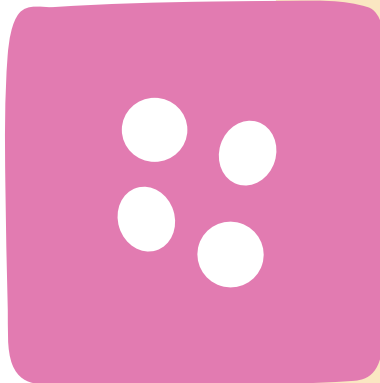




# Building for Belonging

A Campaign for MRC Industries

Our Clients  
Come from  
Different  
Walks of Life



Yet All  
Share the  
Same Desire  
to Belong.

## Dear Friends,

As leaders of the **Building for Belonging** campaign for MRC Industries, we are honored to introduce an initiative that will strengthen the foundation of one of Kalamazoo’s most impactful human services organizations. **This \$2 million effort will fund the purchase and renovation of a new, centrally located home for MRC**; one that enhances accessibility for clients, creates opportunities for growth, and raises the organization’s visibility within our vibrant community.

For more than 50 years, MRC has been dedicated to empowering individuals living with disabilities to achieve independence, purpose, and connection through employment, skill development, and community engagement. Each day, MRC’s programs open doors; helping people build confidence, discover their abilities, and contribute meaningfully to our community.

Now, it’s time for MRC’s physical home to reflect the strength of its mission and the reach of its impact. The new facility will be more accessible for those we serve, more visible to the broader community, and located in close proximity to many of MRC’s partner agencies. **This creates opportunities for greater collaboration and coordination of care.** Our new home will not only improve how MRC delivers its services today, but also position the organization for decades of continued growth and innovation.

This campaign is about more than walls and renovations; **it’s about creating a place where people of all abilities can thrive.** It’s about ensuring that every individual who comes through MRC’s doors feels seen, supported, and valued.

We invite you to join us in making this vision a reality. Together, we can help MRC continue to enrich lives, strengthen our community, and build a future full of possibility.

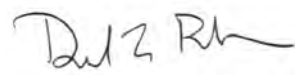
With gratitude,



**Andy Wenzel**  
Campaign Co-Chair



**Kenneth A. Nacci**  
Campaign Co-Chair



**David Polson**  
Campaign Co-Chair



**“Our community is blessed to have an organization that truly wraps its arms around adults with disabilities.”**

My son Daniel, who has Down syndrome, has been part of MRC’s program since 2016. We moved to Kalamazoo because it provided the adult disability programming we couldn’t find elsewhere.

**Everyone needs a purpose, a real reason to get up in the morning,** and we wanted that for Dan. What surprised me most was how art found him. He’s far more creative than we ever imagined, and he comes home proud, and eager to show us his work.

As his older brother once wrote, **‘Dan lives perfectly in the moment’**—and we both wish we could do more of that.

*David, Parent of Daniel*



## Campaign Cabinet Members

**Kristen Aguirre**  
Public Media Network (PMN)

**Lisa Brink**  
Sherman Lake YMCA  
Outdoor Center

**Steve East**  
CSM Group

**Andy Dominianni**  
WWMT

**Deb Droppers**  
KELC Events

**Ron Foor**  
Mercantile Bank

**Adam Jackson**  
Ron Jackson Insurance

**Kelley Kellis**  
Disability Network  
Southwest Michigan

**Dan Martin**  
Kzoom

**Tim Matthews**  
Bodega Coaching

**Carrie Nicholson**  
Nulty Insurance

**Derrick Ricca**  
Greenleaf Hospitality

**Tom Stanek**  
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

**Tyler Stewart**  
DeMent & Marquardt, PLC

**Keith Thompson**  
WWMT

**Marsha Tuinier**  
MRC Advisory Member

**Roger Tuinier**  
Retired County  
Commissioner/  
Business Owner

**Natalie Valentine**  
Peregrine Companies

# Our Mission is to Champion Individuals. To Champion Their **Potential** to Thrive in the Community.

**At MRC Industries, every individual is seen for their potential, not their limitations.**

For more than 50 years, MRC has helped people with disabilities and those living with severe and persistent mental illness, find purpose and community.

MRC believes that every person is valuable, unique, and deserving of dignity. A core value MRC lives out is compassionate collaboration. We support people as partners in their own journey, offering community-centered opportunities tailored to their strengths and goals.



Over 50% of our clients live with schizophrenia and/or depressive disorders

Too often, they suffer silently while the world moves on around them.



“

**MRC became my village; the people who truly heard me and believed in me.**

When I came to MRC, I was trapped in PTSD, fear, and isolation. I couldn't check my mailbox, walk my kids to the bus, or even open a window.

My first case manager talked to me through the door, as I peeked out my window, until I felt safe enough to invite her in. Her patience saved my life. She helped me take baby steps outside, start therapy, and even throw away the things I used to harm myself.

With their support, I've grown, healed, and become nine months clean. Now, what's next for me is giving that hope to someone else.

*Geonca, MRC Client*

# We are a **Safe Place**, **Free of Judgment**, Where People Can Build **Confidence** and **Connection**. Belonging is a Basic Need, and MRC is that **Community**.

Many clients start with the belief that they don't belong anywhere.

Through compassionate relationships, they begin to see their worth and place in the community. MRC works with individuals who are courageously seeking greater independence and fulfillment. They build confidence, grow skills, form friendships, and thrive beyond the stigma of their disability through **our key programs**:



**Workforce Development**  
 Providing personalized daily-living and social skill-building for individuals with disabilities, through classroom and hands-on training, community volunteering, interest exploration, and paid work opportunities.

**Check out artWorks!**  
 artWorks empowers adults with developmental disabilities and those experiencing homelessness to discover their voice through art.

**“ I came to MRC hoping for some stability, but I honestly found more than I expected. With skill-building, Community Living Supports, and employment training, I started gaining confidence again. I'm learning how to manage my day-to-day life, stay on top of things, and I'm believing in myself a little more each day. I'm now part of the Grow Green Landscaping team, working hard, learning new techniques, and actually doing work that makes me feel proud. My biggest goal is independence, and MRC is helping me get there. Every bit of progress I've made is because someone cared enough to support programs like this. Seth, MRC Client**



**Community Living Supports**  
 Early-life services that strengthen relationships at home and teach life skills for independence. Whether as adults gaining independence, or youth developing skills for the future, MRC curates personal plans to help clients thrive in the community.

**Community Employment**  
 Partnerships with local businesses that match people with meaningful work tailored to their strengths and goals. Our team supports each step of the journey, from developing job-search skills and writing resumes to job coaching.

**Bridgeways Case Management**  
 Bridgeways Case Management supports adults living with severe and persistent mental illness by helping them navigate complex systems and connect to essential resources like housing, healthcare, and employment.

**#1**  
 in 180-day client job retention

**#1**  
 in job placement in Michigan

*These stats are based off the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model in Michigan*

# The City’s Core Neighborhoods and **Where We Should Be.**

## —that’s **Where the Need is,**

While MRC’s mission remains strong, having locations spread across Kalamazoo creates numerous challenges for our staff and our clients.

### Multiple Locations Decrease Accessibility

MRC has three locations that are widespread across Kalamazoo. This geographical separation limits team collaboration for staff and creates logistical issues for clients.

### Maintaining Multiple Buildings is Costly

Our three locations are not energy-efficient, and each one needs maintenance. The cost of maintaining these outdated buildings squanders resources that could be invested directly in client care.

### Coordinating Care Becomes More Difficult

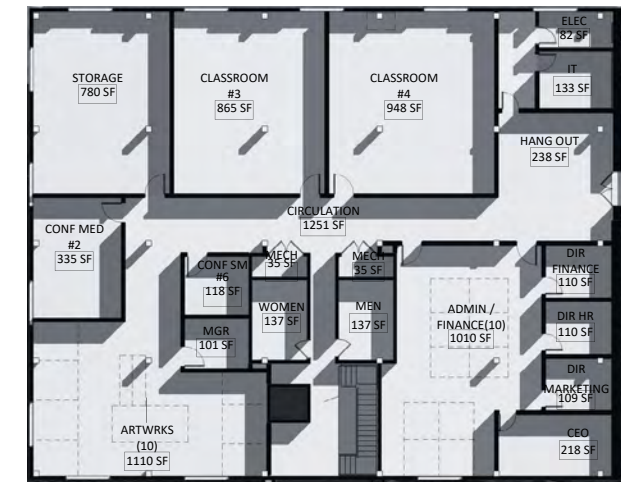
Our case management and skill-building programs are housed in different buildings. Instead of one seamless experience, the burden often falls on a client or their family to navigate across locations.

### Transportation Hinders Access to Care

Our current headquarters on 26th Street is far from the heart of the city. We’re set back from the main bus lines, and the service times often do not align with when our clients need support. As a result, they must rely on specialized van services that are costly, less flexible, and ultimately exclude them from the everyday rhythms of community life, such as riding the same buses as their neighbors.



Main Floor



Second Floor

Conceptual renderings illustrating what our future office layout could look like once a new location is secured



# Many People We Serve Live Downtown or Nearby. Meeting Them Where They are **Removes Barriers.**

The community's needs are rising. Our vision is to relocate MRC to one centralized facility in downtown Kalamazoo, the heart of our community.

This will help MRC, its clients, and the greater Kalamazoo area in a number of ways.

**Services Under One Roof**  
A urban-core facility will allow us to operate more efficiently and enhance our clients' participation. Bringing all of our programs under one roof will eliminate the physical silos that currently divide our staff and client services. This streamlined approach will offer clients convenient and streamlined access to community-centered care all under one roof.

**Create a Sense of Belonging**  
Relocating in the urban-core area is about breaking down stigma, reducing barriers, and merging into one facility that creates a sense of belonging. **Positioning MRC at the center of the community will allow us to serve more people** and families who need and seek MRC's support.



**Increase Service Collaboration**  
Moving our facility into a urban-core area will strengthen our ability to partner with organizations that share our vision for a stronger, more connected society. **This move will increase our visibility and increase collaborations with partners** such as mental health providers, workforce agencies, and social service organizations such as Loaves and Fishes, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, and Disability Network of Southwest Michigan.



The strength of a community is measured by how it **welcomes and values every person.**

MRC is seeking \$2 million to purchase and renovate a centrally located, fully-accessible facility that brings all programs and people together under one roof. Our presence in the heart of Kalamazoo will remove barriers, strengthen partnerships, and build a more inclusive community.

By investing in **Building for Belonging**, you are not just funding a building; you are investing in a greater community as:

- More people will achieve independence
- Our community will grow more inclusive
- Our economy will grow stronger
- Kalamazoo will lead by example

**Join Us in Building for Belonging**  
Your gift will do more than build walls; it will open doors. Together, we can create an environment where every person has a place to grow, contribute, and thrive.



**“We meet people where they are.** Even if they're still using substances or unhoused, they deserve dignity, respect, and care just like anyone else.”  
*Madison Branch, Clinical Director at MRC Industries*

# How You Can Help

MRC Industries' **Building for Belonging** campaign is seeking \$2 million in community philanthropy to fund a new home for their clients and programs.

**You can help us achieve this important goal by supporting this campaign through:**

- A one-time cash gift
- A multiple-year pledge commitment (may be paid over three years)
- A gift of appreciated assets (i.e., stock)
- A gift from the Required Minimum Distribution of your IRA (only for donors older than 70 ½)
- An estate gift

Your charitable gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of state and federal law. Please check with your tax advisor to determine how your gift may affect your personal tax situation.

**To learn more or pledge your support, please contact:**

**Susan Terranella**  
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[sterranella@mrcindustries.org](mailto:sterranella@mrcindustries.org)



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[www.buildingforbelonging.org](http://www.buildingforbelonging.org)

