

# IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!

*Here's how to get involved in the Promise of a Greater Kalamazoo.*

You can help improve the next community report card! This is the first of at least five annual reports that will help determine how the Promise of a Greater Kalamazoo is being realized. You have the opportunity to influence the lives of your children, your neighbors' children and organizations that help improve the quality of life in the Greater Kalamazoo area.

## Here are ways you can help:

- 1) Discover new ways to involve yourself in the lives of your children and other young people, such as a visit to their school, a new coaching opportunity or an educational outing
- 2) Rededicate yourself to an organization – such as a service club or the Boys & Girls Club – which support education and the quality of life in Kalamazoo County.
- 3) Explore new volunteer opportunities, such as:

**Student Success & Educational Excellence:** Mentoring opportunities are available through the Kalamazoo Communities In Schools or Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

**Community Vitality & Economic Development:** Discover new volunteer opportunities that make the Greater Kalamazoo area a good place to live, work and play. More than 1,000 organizations have volunteer opportunities.

## Visit one of these Web sites:

[www.kcisfkidsfirst.org](http://www.kcisfkidsfirst.org)  
[www.bbbscommunity.org](http://www.bbbscommunity.org)  
[www.volunteerkalamazoo.org](http://www.volunteerkalamazoo.org)

# COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

*Greater Kalamazoo Area*

DECEMBER 1, 2006



After anonymous donors put Kalamazoo Public Schools in the national spotlight a year ago with the announcement of “The Promise” scholarship program, some 200 community leaders gathered to discuss the consequences of that unique program.



The conclusion of their deliberations was this: The Promise had an immediate positive effect on many students, but the benefits to the greater Kalamazoo area will take the involvement of citizens throughout the area and years to realize. Consequently, leaders have rallied around “The Promise of a Greater Kalamazoo,” the collective effort of citizens and organizations to utilize The Promise as a community-building catalyst.



“The Promise of a Greater Kalamazoo” is an initiative built on the belief that education is the key to community building. While statistics fall short of painting an accurate picture of a community's worth, they can help determine whether a community is advancing toward meaningful goals. Therefore, the heads of four community task forces have accepted the idea of a community report card as they seek to engage citizens in student success, educational excellence, community vitality and economic development. This is that community report card.

The **PROMISE**  
of a **GREATER**  
**KALAMAZOO**

## STUDENT SUCCESS/EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Education Statistics	Kalamazoo County	Michigan
<b>Population 18 to 24 years</b>	<b>30,499</b>	<b>898,593</b>
Less than high school graduate	7.10%	17.30%
High School graduate <small>(includes equivalency)</small>	20.10%	31.30%
Some college or associate's degree	61.50%	42.30%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11.30%	9.10%
<b>Percent of age group enrolled in school</b>		
18 and 19 years	77.20%	71.00%
20 to 24 years	65.00%	42.10%
<b>Population 18 to 24 years</b>	<b>30,499</b>	<b>898,593</b>
Enrolled in college or graduate school	62.40%	39.40%
NOTE: education statistics exclude individuals living in group quarters e.g. dorms.		
<b>Graduation Rates 2004-05</b>	<b>91.40%</b>	<b>88.69%</b>
<b>School AYP Scores</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>3.07</b>
NOTE: Average AYP on a scale of 4 =A, 3=B, etc.		
<p>AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in Michigan is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test. The percentage grade shown above is a comparison of individual school grades – assigned by the state – in the Kalamazoo area (KRESA districts) compared to the average scores of all state public schools.</p>		
Sources: State of Michigan/W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research		

## COMMUNITY VITALITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment Statistics 2005	Kalamazoo County	Michigan	
<b>Population 16 years and older</b>	<b>180,817</b>	<b>7,648,988</b>	
Civilian labor force	125,077	4,981,647	
Employed	114,664	4,539,015	
Employment Rate	63.4%	59.3%	
Median household income (dollars)	44,166	46,039	
<b>KEY PROMISE INDICATOR</b>			
<p>A key indicator of success of the Promise of a Greater Kalamazoo will be whether people choose to live and work here. The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research will be tracking immigration and outmigration for Kalamazoo County. Here are statistics for 2000-2004:</p>			
<b>Years</b>	<b>Kalamazoo County Households</b>		
2000-2001	In-migrants: 6699	Out-migrants: 7443	Net -744
2001-2002	In-migrants: 6132	Out-migrants: 5972	Net 160
2002-2003	In-migrants: 5876	Out-migrants: 5798	Net 78
2003-2004	In-migrants: 5733	Out-migrants: 6683	Net -950
2000-2004	Total: 24440	Total: 25896	Net -1456