Street Medicine Kalamazoo at Ministry with Community

Each Wednesday afternoon, a group of doctors and medical students from Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) set up an onsite walk-in clinic in the classroom space at Ministry with Community (MwC). They bring with them a series of tackle boxes, rolling tool cabinets, and wheeled luggage filled with the type of supplies you would find in a typical doctor's office. Once the room is prepped, they open the door and begin seeing their patients, our members (the people we serve).

The group is known as Street Medicine Kalamazoo, and they were formed from the awareness that seeking medical attention while unhoused is challenging at best. Lack of transportation, difficulty connecting to services without a phone or address, or simply being overwhelmed by the daily need to find food and shelter can all stand in the way of obtaining proper healthcare. Street Medicine Kalamazoo removes many of those barriers by meeting people where they are, whether that's at MwC, in encampments, or at other service provider locations.

Thanks to funding from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo region, Street Medicine Kalamazoo officially began their work in early 2021 after seeing the unmet medical needs of unhoused people in our community. In December 2021, they started weekly visits to Ministry with Community.

“It just made sense to come here,” said Sravani Alluri, MD, an assistant professor in the department of Family and Community Medicine at WMed. Dr. Alluri worked with Cheryl Dickson, MD, MPH, associate dean for Health Equity and Community Affairs at WMed - and an MwC Board member - to bring Street Medicine Kalamazoo to our facility.

Our members have benefited greatly from this weekly, on-site service.

“It wish they were here every day. They try to help everyone they can when they’re here.”
– Janet Karpus, Associate Director

The mission of Ministry with Community is to empower people to make positive life changes.
that the doctors are also seeing individuals that didn’t get their name on the list. They try to help everyone they can when they’re here.”

“One of Street Medicine Kalamazoo’s tackle boxes filled with neatly organized medical supplies.

Members can meet with the doctors about any concerns they may have. If their needs can’t be met onsite, the Street Medicine team will work with them to connect them to other services.

“We see a lot of skin infections, upper and lower respiratory tract infections, substance use disorder, mental health conditions, complications from diabetes and congestive heart failure, frostbite and other foot maladies, and physical trauma such as lacerations or broken bones,” said Nic Helmstetter, MD, an assistant professor in the medical school’s departments of Medicine and Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. “We also work to diagnose and treat hepatitis C.”

While the Street Medicine team does a lot for our members, the doctors and medical students themselves feel a sense of gratitude in return.

“As students, we get so much of our education from the community. We learn so much from them and this work is a way to repay that.”

— Jessica Ziccarello, medical student at WMEd

Dr. Helmstetter agrees.

“As physicians, this work is part of our core values,” he said. “This work has made me a more fulfilled physician, especially in the setting of all the moral injury of a pandemic.”

Thank You!

We would like to thank the doctors and students that make up Street Medicine Kalamazoo for their work with our members and those in our community experiencing homelessness.

Street Medicine Kalamazoo is one of dozens of partners that provide free, onsite services to our members. MwC actively develops strong partnerships that improve the efficiency of the human services sector in Kalamazoo by connecting our members directly to the services they need most.

Another Way Students and Doctors At WMED Are Helping Our Members

In addition to weekly visits from Street Medicine Kalamazoo, WMED students in the Community Health Interest Group, led by Dr. Dickson and Mark D. Schauer, MD, an assistant professor in the department of Medicine at WMEd, provide onsite bi-weekly health screenings for our members. As a result of these screenings, members receive support with navigating their health concerns and are referred to Street Medicine Kalamazoo, WMEd, or Family Health Center for further care. These screenings also take place at other local service providers.

Generosity in our Community

Our amazing neighbors at Biomat USA-Kalamazoo donated masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, and band aids!

The wonderful team at Family Health Center delivered masks and COVID-19 test kits!

Our friends at West Wind Dental gathered items from our wish list, including a generous amount of toothpaste!
Baseball For A Cause!

What’s better than a baseball game on a summery Saturday night? Baseball that gives back!

Join us on Saturday, July 30, 2022 for a Kalamazoo Growlers game and support Ministry with Community.

Tickets are just $10 and include a reserved seat and a Growlers hat!

For more info on the game, and to purchase tickets, scan the barcode to the right or contact Justin Zeldes at 269.492.7410 or at justin@growlersbaseball.com.

See you there!

24 HOURS TO RAISE $20,000!

Ministry with Community Against Hunger

A 24-hour Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Gift Challenge May 17 at 6:00pm – May 18 at 6:00pm

Full details at: ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcagainsthunger

24-hour Giving Challenge!

Starting on May 17, 2022, we’re holding a 24-hour online giving challenge to support our meals program.

Each gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $20,000!

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more info.
In Memory Of:
Lois Alberti
Robert Schellenberg
Chris Anderson
George and Gladys Manley
Fern Bacon
Barbara Albanese
Joe Effrice Barbee
Chiquita Elmore-Barbee
Philip Barnes
Anonymous
Michael D. Bender
Monte B. Bender
Bruce Binnis
Larry and Linda Lueth
Robert Dale Brouwer, MD
Gary and Nancy Ausema
Laura Boyd
Karol and Delores Busching
Patricia Dolan
Emily J. Dood
Robert and Barbara Felkel
Jonathan and Hildegard Franzblau
Sharon Grinis
Thomas and Colette Gushurst
Carolyn and Andrew Havey
John, Janet, Joe, Susan, and Gayle
Lerner Huckleby
Learning, Careers, & Teams
Leadership Team
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Michael and Marilyn Maurer
Gerri and Ron Vander Molen
Jack and Ellen Neal
Valerie and George Opdyke
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Lisa Silberman
Thomas Van Der Linden and Jean
Silberman
Rita Stevens and Bill Moonaw
John and Beverly Folz
Linda Stieve
Michael Coyne
The Dedicated Staff
Bruce Nelson
Wilma Tays
Phyllis and Andrew Jackson
Chris Thomas
Susan Singer
December 23: Breakfast & Lunch: Eileen and Oliver Evans in honor of Anabelle and Harper Evans

December 24: Breakfast & Lunch: Merry Christmas from the Maynard and Donna Knight family

December 25: Breakfast & Lunch: Ascension Borgess

December 26: The employees of Martin & Associates

December 27: Barb and Belden Smith to honor Amy Glass and Ross Chapman

December 28: Breakfast & Lunch: Mary Powell in memory of her beloved husband, James H. Powell

December 31: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Robert Caulfield, born on this day. Best dad ever!

January 5: Breakfast & Lunch: For Vicki, Sidney, and Ryan Osinski in memory of Mark Osinski, husband and father

January 8: Breakfast & Lunch: Harold Ballen in celebration of his birthday

January 10: In honor of Anita Latulippe and in memory of George Latulippe

January 18: Leona Van Antwerp in memory of Dale E. Van Antwerp

January 20: Westra's Wonders in celebration of Maggie Westra's birthday

January 21: Tim Price in memory of his parents

February 4: Breakfast & Lunch: Oliver and Eileen Evans in memory of Eleanor Foley Caulfield

February 6: Breakfast & Lunch: Ted Vliek in memory of Joyce Vliek

February 11: Deb Wickman's birthday

February 17: Breakfast & Lunch: Maggie Ebrite

February 19: In memory of Ken and Betty Judd, and Tie and Harriet Easton

February 24: Susan Kavanaugh

February 28: Kuipers Advisors

March 12: Breakfast & Lunch: Portage Girl Scout Troop #80097 in honor of the Official Girl Scout Birthday and all community members who have purchased Girl Scout cookies

March 17: Breakfast & Lunch: Notre Dame Club of Kalamazoo

March 19: Breakfast & Lunch: Kalamazoo Irish American Club

March 25: Breakfast & Lunch: Satish and Supriya Deshpande

March 30: Breakfast & Lunch: Karol Dill in memory of Anne Oman

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!