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## Mothers of Hope

603 Ada Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone: (269) 743-7627  
Email: mothersofhope1@gmail.com  
Website: mothers-of-hope.org

### MISSION

Mothers of Hope empowers and strengthens women, families, and communities to rise above the effects of substance use disorders, poverty, violence and systemic inequities.

### VISION

Be the premier model for culturally sensitive programs that are successful in restoring individuals, families, and communities impacted by substance use disorders, poverty, violence and systemic inequities.

**\*Conveyer & Host\*  
of the  
Black Women's Roundtable**



# MOTHERS OF HOPE



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Mothers Who Believe in the Power of Family

## LEGACY OF HOPE

Laura Scheppach was a professional nurse and social worker who dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for low-income women recovering from substance use disorder and their children through education and nurturing support in a group setting. She would meet with these women until her battle with cancer ended...

On February 17, 2000, this "support group" of eight women met at the Safe House, 118 E. Paterson, Kalamazoo MI. Voices could be heard echoing from one of the rooms, "Our kids need hope." "We need an opportunity to keep our kids with us." "Our kids need to recover too." From that meeting came an idea; a dream; a place of hope...*Laura's House*, named in honor of Laura Scheppach. *Laura's House* would provide a safe space of support and transitional programs for recovering women AND their children. In that way, women could successfully transition from substance use disorder to sobriety without legally being separated from their families. In return, their children would learn how to positively adjust to a different way of living and be exposed to positive alternatives and choices for their future.

The support group also created a name for themselves...from that moment on, they would be known as "Mothers of Hope".

From the humble beginnings of being from a support group of eight women on their journey to sobriety, to a project operating out of the trunk of a car, Mothers of Hope has become an organization based in Kalamazoo, MI with an active Board of Directors and over 200 volunteers. Fifteen years later, "Mothers of Hope" operates solely as volunteer-driven organization and is well on its way to becoming everything the original women of eight could imagine and more. The Legacy of Hope continues...

## CORE VALUES

**Hope**- We believe hope can make a difference in even the most hopeless situation. Hope is our foundation

**Sobriety**- We believe the ultimate goal of offering hope to women with substance use disorder is to get her and her family to successful sobriety. We pride ourselves in being victorious over our substance use disorders!

**Family**-We believe there is nothing more powerful and important than stable, united, and strong families.

**Relationships**- We believe healthy and loving relationships should permeate every part of our community.

**Integrity**- We believe how we carry ourselves personally, professionally, and in business dealings must represent excellence at all times.

**Education** - We believe through education, our community is empowered and equipped with all the knowledge and resources available to guarantee a better quality of life.

**Determination** - We believe that when one door closes, another way will open. Determination keeps us moving forward in a positive and focused manner.

**Love**- We believe that at the core of all we do is love. It is by, through, and with love, we serve each other and our community.

## EVENTS

### Sistas Circle Roundtable

Weekly networking, troubleshooting and Sista support for women who need help navigating systems while receiving encouragement to make it through tough situations. No sign up or registration needed. Open to all women. Participation can be counted towards volunteer or community service hours.

### Real Life... Real Talk...

Men's Group Discussions

This is a brotherhood-based community support network that empowers men through dialogue, skill development and service. This network will provide a safe, comfortable, and non-judgmental place of respect for men to discuss challenges they face and best way to overcome them. No sign up or registration needed. Open to all men. Participation can be counted towards volunteer or community service hours.

### Sistas' Can We Talk/Man Cave

is MOH's signature series where women and men of all ages can freely discuss their concerns about their lives, families and community.

### Celebrating Recovery

The 1st Saturday in August will be the Annual Celebration of Recovery as our NEW COMMUNITY EVENT. We are Highlighting People in Recovery from Drugs. Family members of People in Recovery. People who have Lost Family and Friends to Drugs. People who might want to get off Drugs. Family and Friends of People who might still be on Drugs. We're looking for the Out- Come to be a Stronger Unity of Celebrating Recovery in OUR Community of Kalamazoo. Bringing together MORE Family and Friends of the Recovery Community.