



806 SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVE  
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to cultivate and strengthen a sense of community and an improved quality of life for the residents of Vine.

### IMPACT STATEMENT

Impact Statement We strive to accomplish this by distributing resources, advocating for our residents, managing properties equitably, and supporting local artists and innovators.

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

THE VINE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



VINE LINE

*The official newsletter of the Vine Neighborhood Association*

806 South Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008  
Phone: (269) 349-8463  
Email: [info@vineneighborhood.org](mailto:info@vineneighborhood.org)

**Land Acknowledgment:** The Vine Neighborhood stands on the land of the Council of the Three Fires – the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. Indigenous nations of the Great Lakes region are also known as the Anishinaabe, or original people, and their language is Anishinaabemowin. We acknowledge the enduring relationship that exists between the People of the Three Fires and this land. (adapted from K Colleges Land Acknowledgment).

**Discrimination Policy:** It shall be the policy of the Vine Neighborhood Association to provided equal employment opportunities and services to all eligible persons without regard to age, ancestry, citizenship, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, and/or weight.

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Winter 2022

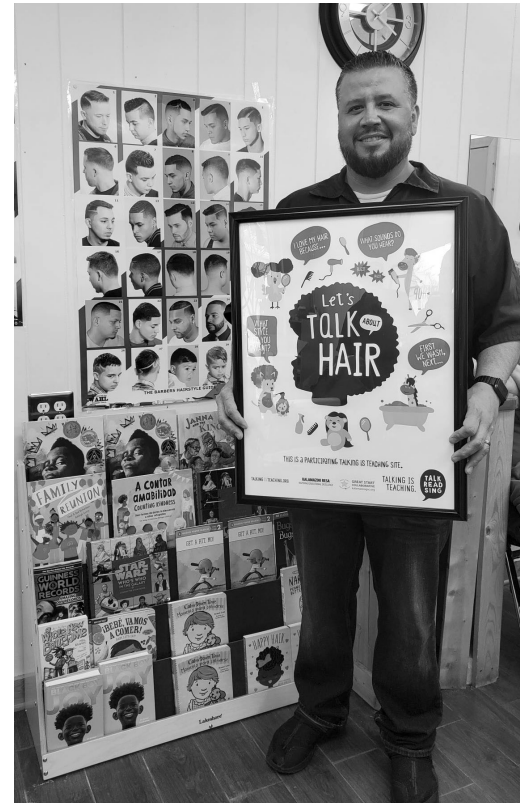
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Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008  
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### The Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative

The Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative wants to take a moment to brag about our powerful partnership with local barbershops! Thanks to an initial grant from the Michigan Department of Education focusing on early literacy, we partnered with 8 local barbershops. Each shop received a space-saving bookshelf and small table+chair set. Families are encouraged to take home literacy toolkits that change each month and a free book. Each shop has made a space for a little reading nook and we get calls for more books each month and have even gotten requests from other shops for furniture and books. We are so grateful for our current partnerships and are currently seeking funding to expand.

The very first barbers to sign up with Jerome and Robert at the Shops on Vine. We love hearing from families about how much more excited their kids are to go to the barbershop and to take own their very own brand-new book! Thanks to Jerome and Robert for helping elevate the importance of TALKING with your littlest ones!



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

[vineneighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/vineneighborhood)



The Heart of the Vine is home to many non-profit and community-led organizations:

The Arc Community Advocates  
HOPE Thru Navigation  
Teaching Assistants Union at WMU  
Read And Write Kalamazoo (RAWK)

Vine Neighborhood Association  
Autism Society of Kalamazoo  
WMU Professional Instructors Organization  
PACCT Board

The Vine Artist Critique Night

For six months now, the Vine Artist Critique Night has been meeting regularly each month. It has been a great time for sharing our work, sharing fun ideas, offering advice, and general fellowship among artists. Our job isn't easy, and it helps to know we are not alone! Artists, please join us on the second Friday of each month at the VNA - times, and sometimes dates, may vary and are subject to change, so follow the Vine on Facebook or email [ellennelson90@gmail.com](mailto:ellennelson90@gmail.com) for more information.



Do you want to get more involved in Vine? Volunteer for one of our VNA committees!

- Community Cares** - looking out for each other in coordination with KDPS liaison officer
- Equity** - organize and strategize to lift up vulnerable populations
- Events** - planning the fun things
- Finance** - make decisions about how to use our financial resources
- Fundraising** - the wonderful word of grant writing
- Housing** - advocating for fair housing in the neighborhood
- Property Management** - make decisions about how to manage and use our properties
- Technology** - developing and maintaining our virtual outreach

Contact us at [info@vineneighborhood.org](mailto:info@vineneighborhood.org) to find out more!  
Sign up for VNA communications using the form at [bit.ly/3sn0Qb6](https://bit.ly/3sn0Qb6) or scan this QR code:



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

[vineneighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/vineneighborhood)

Who Do I Call:

Call 211 for referrals for assistance with housing, utilities, food; also, for crisis intervention and suicide prevention.

Community Planning and Development

- 337.8026 | Dangerous / Vacant Buildings
- 337.8026 | Building Permits and Inspections
- 337.8026 | Code Compliance
- 337.8221 | Trash Violations
- 337.8804 | Historic Preservation Resource
- 337.8026 | Rental Inspections / Certifications
- 337.8847 | Tall Grass / Weed Violations (Hotline)
- 337.8026 | Zoning Ordinance Issues and Regulations

Public Safety

- 337.8994 | Junk / Abandoned Cars
- 337.8994 | Non-Emergency Dispatch
- 343.2100 | Silent Observer

Parks and Recreation

- 337.8191 | Recreation Program Information
- 337.8994 | Illegal Activity, Wildlife Abuse (Non-Emergency)

Frequently Requested, Non-City Services

- 383.8775 | Animal Control
- 373.5211 | Hazardous Waste Center
- Call Consumers Energy at 1.800.477.5050 for Streetlights, Power Problems, and Downed Power Lines.

Housing Resources

**Homelessness Prevention**  
269.382.0287 | **Housing Resources Inc. (HRI)**  
[www.housingresourcesinc.org](http://www.housingresourcesinc.org)

517.275.2791 | **Housing Opportunities for persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

269.343.6064 | **Open Doors**  
[www.opendoorskalamazoo.org](http://www.opendoorskalamazoo.org)  
[office@odkzoo.com](mailto:office@odkzoo.com)

269.364.6947 | **KCMHSA Housing**  
Finding homes for families and individuals impacted by mental illness

Tenants Rights

886.637.0733 | **Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan**  
[www.fhcswm.org](http://www.fhcswm.org)  
Investigates housing discrimination

888.783.8190 | **Legal Aid of Western Michigan**

269.903.9624 | **Greater Kalamazoo Renters Union**  
[greaterkzoorenters@gmail.com](mailto:greaterkzoorenters@gmail.com)

Home Ownership and Low Income Homeowner Repairs

269.344.2443 | **Habitat for Humanity**  
[www.habitatkalamazoo.org](http://www.habitatkalamazoo.org)  
Homeownership assistance and repairs

269.998.3275 | **Community Home Works**  
[www.communityhomeworks.org](http://www.communityhomeworks.org)  
Critical home repair, weatherization and education

269.385.2916 | **Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services (KNHS)**  
[www.knhs.org](http://www.knhs.org)  
Home buyer assistance and roof repair

VNA Board of Directors:

Jeremy Terpening, *Chair*  
(term expires 2023)

Brendan Molony, *Co-Vice Chair*  
(term expires 2023)

Gwendolyn Hooker, *Co-Vice Chair*  
(appointed Special Director)

Chelsea Viere, *Co-Secretary*  
(term expires 2023)

Ellen Nelson (term expires 2022 May)

Jayne Gulliver

Elizabeth Smith

Daniel Staggs

Naomi Barnes

Dustin Black

VNA Staff:

Stephen Walsh, *Executive Director*  
[info@vineneighborhood.org](mailto:info@vineneighborhood.org)

Jenn Nap, *Property Manager*  
[Jenn@vineneighborhood.org](mailto:Jenn@vineneighborhood.org)

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

[vineneighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/vineneighborhood)

## From the Office at 806 S. Westnedge

I wrote my first VineLine by-line almost 15 years ago, "Some Kalamazoo neighborhoods can get by on being cute, the Vine neighborhood has to work for a living." A Column would be a strong word for my 1st contribution, mostly a collection of thoughts from my walks to work in Vine and the friends and neighbors that I met on the way.

Much has changed in Vine since those walks many years ago, some good, some bad. Change is the one constant in this neighborhood. One thing that has remained consistent in my time here is many of the folks who live in the Vine neighborhoods are passionate stewards of their homes, and care deeply about a great many things, including their community. As we crept into 2022 and new post-pandemic landscape, we at the the Vine Neighborhood Association were excited but cautiously unsure moving forward: We were optimistic that the strong response to the events we hosted in 2022 would carry through, and had collaborated with a number of dynamic Vine performers and visionaries for our 2022 events.

Earth Day in April of '22 was our kick-off, and the response was phenomenal. Residents and volunteers worked to beautify the neighborhood, then celebrated with a great show at Davis Street Park. Any trepidation I had about community engagement was silenced as Vine residents enthusiastically told me about their own efforts and passions- the latest edition of neighborhood stewards was here and ready to roll. Their enthusiasm was infectious!

All in all we did 30+ events, many residents- inspired and born of previous efforts. Our partners at Open Roads held a bike fix-a-palooza, The amazing folks at Building Blocks were working with residents on McCourtie, HOPE thru Navigation led gun violence prevention efforts. Justice Against Bullying met monthly and held their annual Art Hop event. The Golden Lotus crew kept everything chill with live hip-hop in the park. TomFest brought members of our biking community together for fellowship and celebration, and ModeShift worked with the City to install Bike Waves on Lovell, a direct response to Vine residents asking for bike infrastructure. Our Flagship tenant Read and Write Kalamazoo brought the amazing voices of Kalamazoo to the public with their annual Block Party. Finally, we closed our 2022 event calendar year with our first attempt at a Trick or Treat event, and we were blown away by all the people who showed up and showed out!

In between we had a Japanese mini-series about Satoru Matuo filmed in Vine, A terrific Reforest the Vine team hard at work, A Silent Reading Night, worked with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety on a Block Party at EL Sol elementary, a Hot Cocoa social, and a Can and Coat drive led by students living within the neighborhood who wanted to try and help their less fortunate neighbors. We worked with KDPS and met monthly at Community Cares to discuss our neighborhoods health.

We also lost some amazing Vine champions 2022. Rest in Power Cheryl Besser, Linda McCall, and Jeff Palmore. Vine is a better neighborhood because of the passion and love you showed. You will be missed.

Which brings us to YOU. The Neighborhood Association Board of Directors is always looking for passionate stewards to help support our mission and efforts. Some folks love to roll up their sleeves and get to work, some love to talk about policy and procedures, some love to do both and we've got the room for everyone! Experience is not required, just a desire to improve the overall quality of life for all within the neighborhood. If you think you're interested, email us at [info@vineneighborhood.org](mailto:info@vineneighborhood.org) or call at (269) 349-8463, or stop by the office at 806 S. Westnedge and we'd love to talk about the VNA Board as well as other opportunities in vine- or even better, what YOUR passionate about and would like to see in our neighborhood.

### Past Events from 2022





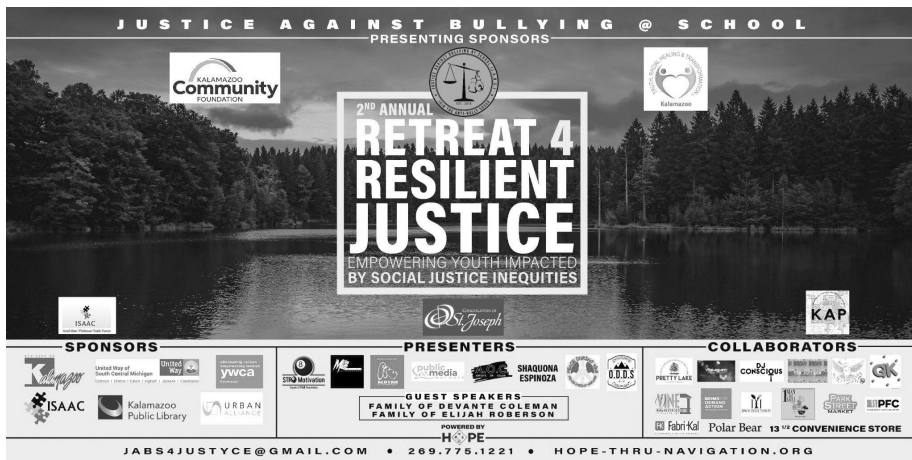
## JABS Club (Justice Against Bullying @ School)



JABS Club (Justice Against Bullying @ School) is a youth initiative powered by HOPE thru Navigation that was started in 2016 by HOPE's CEO and Founder Gwendolyn Hooker alongside her two granddaughters, Justyce Calvert and Jaide Calvert. JABS Believes that Educating, Supporting, and Empowering Youth Impacted by Bullying, Promotes Equity and Creates Promise Ready Students. JABS Club has been making a positive impact in the community through regular programming and events throughout the school year and beyond. This year's theme for JABS was "Ignite Bully Awareness. Cool Down Hate."

At regularly scheduled programming, JABS Club members attend each week and make slime together on the last Wednesday of every month. They encourage their DTTE Anti-Bullying Strategy, which stands for Defend (stand up to bullies in the moment), Tell (share your experience with a friend or teacher), Tell again (Tell someone else like a parent/guardian), and Express (express yourself using your favorite creative outlets like singing, dancing, and creating art). JABS Club takes place Wednesday's at New Village Park. Thursday's at Vine Neighborhood Association, and various other locations during the Summer months.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, with October 13th being Unity Day. JABS Club members came to JABS wearing orange to raise awareness for Bullying. The group JABbed out, where they introduced themselves and shared what they did to participate in Unity Day. October 7th was the HeART & Soul of HOPE Art Hop event which is held at the Vine Neighborhood Association annually the 1st Friday in October. This year featured artwork from JABS Club members including paintings by Kiersten Schuler and Javarious Coleman, delicious signature fried oreos made by Jaide Calvert, as well as staff representations by Shaina McLain of beautiful handmade jewelry, and acrylic art pieces by Mightystream Anders.



The 2nd Annual Retreat 4 Resilient Justice at Pretty Lake Camp took place from October 7-9. This retreat is focused on empowering youth impacted by social justice inequities. This year's retreat was a huge success with approximately 40 youth staying for the weekend. Friday night included a candid conversation with Dominique Whittaker "Mista Man" from Alotah Entertainment and a movie premiere. Michael Wilder and Yafinceio Harris from Peace During War opened up on Saturday morning, followed by Kaliyah, daughter of Elijah Roberson. Books from Kalamazoo Public Mobile Library lined the tables for the LIT (Leaders In Training) Lunch

Hour. After lunch were the breakout sessions with Public Media Network, ODDS, Gerald King with Artists of Color, and artist Shaquona Espinoza, followed by the TRHT Gun Violence Prevention Network listening session with Jennifer Heymoss. The youth spent the rest of Saturday afternoon playing games, making slime, and doing team building activities before participating in the Let it Burn Ceremony with Mista Man. The energy leveled up for the LIT (Leaders In Training) Launch Party with DJ Conscious and Vibin' Selfie Room. The Embrace the Call brunch was on Sunday morning and featured Johnnie Berry and Jeff Fry from Str8 Motivation. Rick Omilian and Jennifer Coyle from Moms Demand Action closed the retreat with the Soul Box Ceremony, where youth attendees created a box out of a piece of paper to remember loved ones they have lost to gun violence.

The 7th Annual Walk 4 the Voiceless takes place in the Northside neighborhood every year on the last Saturday of October. Many JABS club members walk every year to honor their loved ones they have lost to domestic violence, overdose, or gun violence.

To learn more about JABS, visit [hope-thru-navigation.org](http://hope-thru-navigation.org) or reach out to [jabs4justyce@gmail.com](mailto:jabs4justyce@gmail.com), and make sure to like/follow us on social media @jabs4justyce.

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