every six months thereafter. However, the children placed with relatives do not receive a clothing allowance at all. For foster children, the clothing allowance is minimal and amounts to $107 for infants through age 12, and $122 for children 13-18 years old. This initial allowance is often delayed for 4-12 weeks, requiring the foster parents to purchase clothing with their own resources.

KDC has a large clothing room set up much like a clothing store. Foster parents and relative caregivers can shop for free to obtain gently used clothing for the children. We encourage them to bring the children with them, especially to allow the older children to choose and try on the clothing. Each caregiver shows proof of placement of each child prior to shopping to ensure eligibility. They are also encouraged to donate back to KDC any clothing not used or outgrown, provided it is in clean, good condition. Our goal is also to encourage foster teens to volunteer at KDC.

The MDHHS staff is elated about this partnership. In fact, they have started collecting children’s clothing from their staff to give to the KDC clothing room.

If you would like to help us in this initiative, we would gratefully accept your help! Here are four ways you can help:

1. We need more clothing, specifically for children of all ages/sizes, that is in good condition.
2. Infants and children need clean, new under clothing and diapers at initial placement. Consider holding a diaper drive!
3. If you would like to volunteer at KDC, you could help us sort, fold, hang and display the clothing, and assist foster/relative caregivers and children in clothing selection.
4. If you prefer to make a financial donation to KDC, visit our website at www.kzoodc.org or send a check to 1010 N Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Thank you to everyone who has helped KDC develop and fund new initiatives like this one. Because of your help, we’re making our community better, one person…one child… at a time!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MENARDS

On behalf of KDC and those we serve, we would like to take this opportunity to thank MENARDS for hosting our food drive during the month of March 2018. As a result, KDC received almost 1,400 canned, boxed and dry good items that will fill our pantry and be distributed to those in need.

With MENARDS Food Drive, we are able to continue to serve the Kalamazoo community and the working poor. We are so blessed to have community partners like MENARDS who help us with our ministry.

When a guest walks through the doors at KDC, we begin the process of rebuilding trust with welcoming smiles. Of all the services and programs KDC provides, none is more powerful than providing compassion and support to our guests in the name of Jesus Christ. We work hard every day to transform lives – offering hope and opportunity.

What makes us different? KDC serves anyone who walks through our doors. The majority of the people we assist are working poor. These are families and individuals, as well as single mothers and fathers working at or below minimum wage. All of our programs and services are offered FREE of charge to our guests.

KDC’s work is made entirely possible through the generous support of individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations from the community who give of their time, talent and financial support. On behalf of all of us at KDC, THANK YOU!
Our Mission
To share the love and hope of Jesus Christ by addressing the physical and spiritual needs of the working poor and people in distress.

Our Vision
To glorify God by building a faith–filled, caring and compassionate community

KDC's work is made possible entirely through the generous support of individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations from the community who give of their time, talent and financial support.

Daily Hours of Operation
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm

Donations
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm • 1st & 3rd Saturday 9am–1pm

Devotions
Monday–Thursday 9am–9:30am

Direct Response Intake
Monday–Thursday 9:30am–11:30am, • 1pm–3pm