

MICAH 6 COMMUNITY

2 December 2024



The Tales of Two Projects

Micah 6 Community is currently working on two major projects to improve quality of life in our community. One of them you probably know a little about because we've been talking about it for a long time--Webster Community Center. The other is slowly building and we are making great progress, The Emerson Housing Development.

Before I get into telling you more about those projects, I just want to take a quick moment to marvel at where we are. In 2012, when I (Coleman) came to Pontiac and called a few friends to come join me in serving a community, I had no idea where that would go, and that was okay. As long as we were faithfully serving our neighborhood, I knew that we'd get to do some great things together, but all of this is beyond even my wildest dreams. People do sometimes ask, "When you moved up here, did you think this is where you were going?" No way. I had a cloudy dream for a small community service commune with my friends.

I do truly believe that this is the eventuality of slowly, faithfully serving our community. We were entrusted with a little and were consistent and fierce in our commitment to our neighbors. And as we were found to be faithful and reliable community partners we were trusted with more and more, until here we are. We have been able to get good at a number of things over the years: bikes, shoes, backpacks, toys, gardens, summer kids programs, affordable produce. But it all started by being good at conversations on porches, giving rides, listening to community concerns. The road to Webster didn't start when we kicked off fundraising in 2019, it started when we made the intentional decision to live in the neighborhood we served. It continued with every community event, conversation and the slow build of trust from our neighborhood.

Thank you to all who have made this possible over the years. We literally wouldn't be here without you.



Webster Community Center

Renovations at Webster Community Center kicked off in April and the first few months were a bit bumpy. Most of that is probably because I've never renovating a building before and spend a lot of time saying, "I don't know what I don't know." Getting trades people on-site, getting payments figured out, navigating the processes set out by our financing partners was all a bit arduous, but eventually we got moving.

We are eager to see all of our amazing tenants moving into this building. If you want to learn more about the great organizations who are coming check out the following organizations:

- Oakland County Police Athletic League
- Sprout Fresh Food Store
- Honor Community Health
- E-Community Outreach Services
- OLHSA Head Start
- The Art Experience
- Accent Pontiac
- Rochester University
- The Sycamore School
- Plain and Fancy
- Plus, a robotics program, indoor bus stop, and more!

We continue to fundraise for solar panels, an outdoor performance structure and playground.

From time-to-time I walk the site and give an update on progress. [Check out our last video here!](#)

Today our roof is finished, skylights are being restored, most of our HVAC is complete, including our rooftop units being dropped in place by an ENORMOUS crane. Electric is almost done, and we are getting temporary heat in the building so that our plaster and wood finishing folks can get started.



Emerson Housing Development

Emerson Elementary School is located in the Northeast corner of the city of Pontiac. We acquired the building in 2018 from a friend and developer who liked our community work, the Stephens Family and Ottawa Towers Corp.

Arson fire damaged the building beyond repair back in 2014, so whatever we decided to do with the property had to come after demolition.

We began talking to neighbors and listening to community members about what they wanted to see happen to the property. We spent the better part of a year crafting a plan that we are excited about and have put in front of the community for feedback.

The basics:

- 50 small homes (~700 square feet) exclusively for seniors. 35 of them will be for sale, 15 will be rented to income-qualifying seniors.
- Built with aging-in-place in mind, we want these to be the last home someone needs. This means wide doors, nearby parking, and handles in important places.
- Site plan includes open shared spaces, benches, and lawns aimed at creating a strong sense of community among residents.



Through a partnership and sponsorship through Oakland County, we have demolished the building and the site is prepped for what is next. And recently, we received \$100,000 in funding from [Kirk in the Hills](#) to sponsor our civil engineering, moving this project forward.

Cannot wait to keep you posted on ways to support and get involved!

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