



HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT

2025 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sarah Cain
Executive Director

BE. HERE. NOW.

Wow!!! What a year!! And what a rollercoaster ride! I don't know about you, but I've been racing through my days trying to get all the things done that I need and want to do. Sometimes it feels impossible to find the time to stop what you're doing and just **BE**. And when I do, I am so grateful that I took that opportunity. The possibilities in life begin to seem endless when grounded in the here and now.

As a person driven by social justice, I want to change it ALL. Which can sometimes feel like a heavy weight in the pit of my stomach and that is why it is so important now more than ever to BE HERE NOW because true change must begin within ourselves. It is so easy to encounter frustration and despair in our line of work but the true blessing is when we realize that those things are happening outside of ourselves which means they aren't a part of us. When we focus on the *Within* we are better able to deal with the *Without*. Which can, then, give us the opportunity to create more impactful interactions with others. When someone is struggling, it's not what you offer in that moment that is the most important, it's the interaction itself. The feeling of connection with another living soul can be the most powerful gift you can give someone. That's just one of the beautiful things about being here now.

With Love,
Sarah

OUR BOARD



PAT MAYE
CHAIR



CHRIS SHEPARD
VICE CHAIR



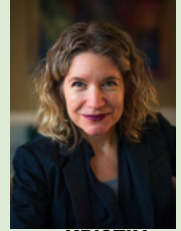
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WENDY FRENCH
BOARD MEMBER

Our diverse and dedicated board comprises eight members, each bringing unique perspectives and expertise. Together, they represent a rich blend of backgrounds and professional experiences, including social work, mental health, housing, and public defense.

OUR TEAM



SARAH CAIN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)
MALIHA RAZA (DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR)
JOHN STAGE (FINANCE MANAGER)
MARLA LEMAE (PROGRAM DIRECTOR)
KIERRA GILL (HOUSING ADVOCATE)
TONY MCREYNOLDS (INTAKE COORDINATOR)
AIAH SENESIE (HR/OPERATIONS COORDINATOR)
PSONTIA FOWLER (COMMUNITY ADVOCATE)
JACOB MCCANN (INTERN)
ELLEREY PATCHETT (INTERN)
DEMI WILLIAMS (INTERN)



CELEBRATING CLIENT SUCCESS

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

THE POWER OF STABLE HOUSING



How Dee found Serenity and Strength...

Dee approached KHA after she left her home with her three year old son Zee, fleeing domestic violence and not finding a supportive community to help. Her story is not unique. Many people find themselves in similar situations - because not everyone has family or friends who can step in during a crisis. Housing instability can happen to anyone, often without warning.

When Dee had no one else to turn to, KHA became the family she needed. We stepped in with immediate assistance, placing Dee and Zee in a hotel for a few days while arrangements were made for transitional housing. They are now safely residing at **Serenity House**, where they have stability and support as they continue rebuilding their lives. KHA continues to work closely with Dee to secure permanent, stable housing for her family.

Dee is currently working a part-time job and is actively engaged with Michigan Works to pursue improved employment opportunities. She has also qualified for a vehicle through the State of Michigan's vehicle purchase program, which will greatly support her ability to maintain employment and attend appointments. Her son is enrolled in a local school, and is doing well.

Dee's journey reflects how KHA works in practice: we meet people in moments of crisis, recognize and affirm their strength even when circumstances are overwhelming, and walk alongside them as they rebuild. Through consistent advocacy, education, and support, we help families move from survival to stability. **Dee's story is a testament to the power of faith - faith in people's resilience, in their innate potential, and in what can happen when empowerment is paired with steady, compassionate care.**

PROGRAM UPDATES

Demystifying Homelessness



Demystifying Homelessness - is a collaboration with the Institute of Public Scholarship and Prince of Peace Church. Designed to foster empathy and challenge the misconceptions that often dehumanize and criminalize the unhoused, we conducted a series of three interactive sessions, where over 50 community members engaged in experiential learning exercises and heard powerful first-person narratives from individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

Financial Wellness



Recognizing the importance of financial empowerment, we launched Financial Wellness educational sessions in partnership with Honor Credit Union to help clients build budgeting skills and increase long-term stability. This program is aimed at empowering clients to build generational wealth and move them forward towards home ownership.

Housing Advocacy Collective (HAC) Updates

The HAC—a coalition of 10 local organizations— was launched in 2023 to respond to the unacceptable living conditions at Fox Ridge Apartments and to begin addressing the deeper patterns of housing injustice across Kalamazoo. In 2025, we created sustained media attention placing significant pressure on public officials and property owners. We also hosted resident-led Listening Sessions, for tenants to share their lived experiences.



SCAN HERE TO READ MORE...

Serenity House Transitional Housing

Serenity House
KALAMAZOO HOUSING ADVOCATES
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



Launched in under 2 months, the Serenity House is the first family transitional house in Kalamazoo! A 10-unit facility in the Edison neighborhood, housing 11 adults and 22 kids, providing families with a structured, time-limited pathway toward long-term housing stability and self-sufficiency.



MADISON LUKEMAN (LUKEMAN PROPERTIES, LLC) & SARAH CAIN IN FRONT OF SERENITY HOUSE



SERENITY HOUSE LOCATED AT 531 BRYANT STREET IN KALAMAZOO'S EDISON NEIGHBORHOOD.



UPSTAIRS BATHROOM REMODELED FOR RESIDENTS AT SERENITY HOUSE



ONE OF THE UPSTAIRS BEDROOMS AT SERENITY HOUSE

THANK YOU TO



&



Jeter's Leaders

for your generous part in our Holiday drive for Serenity House!!!!



Process Recovery

PROCESS RECOVERY



*Conversation.
Support.
Mindfulness.*

KHA has launched Process Recovery, a new, compassionate, community-centered approach to addiction recovery.

We provide a safe place to be mindful, present, and supported through one of life's biggest challenges.

**Everyone is welcome.
Every addiction.
Every level of recovery.
Everyone.**

Kalamazoo
Housing
Advocates



Scan here if you want to join a Process Recovery group.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

**HOUSING STABILITY – KEEPING KEYS IN HANDS,
SMILES ON FACES.**

In 2025, thanks to heroes like you, we aimed high, and let's just say we knocked it out of the park!



HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

188

109 households secured housing or prevented eviction; 73 provided with information and referrals.

HOUSING RETENTION RATE

96%

Of families we served avoided eviction and remained securely housed.



FUNDS RAISED

\$696,556

Our community is amazing! You helped us raise over half a million dollars to power our programs and stabilize our neighbors.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

6

1. Housing Stability
2. Transitional Housing
3. Process Recovery
4. Demystifying Homelessness
5. Financial Wellness
6. Housing Advocacy Collective



Six Ways We Support, Educate and Advocate for Kalamazoo Families.

COLLABORATIONS

50+

We Don't Work Alone. It Takes a Village. and We've Got a Great One!"

We partnered with more than 50 amazing organizations to make sure our clients get everything they need to retain their homes.

DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$111,293



This amount represents the emergency rent payments, utility deposits, moving costs and other direct assistance we provided for Kalamazoo families in 2025!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We Can't Bear Fruit Alone: Thank You to Our Life-Giving Donors



Rotary Club of Portage

David & Wilmore FOUNDATION

TRINITY Lutheran Church

KALAMAZOO COUNTY LAND BANK
Repurpose. Renew. Reconnect.

JMC Jakobson Management Company
Property Management

Mulder's MOVING & STORAGE

STURGIS BANK

GW
Guys Who Give
www.guyswhogive.org

LM CU
You'll love banking here.



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Steinagel Management Services, LLC

PNC FOUNDATION

Consumers Energy
Count on Us®

advia credit union



LOWE'S

Honor CREDIT UNION

threads CHURCH

LUKEMAN GROUP
Brokerage + Property Management

DOROTHY U DALTON FOUNDATION

Mercantile Bank

OLD NATIONAL BANK

Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
Downtown Kalamazoo

KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Ministry to the City - 1899

STRYKER JOHNSTON FOUNDATION

MORE UPDATES

WE LOVE GIANT CHECKS!



AND REGULAR SIZED ONES TOO



AND AWARDS!



KHA Executive Director Sarah Cain Receives Community Impact Award!

We are so proud that our Executive Director Sarah Cain received the Community Impact Award at the Kalamazoo Continuum of Care's first ever Kalamazoo Housing Forum on September 11 2025. This award recognizes an individual whose efforts have significantly improved housing outcomes and quality of life for individuals or families in the Kalamazoo community. At KHA we continue to strive to move the needle on homelessness, every day! Congratulations Sarah – we are proud of you!

THE ENGINE ROOM!

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE GEARS THAT KEEP US RUNNING!!!

OUR BACK OFFICE IS THE POWER HOUSE



**KEN CAMPBELL - WEBSITE MANAGER
CAMPBELL WEBSITE DESIGN**

Thank you for being so prompt and collaborative!



**NABILA IKRAM - MARKETING CONSULTANT
DREAM LIFE SOLUTIONS**

Thank you for being so patient with our incessant demands and changes!



**NATE WELLING - IT CONSULTANT
GEEK EASY COMPUTERS**

Thank you for being so quick to figure out exactly what we need.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WITHOUT WHOM WE COULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED SO MUCH THIS YEAR!

SHOUT OUT TO ALL OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS - NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL - WE VALUE AND APPRECIATE YOU IMMENSELY!



BE OUR HERO - CHOOSE YOUR SUPERPOWER!



TIME

Got an hour? We'll put you to work! (Just kidding... mostly.) Scan to donate your time and join our superhero squad.



TALENT

Can you replace a light bulb? Fix a leaky faucet? Don't hide that genius! Scan to tell us what secret power you possess.



TREASURE

Money talks! And right now, it's saying, 'Please help this amazing organization.' Scan to make a financial donation.



Hold the Caviar! We need diapers! (Our very specific wish list)

- Gas Cards
- Bus Tokens
- Canned Food
- Diapers
- Cleaning Supplies

Come Hang Out with Us!
(We promise to keep the cat videos to a minimum!)



Our Official Home Base (Come Say Hi!)

Kalamazoo Housing Advocates
821 W South St., Suite D
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: 269 459 1040

Email: info@kalamazoohousingadvocates.org
Website: <https://kalamazoohousingadvocates.org/>