

DEACONS BEACON

1010 N. Westnedge Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269)344-7333 Fax: (269)344-2437 www.kazoodc.org



KDC to me by Mary Deverdis, Direct Response Servant



The Lord had been dealing with me for months. First, I heard Jon Whan (KDC board president) talk about KDC during a casual conversation at church. Shortly after, a sermon about getting involved in the community began to convict me. Next, a friend suggested that I read a book about "getting out of the boat." Finally, an ad stating KDC needed volunteers appeared in my church bulletin that ran for weeks. I had a hundred excuses. I told the Lord they were all good things and I didn't have the time to get involved with KDC. The Lord wasn't letting me off the hook that easy. During my prayer times, He kept leading me back to the fact that I needed to be doing *something*. I finally called Barb Wynalda (board member and direct response servant) and she invited me to work at the KDC garage sale. I went, had fun and met some really nice people. After the sale, Barb suggested that I come to check out KDC.

I went with the intention of leaving a quick way out. My plan was to be a nameless, faceless volunteer. When I visited, I was struck by the awesome way KDC worked. Not only do they supply

people's physical needs, but also tend to them spiritually. The direct response servants share their faith, the love of Jesus, some common sense, and give people real encouragement. Barb saw my reaction and told me I should give counseling a try.



I spent the first few days at KDC sitting with Barb and other counselors learning by just being with them. I listened to how they ministered to the guests, prayed from their hearts and encouraged them. The time came too soon when Cindy told me I should see a guest by myself. I was terrified. I knew I could handle the paperwork, but ministering to the guests after that was a different story. I just kept praying and seeking the Lord. To my amazement I got through my first guest. I have asked at least one

thousand questions! The staff and volunteers have been patient and understanding.

I have come to look forward to Thursdays at KDC because God teaches and stretches me every day. God has developed compassion in me I didn't know I had. He has given the poor and needy a face in my life. You can't help but be moved by people like George. George left prison with the clothes on his back and 95 cents. He really wanted to keep his life on track and follow Jesus. George received clothes, a Bible, church references, encouragement and prayer. After he finished his clothing appointment, George came back to thank me with tears in his eyes.

I have also learned to boldly share the gospel and my faith. I have opportunities to share how God has provided and carried me through trials. Knowing the opportunities God will give me to share has caused me to memorize scripture and spend more time in God's word. My prayer life has also changed. I pray that Jesus will supply me with His words and not my own. Also, that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct me and give me His ears to hear

and His heart to respond. I find myself praying all week for KDC, myself and the people that I have seen.

As I reflect about the months I engaged in a tug of war with God over getting out of my comfort zone, my only regret is that I didn't give in sooner. I spent way too much time arguing with the Lord instead of obeying him. God knew the positive impact KDC would have on my life. I realize now that it is not possible to volunteer at KDC and not be changed inside. God is at work at KDC and will continue His work in me.

KDC is pleased to announce partnership with the Kalamazoo Public Schools and alternative schools for an offsite suspension/ detention program.



More details coming in the August Deacons Beacon.

**MAY IS MATCH FUND MONTH.
ALL GIFTS WILL BE MATCHED
DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR UP TO
\$20,000**



**Emergency Relief Fund/
Clothing Appointments**

Month	Financial requests granted	Amount	Clothing for adults	Clothing for children	Furniture requests	Furniture requests filled
January	26	\$1,255.64	155	91	114	61
February	30	\$2,072.46	104	69	125	72
March	42	\$3,076.86	132	117	154	80
Total	98	\$6,404.96	391	277	393	213

Change a life with your change

Several years ago, the deacons of Southern Heights CRC encouraged their congregation to “change a life with your change.” Most people have a jar or drawer where change is tossed when we empty our pockets. Southern Heights encourages people to deposit their change into a small bus bank at the church. Each month, the money is counted, the deacons match the amount from the Deacon Fund and bus tokens are purchased for KDC. These tokens are carefully distributed to guests for things like job interviews, transportation to a job until the first paycheck arrives or doctor appointments.

This year, a twist was added. They held a competition. People were instructed to place change in the bucket of their church district. Each member of the team that

raised the most money was rewarded with a roll of Lifesavers symbolizing the vital service these tokens provide for people trying to break the cycle of poverty. \$289 was raised for bus tokens for KDC.

Thank you, Southern Heights, for your creativity,

Summer Gathering

June 14 is the date for our Spring Gathering celebrating the end of school and the beginning of summer. The party is in LaCrone Park with food, games, prizes and fun. The event is free to those who attend. Please contact Lee (344-7333, ext. 24) to volunteer or just come and join the fun!



compassion and generosity. You have truly changed lives with your change.

KDC encourages other churches to get involved. Adopt a special need ~ bus tokens, diapers, pots and pans. Call Joni (344-7333, ext. 13) for ideas. How many lives will you change?



Planning for the 11th Annual Run for the Son has begun. Contact Joni , 344-7333; joni@deaconsconference.org, for information on becoming a sponsor for this important KDC fundraiser.

Our April Treasure Sale raised \$5,300 for KDC. Thank you, volunteers and all who donated items.



As you see back packs and school supplies on sale this summer, please consider a donation for the Back to School Bash.



Rhonda McFadden
Clothing Manager

The Kalamazoo Deacons Conference is a spiritually based crisis haven for people in need and living at or below the poverty line. A clothing center is one of the numerous services offered. Guests may select clothing seasonally (every six months) for their family.

The process is that a guest comes in and consults with a direct response servant, stating the clothing need and are given a clothing appointment.

KDC's Clothing and Household Areas

In many instances, we see people the day they meet with a direct response servant ~ they do not need to wait for an appointment. Guests may "shop" for their family but receive clothing at no cost. **KDC does not charge for items that guests receive.** Our clothing department serves an average of 15 - 20 people/ families per day.

We strive to provide basic clothing needs. The list below are the items that a guest may receive. We also add some perks when we are able to - household knick-knacks, sample lotions, make-up, hair accessories, etc.

As the clothing manager, I enjoy my position because we're providing our guests with a free shopping

experience. By the grace of God, I am able to select quality clothing for our center. I take pride in selecting clean items that are in good shape. Although we come from many walks of life, we are all God's children, and in God's kingdom there is no lower class.

Thank you to all who generously donate clothing and household items. Please help us by making sure clothing is clean and without rips or stains. Things do not need to be the latest trends and styles, but our guests deserve to be treated with dignity and respect as we share Christ's love with them and reflect his compassion and mercy.



Judy Smith
Clothing Assistant

KDC's household department serves guests when they need personal hygiene items (shampoo, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, diapers, etc.) or household items (pots & pans, sheets & blankets, detergent, silverware). Guests meet with a direct response servant to request items. We fill requests to the best of our ability depending on donations. Due to the limited number of items available, guests are restricted on what they are able to receive. For example, a family of 4 will receive 5 plates, 5 forks, 5 spoons, 5 knives. Our goal is to fill a need, not indulge greed. Guests are **not charged** for the items that they receive.

Donations are always needed!

Spring/Summer Clothing List

Kids

- 3 Short Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Long Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Pants / Capris / Jeans (max 2)**
- 3 Shorts**
- 2 Undergarments**
- 1 Shoes**
- 2 Socks**
- 1 Coat / Jacket**
- 1 Belt**
- 1 Pajamas**
- 2 Dress / Skirts**

Men

- 3 Short Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Long Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Pants / Jeans— limit 2**
- 3 Shorts**
- 2 Undergarments**
- 1 Suit and Tie**
- 1 Shoes**
- 2 Socks**
- 1 Coat / Jacket**
- 1 Belt**
- 1 Pajamas**

Women

- 3 Short Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Long Sleeved Shirts**
- 3 Pants / Capris / Jeans—limit 2**
- 2 Dresses/Suits or Pantsuits**
- 2 Undergarments**
- 1 Coat / Jacket**
- 2 Skirts**
- 1 Shoes**
- 1 Purse**
- 1 Pajamas**
- 3 Shorts**
- 2 Socks**
- 1 Belt**
- 2 Bras**



1010 N. Westnedge
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit #26

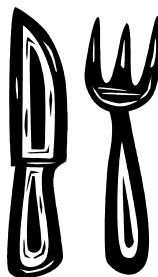
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Service Projects

Do you have a student that needs community service? Summer is a great time to get those hours completed.

Would your group like to help hurting people through KDC?

Contact Joni (344-7333, ext. 13; joni@deaconsconference.org) to reserve a spot.



KDC expresses sympathy to the family of Betty Vandermay who died unexpectedly on April 21.

Betty and her husband, Jack, have donated silverware to KDC for many years.

Urgent Donation Needs

- Sheets (all sizes)
- Pots and pans
- Towels
- Pants hangers
- Socks & underwear
- Men's jeans, pants & shoes

*Donations accepted:
Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm
1st & 3rd Sat, 9am-1pm*

"Glorifying God by building a caring and compassionate community"