

Community Homeworks Annual Report 2013-2014

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED BY THRIVING FAMILIES IN SUSTAINABLE HOMES

We are grateful to be able to share our work with you – to share the ways we have been able to partner with families across Kalamazoo County to improve the safety, affordability and energy efficiency of their homes.

From October 2013 through September 2014, **320** total repair & improvement services were performed in **112** homes in Kalamazoo County. In the last year, we have made it a priority to offer families more comprehensive long-term improvements and cost savings through weatherization in order to make real sustainable change. While it remains true that many families contact us initially for assistance with a repair issue (most frequently loss of heat or hot water), we are taking a proactive approach with each family to identify if they would also benefit from other improvements.

Who Did We Serve?

- 112 families with 287 household members
- 81 homes within the City of Kalamazoo, primarily in the Edison, Northside and Vine Neighborhoods; 31 homes across the county
- 39 families included children under the age of 18 – those 79 children represent 28 percent of the total individuals served
- 27 homes headed by seniors
- 50 percent of the families we served had household incomes of 40 percent of the Area Median Income or less
- Homeowner Race and Ethnicity: 52 percent White, 41 percent Black, four percent Hispanic, two percent Asian American and Pacific Islander, one percent multi-racial

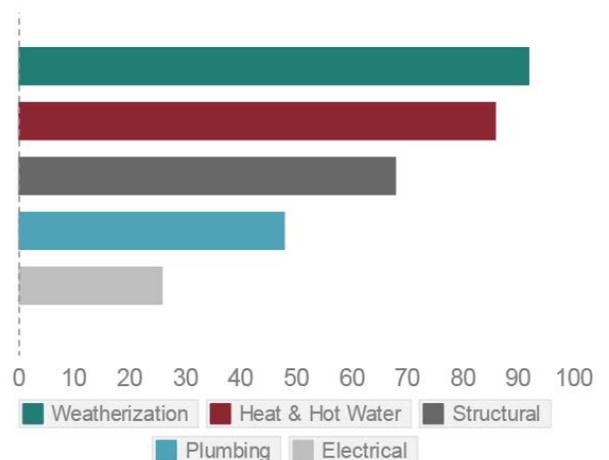
How Did We Help?

Of the 320 repair and improvement services performed, more than half were either as part of full weatherization projects or were specifically related to heat and hot water, including both replacement and repair of furnaces and water heaters.

Our Education Program continues to offer a wide-range of opportunities for attendees to learn practical information and skills that support them in taking care of their homes. In the last year we began to introduce workshops as a requirement for participants in specific programs and we are continuing to expand our curriculum and our roster of skilled volunteer instructors.

Education Program Highlights

- Total number of workshops held - 60
- Number of unique workshop topics - 28
- Total workshop attendance – 306
- Unique workshop attendees – 113



Program Highlights

Weatherization for Long-Term Impact

During the 2013-2014 program year, we made a commitment to ramp up our weatherization program, completing **27** whole-house weatherizations versus eight the previous year. These projects were primarily within the city limits, with eleven in the Vine neighborhood. One third of the homes housed children under the age of 18.

Have you ever wondered what the steps are to weatherize a home? You may have noticed a draft around a window or door, but do you know how much heat is actually escaping your home and from where? Do you know what improvements produce the biggest energy savings?



In each of the 27 homes we weatherized last year, some combination of the following weatherization measures was performed:

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- Insulation: Attic & Wall – 29
- Air Sealing – 28
- Furnace Replacement & Repair – 19
- Water Heater Replacement - 14

These measures typically reduce air infiltration and energy use by at least 50 percent, reducing energy bills significantly and improving the air quality of the home.

Pilot Collaboration with The Vine Neighborhood Association

As part of our commitment to making the benefits of weatherization more accessible, Community Homeworks completed a pilot project with the Vine Neighborhood Association in the summer of 2014 to work with a group of homeowners, tenants and landlords to weatherize **eleven** homes and apartments. The project was designed to bring Community Homeworks' technical expertise and supervision together with the residents' own efforts to produce real energy savings.

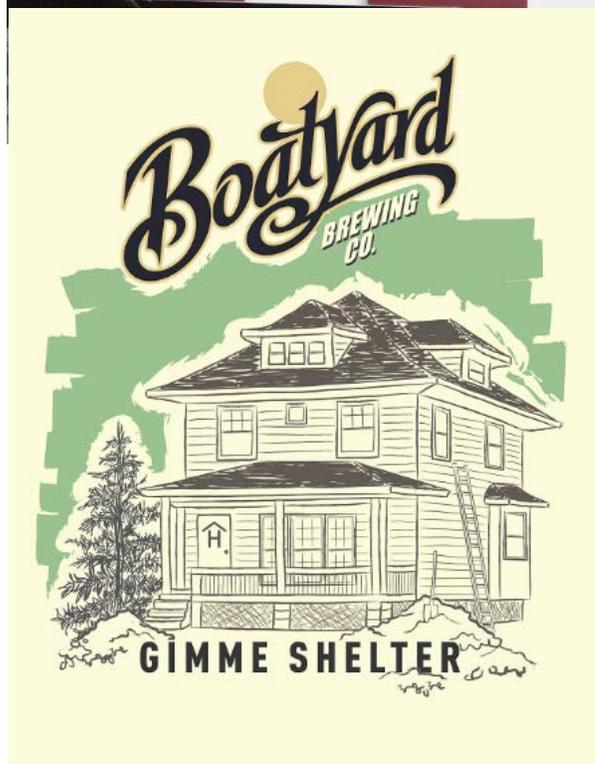
Each home and apartment in the project had an initial blower door test performed. All the participating residents were trained by Community Homeworks on how to do the necessary air sealing of their homes using caulk and foam. The goal was to achieve at least a 20-30 percent reduction in air infiltration in the second blower door test. Once that goal was achieved, Community Homeworks installed a high-efficiency furnace in each residence, replaced water heaters where needed, and provided additional air sealing and insulation to produce even more savings.

Special Furnace Replacement Program

With support from Consumers Energy, we were able offer a special furnace replacement program in November and December of 2013. **22** qualified homeowners received a new high-efficiency furnace for a \$100 co-payment and attendance at six education workshops.

Furnace Fest 2014

What an incredible time we had at Furnace Fest 2014! We couldn't have asked for more: perfect weather, the friendliest location in Kalamazoo, great beer, great food, great music, and most important, a wonderful gathering of people with generous spirits and humor!



Thank you to everyone who joined us at **Boatyard Brewing** – we had an amazing turnout, and as we hoped, it was a wonderful gathering of both old and new friends. Guests enjoyed the very delicious “Gimme Shelter Scottish Ale” custom-brewed for us, wonderful pizza from **Camzies**, and the sounds of **Joe Wang and the Test Pilots**. One of the big highlights of the evening was surely the very lively Live Auction with the inimitable **Brian Steele** of Boatyard. And then the dancing started! All in all, your generous and enthusiastic support raised more than \$6,000 for our programs!



We are so grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners – we couldn't have done it without you. We hope you'll join us again at Boatyard on October 9 for Furnace Fest 2015!

Thank You

The generous support we receive from our donors, supporters, collaborators and volunteers makes our work possible – thank you for your commitment to empowering our neighbors and making our community thrive.

Community Investors (\$25,000 and Above)

City of Kalamazoo
Consumers Energy/CLEAResult
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation

Community Architects (\$5,000 - \$24,999)

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation
Hartzer Nguyen Family Fund
Trinity Lutheran Church
Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation

Community Developers (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Bell's Brewery Employees
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Kim and Mimi Cummings
DeVisser Landscape Services
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
First Presbyterian Church
First Merit Foundation
The Gary Sisters Foundation
Don and Miriam Glas
Steve and Gretchen Maybee
Martin Perrine
Rollin and Crystal Richman

Community Builders (\$500 - \$999)

The Aldrich Family Trust
Will and Bess Fitzgerald
Flowserve Corporation
Gull Lake Area Rotary
Keith and Emily Hewitt
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts
Portage Area Charities Fund
James and Lori Pyatt
Todd and Carolyn Rhodes
David and Janet Scarrow
Tyler-Little Family Foundation
Yes Electric LLC

Community Makers (\$250 - \$499)

Fifth Third Bank Western Michigan
Alfred B. Garcia and Sandra J. Edwards Family Fund
Orrin B. Hayes Inc.
Kindle Real Estate LLC
John R. Light
Marilyn Lindbeck Trust
Chuck and Lorrie Palanca
John and Joyce Petro
Priscilla and John Willson

Financials 10/1/13 - 9/30/14

Revenue	
Grants	\$183,417
Energy Optimization Funds	\$291,054
Program Service Revenue	\$56,312
Contributions	\$51,354
Total	\$582,137
Expenses	
Program Staff	\$173,957
Home Repair & Weatherization Materials	\$215,760
Program Administration	\$58,470
Education Program	\$24,983
Management & General Operating	\$61,671
Total	\$534,841

So What Else Is Happening?

Community Homeworks is committed to helping our neighbors and improving the community of Kalamazoo – to do that, we continue to focus on expanding capacity with new staff, new board members, collaborative partnerships, and innovative programs.

In the Office

We have had an incredibly dedicated team at Community Homeworks for the last several years, with **Robin Escamilla** helping clients understand our programs (with kindness and clear instructions), field technicians **Eric Hastings** and **Denny Eldred** in and out of homes every day, Operations Director **Celine Keizer** making sure processes run smoothly, and Executive Director **Shaun Wright** keeping all the plates spinning. But we needed to grow our team in order to grow our capacity and so we welcomed:

- Development Director, **Kristina Nguyen**, in February 2014, increasing our ability to spread the word about our work and expand our base of support.
- Education Manager, **Kevin Dodd**, in November 2014. Kevin works with our current AmeriCorps service member **Annie Sprague** – we have had a great response to their outreach efforts already and much more is on the way!

On the Board of Directors

We are so grateful for the support and guidance of our Board of Directors, some of whom have been with us since

our founding. A key priority for 2015 is to expand our Board and we are pleased to welcome two new members:

- **Barbara Horton** is retired from the Kalamazoo Public School System and is a past client of Community Homeworks. Barbara is currently studying for a business degree at KVCC and is a passionate ambassador for our work.
- **Derek Naylor** comes to us from Mercantile Bank where he is currently Senior Vice President in Mortgage Lending. He brings his commitment for helping the Kalamazoo community thrive and his financial expertise to our team.

2015 Board of Directors

Joel DeVisser, President/Acting Treasurer

Emily Greenman Wright, Vice President

Don Glas, Secretary

Community Members At Large

Cecily Bierlein

Mike Flynn

Barbara Horton

Derek Naylor

New Initiatives

As part of our focus on making weatherization and healthy home improvements more widely available, we are kicking off several new collaborations with other organizations in Kalamazoo.

- With **Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services (KNHS)**, we have developed a pilot program to provide weatherization and lead remediation for ten to twelve homes that will become available through their lease-purchase program. This pilot will become the model for a new initiative to create healthy homes for low-income buyers.
- With **Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI)**, we are looking at ways to bring energy savings to multi-family properties to help increase affordability across the housing sector.

Do You Want To Be Part of the Story?

We are already more than halfway through our current program year – we would love to have you be part of the next chapter. Make a tax deductible gift today and join us in making Kalamazoo thrive.



810 Bryant Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001



Become a part of making your community better by supporting our work – make a tax-deductible gift today at communityhomeworks.org/donate.

Ours is a community transformed by thriving families in sustainable homes. Making homes affordable, energy efficient, and maintained makes neighborhoods stronger and we all benefit.

What is your vision for Kalamazoo?