

Kalamazoo Hope

“Helping Individuals to Survive and Live Healthy, Quality Lives” (SM)

Housing and Material Goods

Note: the Kalamazoo Hope’s Quick List page contains a document titled “Quick List;” it was specifically designed with individuals who do not have a regular place to live or a computer in mind.

The document contains the names, telephone numbers, and website addresses of numerous services which are found on this page; if you do not have a computer, or only have limited time on one, you may want to open the Quick List and print it right now, then continue reading this document after picking it up.

Having a psychological condition can notably affect one’s ability to earn income, including to the point where an individual is unable to engage in work. It is hoped that the information present will assist those with exceptionally limited finances in obtaining material possessions, housing and otherwise, that are important for day-to-day living.

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1) Abuse and Human Trafficking

A dangerous life can be overwhelming; some would ask why one does not simply leave, but there are so many reasons this is not so easily accomplished; fear of violent reprisal and not having safe place to go being two of the most notable, as well as caring for a child, if one is a parent.

In addition, one may not have funds, access to personal documents such as their birth certificate (which may have taken), or also have a medical condition that requires treatment which they cannot obtain on their own (again, due to lack of funds, or perhaps transportation, among other reasons).

[Anti-Trafficking Program \(YWCA Kalamazoo\)](#)

[Domestic Violence – Office of the Prosecuting Attorney \(Kalamazoo County\)](#)

[Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition \(KAHTC\)](#) – although it may be hard to imagine, slavery still exists in the United States, and even here in Kalamazoo County – for [example](#), individuals being forced to be sex workers or perform manual labor under threat of injury or death to themselves or a family member.

KAHTC helps individuals [escape](#) from these types of situation and create a new, independent life; it also provides training to individuals and groups so that they may better assist such individuals.

[YWCA of Kalamazoo Domestic Assault Program](#)

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2) Cost Assistance

Even if one does their utmost to save, find deals, and take care of things themselves, they may not find it possible to achieve certain things, such as move, afford housing, or make repairs for the winter.

Some see accepting assistance as a sign of weakness or using others. However, asking for aid demonstrates that one is able to see and acknowledge their limits, and allows one to better care for themselves and, if applicable, their family, so that they can do more in the future. In addition, asking for help can take much inner strength.

One should not feel ashamed if they seek, apply for, and accept such resources; that is what they are for, and they put one in a better position to be healthy.

[Community Homeworks](#) - aids low-income individuals with home repairs.

[Consumers Energy Budget Plan](#) - lets one break their estimated yearly utility costs into even monthly payments, avoiding notable month-to-month fluctuations and allowing one to better plan their budget.

[Energy & Weatherization \(MDHHS\)](#)

[First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo](#) – there is also a Helping Our Neighbors program which allows individuals to get together in order to aid local families experiencing difficulties (such as utility shutoffs and eviction).

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\) \(HHS\)](#)

[Low Income Housing Tax Credits \(LIHTC\) \(MSHDA\)](#)

[Home Ownership Services \(MDHHS\)](#)

[Housing Choice Voucher Program \(MSHDA\)](#)

[Judge Rules Michigan’s Anti-Begging Statute Unconstitutional \(ACLU\)](#)

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[Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity](#)

[Relocation Assistance \(MDHHS\)](#)

[Rental Help: Michigan \(HUD\)](#)

3) Goods – Local

[Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan](#) – at the time of this listing, the website was not encrypted, meaning sensitive information should not be sent (but is still safe to use); if the website address has a small green padlock or the word “secure” (also green) in it, the website should now be safe.

[Habitat for Humanity ReStore](#)

[Kalamazoo Gospel Mission – Rescued Goods](#)

[The Salvation Army of Kalamazoo](#)

4) Goods – Online

[Amazon Prime](#) – offers significantly lower prices on some items, as well as free two-day shipping; other included aspects include savings on food and diapers, as well as free streaming movies. The service can be obtained at a [discounted rate](#) for individuals using EBT or Medicaid

[Craigslist](#)

[eBay](#)

[Facebook](#) - hosts various groups which sell items.

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[Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan \(online\)](#)

[mLive - Classifieds](#)

5) Housing and Shelter

The following resources are a combination of shelters, subsidized housing, voucher program information, and apartment locators, as well as a few organizations that provide homes for certain individuals, such as disabled veterans.

[ApartmentFinder](#)

[Affordable Housing Rental Directory \(AHRD\) \(MSHDA\)](#)

[The Ark Shelter \(Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo\)](#)

[Homes for Our Troops](#)

[Housing Choice Voucher Program \(Section 8\) – DisasterAssistance.gov](#)

[Housing Resources, Inc. \(HRI\)](#)

[Kalamazoo Neighbor Housing Services \(KNHS\)](#)

[Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity](#)

[The LIFT Foundation](#)

[Michigan Housing Locator \(MSHDA\)](#)

[Michigan State Housing Development Authority \(MSHDA\)](#)

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[Open Doors](#)

[Residential Opportunities Inc. \(ROI\)](#)

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Planning \(HUD\)](#)

6) Obtaining Identification and Documents

Numerous resources are available in Kalamazoo County; however, a significant number of them require personal documents, which one may not have - perhaps due to theft or destruction of a particular document, or simple being lost. The following links can connect someone with the information they need to obtain new or replacement ones. In addition, some may qualify for free documents under certain circumstances (such as for one's age, income level, or having a disability).

[Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce Records \(MDHHS\)](#)

[How to Apply for a U.S. Passport \(U.S. Department of State\)](#)

[Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register Office](#)

[Kalamazoo County Identification Card \(Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register Office\)](#)

[Learn What Documents You Need to Get A Social Security Card \(Social Security\)](#)

[Michigan Enhanced Driver's License \(Michigan Secretary of State\)](#)

[Michigan REAL-ID \(Michigan Secretary of State\)](#)

[My Client is Homeless \(Michigan Poverty Law Program – MPLP\)](#) – discusses ways one can obtain a Michigan State ID.

[No-Fee personal identification card policy \(Michigan Secretary of State\)](#)

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[Obtaining a Driver’s License \(Secretary of State\)](#)

[Passport Card \(U.S. Department of State\)](#) – while providing identification, a card passport may also act a primary document when applying for benefits or a job (saving one from having to have several secondary documents, such as a utility bill or student ID). While only useful for travel to countries near the United States, a passport card is less expensive than a standard passport, sized to fit in a wallet, and also provides [proof of citizenship](#) (requires [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#)).

[Request Your Military Service Records Online, by Mail, or by Fax \(National Archives\)](#)

[Veteran’s Benefits Copies \(MDHHS\)](#)

7) Surviving Without A Home

For various reasons, even with the resources in Kalamazoo County, individuals can be homeless – lack of space, discrimination, and an inability to be within a location’s rules because of an uncontrollable medical condition (along with no access to appropriate medical care) are just some reasons that may prevent one from obtaining or retaining shelter.

An individual without a steady place to live may not have access to a computer; Kalamazoo Hope is primarily meant to be an online service. However, hopefully, either through a friend, family member, library, or some other source, this material can be obtained. **In addition, the Quick List (also found on the Resources page) is a printable document with the names and numbers of services providers.**

[10 Places Homeless People Sleep \(Kalamazoo Gospel Mission\)](#)

[The Empowerment Plan](#) - produces a winter jacket which can be converted into a sleeping bag or an easy-to-carry package.

[First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo](#) –a free dinner is held on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. which is open to all.

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[Homeless and Special Housing Needs \(MSHDA\)](#)

[Judge Rules Michigan’s Anti-Begging Statute Unconstitutional \(ACLU\)](#)
[Kalamazoo Gospel Mission](#)

[Michigan Sex offender Registration Act \(Excerpt\) – Act 295 of 1994 –MCL 28.735 – Registered individuals residing in student safety zone; prohibited conduct; violation; penalties; exceptions.](#)

[Meet Up and Eat Up!](#) – required [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#).

[Ministry with Community](#) - a location of note to start with for assistance is Ministry with Community, which provides showers, meals, assistance finding shelter, access to a phone, and lockers, among other services, including the aid of social workers.

[Places to Sleep for Homeless People \(Hunker\)](#)

[SafeLink Wireless](#)

[Sex Offender Registration Act – Homeless Offenders Permitted to Use emergency overnight shelters in student safety zones under certain conditions \(Michigan State Police Update No. 93\)](#) – requires [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#).