

In this presentation, Ms. Hoffman will share her experiences in advocating for change and providing housing, anti-racism, and disability services to historically underrepresented community members in Kalamazoo. Please come prepared to ask questions focusing on the models and strategies she has adopted to successfully navigate the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation as she tries to break barriers in effecting change.

# Leading for Change through Housing and Community Support Services in Kalamazoo

Stephanie D. Hoffman  
Housing Advocate and Kalamazoo City Commissioner  
Formerly Executive Director of Open Doors of Kalamazoo

Having joined the Next Door Shelter for Women operated by Open Doors Kalamazoo in 2006, Ms. Hoffman became the first black woman in 2018 to lead the organization in its 50-year history. Open Doors Kalamazoo is a nonprofit organization providing affordable homes and supportive services to create long-term solutions to the housing crisis faced by working families and individuals in the community.



Since joining the team at Open Doors, Ms. Hoffman has grown through the ranks of the organization, challenging internal and external systems and creating new models of supportive services for families and individuals as they navigate their relationship with self, family, and society. An experienced change agent practicing cultural humility, she supports historically underrepresented community members oppressed by systems of privilege with dignity, respect, and love.

A lifelong housing advocate, Ms. Hoffman is currently transitioning into her role as an independent professional.

Ms. Hoffman sits on multiple boards and committees including Metro Kalamazoo Branch, NAACP; Housing Task Force for Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community; Foundation for Excellence; Kalamazoo Community Foundation's Anti-Racism Transformation Team; and Homes For All millage campaign. She was elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission in November 2021.

**March 10, 2022 from 5 to 6 p.m. Via Webex**

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