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Community Rebuilders Helps Eight People Go from Homeless to Housed in One Week
60 Grand Rapids residents to be supported through innovative program

A new program, Geographically Targeted Housing Outreach (GTHO), aims to help 30 youth and 30 adults find safe, affordable, permanent places to call home by the end of December. Focusing on those staying in Rosa Parks Circle or Monroe Center, Community Rebuilders connected eight people with housing resources in the program's first seven days – three moved immediately into housing.

This proactive approach addresses urgent community needs, bypassing long waitlists that can become “waitlists to nowhere” for the city's most vulnerable residents.

Through GTHO, Community Rebuilders presents a plan to help solve homelessness in Grand Rapids one geographic area at a time. It builds on the City of Grand Rapids' commitment to ending homelessness and works in partnership with the City's Homeless Outreach Team. A network of local, cross-sector agencies provides resources to support long-term housing stability.

Vera Beech, Community Rebuilders Executive Director, says, “We strongly believe the best way to end homelessness is to help our neighbors find long-term housing as quickly as possible. GTHO protects the health and safety of everyone in the community while bringing back the intended purpose of the streets.”

Rosa Parks Circle and Monroe Center were made first priority based on GTHO criteria: A highly vulnerable youth population and adults experiencing chronic homelessness, persons susceptible to victimization, business and residence goodwill, among many others.

The area's high traffic also amplifies COVID-19 concerns. A majority of GTHO funding comes from City of Grand Rapids' dedicated Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) under the federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#).

After residents secure housing, they receive support to increase their income, connect with housing stability services and achieve their personal goals.

Beech says, “If we aren't talking to people who are staying on the street about housing, we're having the wrong conversation. Housing is the first step to addressing poverty, mental health, substance abuse and health-related needs. We are excited by the early success of GTHO and look forward to helping more of our community members reach their potential.”

Bi-weekly program updates and a full partner list can be found at communityrebuilders.org.

About Community Rebuilders

Community Rebuilders has operated for over 25 years to help build a community where homelessness is rare, brief and one time. In 2019, Community Rebuilders provided 1,889 persons with housing services in Kent County. In 2017, they were recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness for their success in addressing Veteran Homelessness.