

MTM newsletter

MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES ANNOUNCES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Sidney's world fell apart after a serious injury. Thanks to you, there's immeasurably more in store for him.

The Immeasurably More Capital Campaign addresses homelessness in new ways.

+ UPCOMING
EVENTS &
OPPORTUNITIES

June 2021

From the President/CEO

I'm so blessed to finally share with you that we have launched a capital campaign!

For many years, well before a global crisis, we have been praying, planning, and researching the possibility of a capital campaign. **THE TRUTH IS, THE MAJORITY OF OUR FACILITY HAS NOT BEEN RENOVATED IN OVER 54 YEARS!** It is in need of significant updates, not only from a health and safety standpoint, but from the standpoint of continuing to meet the increasing needs of our guests and our community.

We believe every single human being is made in the image of a God who loves them and has plans for their lives; thus, we must demonstrate the compassion of Jesus, not simply talk about it. When guests come into the Mission, they need to experience dignity—

does not make one feel valued; instead, it reminds people of their circumstance and reinforces the idea that they will never be more than this. That is simply wrong.

“**Much of our building lacks dignity and does not make one feel valued; instead, it reminds people of their circumstance and reinforces the idea that they will never be more than this. That is simply wrong.**

- *Dennis Van Kampen*

The theme of our capital campaign is “Immeasurably More.” This name comes from the prayer St. Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians. Paul says that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask, think or imagine according to his power (not ours) at work within us for his glory (not ours).

Our campaign goal of \$14.9 million will give us the ability to make significant shelter renovations, establish a workforce development program and create social enterprise to ensure the sustainability of the Mission in the future. Our staff,

campaign cabinet, and board members have worked hard during the silent phase to raise the necessary funds to kick start the construction and we are expected to break ground this summer. I'm proud to announce that to date, we have \$9.8 million in pledges, gifts received and federal home loan grants and tax credits. We are confident that with continued hard work and God's grace we will meet or exceed our goal of \$14.9 million.

WE BELIEVE GOD HAS AMAZING THINGS HE WANTS TO DO THROUGH US, FOR HIS GLORY. Immeasurably more than we could even dream or think possible. I hope you are excited for the capital campaign and the direction Mel Trotter Ministries is going. God bless you.

Grace and peace,



Dennis Van Kampen
President/CEO, Mel Trotter Ministries



even and especially in their shelter surroundings. Much of our building lacks dignity and



**IMMEASURABLY
MORE**

*A Capital Campaign for
Mel Trotter Ministries
in conjunction with
Heartside Ministry and
Next Step of West Michigan*



YOUR SUPPORT HELPED SIDNEY REBUILD HIS LIFE

According to the world's standards, Sidney once had it all, but a serious injury sidelined him and he lost his business, marriage and home.

SIDNEY ONCE HAD IT ALL—A SUCCESSFUL FLOORING BUSINESS WITH A FLEET OF VEHICLES, A SIX-FIGURE SALARY, A HOME IN A GATED COMMUNITY, A BEAUTIFUL WIFE—AND HAD EVEN SERVED AS A CHAPLAIN AT A NONPROFIT HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED. He lost everything, however, when a serious injury sidelined him for two years and started him on a path to nowhere. His business floundered and eventually died, he faced homelessness because his medical bills and mortgage payments kept piling up and a job was hard to find thanks to his criminal record.

"I heard about Mel Trotter Ministries' mission as soon as I got off the Greyhound bus in Grand Rapids," said Sidney, who had arrived from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Much like when Mel Trotter himself led this mission

in the early 1900's, the impact is felt across the country as it continues to serve people from all over—those whom God delivers through its doors by His direction.

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But sometimes my plans are not God's plans.

- Sidney

Sidney arrived at Mel Trotter in January 2019 as a man with a plan: enter a restoration program, save money for a place to stay, finance a new van and tools, and go back to work.

"But sometimes my plans are not God's plans," said Sidney. "After becoming a Christian years ago and volunteering at several

places, I developed a passion and felt I was led to help people in need. But later I found myself in need. My calling to help those in need was reaffirmed after witnessing the level of care and compassion I received at Mel Trotter Ministries."

He credits everyone from kitchen staff to case managers, from maintenance staff to management for his renewed admiration and respect for God's servants at MTM. People such as Ken Welford, a case manager who cares for the physical and emotional needs of the guests; Miss Mary, who works tirelessly to make sure the ministry is run efficiently; and Pastor Ed, who is led by the spirit to plant seeds of hope in those who are downtrodden.

"After months of attending meetings, getting hold of God again, receiving love and

attention from the staff, and receiving my calling, I can honestly say that I feel well rounded and have a purpose in life again," said Sidney.

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- Sidney

Sidney completed the restoration program and graduated from the wood design program, which he highly recommends "to gain a skill and a job, or for people like me who



want to expand their horizons." He's also pursuing a career as a peer support specialist and getting his flooring business going, calling it Freedom Floors. After living in one of MTM's transitional houses, Sidney recently found a permanent home!

"Without MTM, I don't know where I would be, but definitely not in the great position I am now socially, economically, spiritually, and physically," said Sidney. "There isn't anything they fall short of in meeting guests' needs."

SIDNEY IS A MAN WHO HAS RECLAIMED HIS LIFE THANKS TO HELP FROM MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES. He encourages everyone he meets to learn about Mel Trotter and support the ministry.

"I encourage anyone who has the ability, especially financially, to support the needs of those who are suffering," he said. "Very few places are equipped to handle the needs of people who are downtrodden. There is no other place like Mel Trotter." 🏠



MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES OPENS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$14.9 MILLION

This campaign will change the way we serve by providing more dignity, value and opportunities.

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU, MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES IS ALWAYS ABOUT HELPING MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN WEST MICHIGAN. We believe that homelessness is a season in a person's life, but doesn't define who they are. We believe they are made for more. And Mel

Trotter Ministries takes this to heart.

We are launching our capital campaign—titled Immeasurably More—to allow us to do even more to help those who face homelessness.

The \$14.9 million campaign, in conjunction with Heartside Ministry and Next Step of West

Michigan, has a four-fold goal: to update shelter space to provide greater dignity, value, and safety for guests; offer paid job training and social enterprise opportunities; create more affordable housing for those on the journey out of homelessness; and improve ministry and case management for every guest.

The goal is to raise \$11,150,000 in charitable gifts from the community and see an additional \$3,750,000 in federal loans and tax credits. A portion of the funds will go to helping guests gain skills to take into employment and offer guests a broader path out of homelessness through more affordable housing. Job skills and affordable housing are key pieces of MTM's goal to reduce homelessness one life at a time.

Monies will also be used to expand and improve MTM's medical offices, renovate the chapel, relocate Heartside Ministry to 225 Commerce Avenue and create space for an art studio and GED programming, and add a number of family apartments.

Richard Craig, owner of Craig Architects, is planning the renovations that will include a new entrance area to handle six to eight people at a time with "furnishings more hotel than homeless shelter," he said. Work could begin on phase one of the renovations as early as late June 2021.

Craig is also planning the revamped second- and third-floor men's shelter space, moving away from large rooms with many bunk beds to two-person rooms with two rooms sharing one bathroom.

"We'll be doing some engineering and filtering to keep germs at bay that come with close contact, as well as

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I've always looked at the guests at Mel Trotter as individuals. These people have struggles like all of us do, and Mel Trotter Ministries is willing to put their yes out front and make people who are uncomfortable comfortable.

- *Anedra Eatman*

working on laundry rooms, showers, and day rooms," said Craig, who has worked with Mel Trotter Ministries as architect and also board member for almost 30 years.

Anedra Eatman is a co-chair, with three others, of the Immeasurably More campaign and has been on the Mel Trotter Ministries board for two years. "I grew up understanding the importance of service. MTM focuses on ministry and that speaks to being there for the community. Their location in the heart of the city speaks to serving that community."

Eatman, who is vice president of human resources and customer experience for TGG Solutions, was born and raised in Grand Rapids. She's a proud graduate of Grand Rapids Central High School, Davenport University, and Cornerstone University's PGS program. "I've

always looked at the guests at Mel Trotter as individuals. These people have struggles like all of us do, and Mel Trotter Ministries is willing to put their yes out front and make people who are uncomfortable comfortable."

Leonard McElveen, vice president of ministry at Mel Trotter Ministries, sees compassion as more than just an act such as providing meals. He sees it as an environment, a space that provides safety, dignity, and growth.

"The campaign will help us change the face of homelessness and help us lead the community in solving homelessness," said McElveen. "By treating our space like home, we can begin to teach home-building skills. When we improve this facility, it will improve outcomes for our guests. Our building is a critical part of that because it's the first place we say, 'Welcome and we love you.'"

WE BELIEVE WITH THE RIGHT APPROACH, THE RIGHT PARTNERS, AND THE RIGHT COMMITMENT, WE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY. If God is calling you to join us in doing immeasurably more, visit meltrotter.org/capitalcampaign. ✝





TOGETHER WE CAN DO IMMEASURABLY MORE

Immeasurably More is a \$14.9 million campaign that will build on a strong foundation to addressing homelessness in West Michigan. It will:

Renovate

Update shelter spaces that have not received significant improvements since 1967 to provide greater dignity, value and safety for our guests and reinforce the love God has for each of them.

Ready

Equip for work through paid job training and social enterprise opportunities so parents can provide a better life for their children away from homelessness.

Reside

Create more affordable housing for guests on their journey out of homelessness and help parents, children and singles discover the life God has for them out of homelessness.

Refine

Improve and enhance the ministry and case management available to every guest resulting in better stewardship of donor resources and greater impact in the lives of those we are blessed to serve.

Our goal is to raise \$11,150,000 in charitable gifts from the community. We will seek an additional \$3,750,000 in federal home loans and tax credits for this project. **Learn more or give at meltrotter.org/capitalcampaign. All gifts made before June 30 will be matched up to \$500,000!**

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay tuned for these upcoming events & opportunities.

KABOOM! PLAYGROUND BUILD AUGUST 9 – 13, 2021

We are transforming the park across the street from MTM! In partnership with KABOOM!, Amway, Tracy Breihof, in memory of Thomas Breihof, and Junior League of Grand Rapids, we have worked with the kids and families staying at Mel Trotter to design, and now build, an incredible playspace. Email Dawn at dawnvanhorn@meltrotter.org to volunteer. Space is limited.

ARTPRIZE SEPTEMBER 16 – OCTOBER 3, 2021 The park at MTM on Commerce Avenue will be an ArtPrize venue that walks you through

stories of homelessness. We hope this experience will break down walls and stereotypes.

SEASON OF HOPE OCTOBER 14, 2021 Our annual Season of Hope event at Amway Grand Plaza will be a night to remember. Paula Jauch, award-winning author and speaker, will share her story as a trauma survivor, and someone who now seeks to help others healing from trauma and brokenness. You will also hear several of our guests share their stories— stories that speak to the hope that often comes after a season of despair. Save the date.

MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES

225 Commerce Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

meltrotter.org

Our Mission Statement

Mel Trotter Ministries exists to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ, through rescue and restoration for anyone experiencing hunger and homelessness.

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