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### **Community Rebuilders Helps 36 Grand Rapids Residents Find Homes for the Holidays**

*48 homeless individuals will have permanent housing by early 2021*

Many staying in the Rosa Parks Circle and Monroe Center area have a promising new year ahead thanks to the Community Rebuilders Geographically Targeted Housing Outreach initiative (GTHO).

Of 48 people identified through GTHO, 36 have service plans underway and are working with Community Rebuilders to secure long-term homes. Two dozen have already moved into temporary housing where their basic needs can be met—with more to move in the coming weeks.

This is the first phase of a groundbreaking initiative to help solve homelessness in the city of Grand Rapids, one geographic area at a time. Partnering with the City's Homeless Outreach Team, Community Rebuilders is coordinating a network of local, cross-sector agencies to provide resources like short-term accommodations and any necessary supportive services.

Vera Beech, Community Rebuilders Executive Director, says, "Calling this year 'hard' doesn't do it justice. And that's especially true for our most vulnerable neighbors. We are so thankful to our partners who committed to doing something about it, and grateful for their speed and agility. This is an unprecedented undertaking in our city."

GTHO uses a unique, evidence-based approach that helps individuals bypass long wait lists and access housing sooner. This is critical as cold weather sets in, and for addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. 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](#).

Beech says, "The need is serious. Winter is here and many people have nowhere safe to go. Plus there's the continued risk of COVID spreading among physically close communities. There's a lot at stake, but this initiative is working. It's proving what we already know—homelessness *is* solvable."

In 2020, Community Rebuilders helped 609 people across 352 households in Kent County move from homeless to housed. Initiatives like GTHO are vital to that work. The Rosa Parks Circle and Monroe Center pilot will inform and assist Community Rebuilders and the City of Grand Rapids in targeting future locations.

Bi-weekly program updates and a full partner list can be found at [communityrebuilders.org](http://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 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.