



ISAAC – DOING JUSTICE

An interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners
working together to build a more just community

February 2012



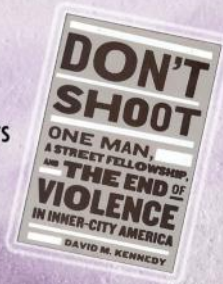
ISAAC CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF BUILDING A MORE JUST COMMUNITY

David M. Kennedy



Author of *Don't Shoot*

Keynote Speaker
His approach has created
"a miracle in city after city:
violence plummets, drug markets
dry up and the relationship
between the police and the
community is reset."



ISAAC 2012 Banquet Saturday, March 24

WMU Bernhard Center

5:00pm Seating
5:30pm Program

2012 Awards

Ally of the Year Award:
Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Elected Ally of the Year:
State Rep. Sean McCann
Founders' Award:
Sunnyside United Methodist Church
ISAAC Leader of the Year
Announced at event!
Tenth Anniversary Awards
Rev. Linda MacDonald & Dr. Larry Oppliger



Tickets \$35
Table of eight \$240 (\$30 each)
Reserve your tickets by March 17!

Call ISAAC at 341-4213 or purchase tickets at isaackalamazoo.org

DAVID M. KENNEDY'S BOOK, *Don't Shoot*, is available at Kazoo Books for the discounted price of \$25.00, and will be for sale at the Banquet.

- ◆ Place your **AD** in the Banquet Book by **MARCH 5**
- ◆ Add your **NAME** to the list of Donors by **MARCH 12**
- ◆ Reserve your **TICKETS** by **MARCH 17**

(See page 4)

ISAAC's 10th Year!

2012 IS THE *TENTH* YEAR of ISAAC congregations and organizations working together to build a more just community! Congratulations to everyone who has been part of this inspiring process of being a collective voice for the values of *hope, abundance, equality and community*.

In 2002, there was no ISAAC office yet, no ISAAC staff, but the first twelve congregations

(Continued on page 2)

Interrupting Violence

Excerpts from an NPR interview with David M. Kennedy, ISAAC 2012 Banquet speaker

IN 1985, DAVID M. KENNEDY VISITED A HOUSING COMPLEX located in what was then one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in America. "It was fantastically, almost-impossibly-to-take-in-awful," says Kennedy. In his memoir *Don't Shoot*, he writes what he thought: "This is not OK. People should not have to live like this. Somebody should do *something*." Since then, Kennedy has devoted his career to reducing gang and drug-related inner-city violence. He started going to drug markets all over the United States, met with police officials and attorney generals, and developed a program — first piloted in Boston — that **dramatically reduced youth homicide rates by as much as 66 percent**. That program, nicknamed the "*Boston Miracle*," has been implemented in more than 70 cities

(Continued on page 3)

HOMES Drama!

"LAST YEAR IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY, 1013 STUDENTS WERE HOMELESS at some point during the school year," all 11 school superintendents in the county wrote to the paper. Their number includes only the Kindergarteners to 12th Graders! All the younger children, and all the adults in our county, are not counted in the 1013.

Yet some of the County Commissioners who agreed to put the Local Housing Assistance Fund on the ballot are backing down! Watch for news

(Cont'd on page 2)



A strong community is our greatest asset.

We believe communities are built on the goodwill and energy of the people who belong to them. That's why we're proud to support ISAAC's pursuit of advocacy and social justice.

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(HOMES Drama!—continued from page 1)

from ISAAC! However they vote, your voice will be needed!

The Local Housing Assistance Fund is a successful, countywide program preventing homelessness, providing housing assistance and creating affordable housing since 2007. ISAAC and the 16 other organizations in the HOMES Coalition want the voters to get a chance to decide about supporting the program with a millage of just .1 mill--only \$5/year for a house with a market value of \$100,000. With this amount the Local Housing Assistance Fund could help three times as many people each year to have a place to call home.

Whatever happens with the Commission vote, all of us will be needed to speak out: A stable place to call home gives kids more opportunities to succeed in life! Our community benefits when everybody has a safe, decent place to call home!

Details are at homescoalition.com

The ISAAC website is under repair! Apologies! It will soon be possible to purchase Banquet tickets online, and see the latest news and photos at isaackalamazoo.org

(10th Anniversary—continued from page 1)

came together. They held the first ISAAC Covenant Celebration and pledged to “act powerfully in the public arena on issue campaigns that bring the Kalamazoo area closer to our vision of social justice.”

They sent dozens of clergy and lay people to Gamaliel training and challenged everyone to *take leadership*, to truly *live our faith values*, to *not be afraid of the power we have* when we “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.”

Ten years later, look at what an impact that covenant has had! **Affordable Housing, Transit, Health Care, Youth Development, Kalamazoo River Clean-Up, Workforce Development, Education and Early Childhood** policies have all been improved because of ISAAC working in partnership with other community leaders and organizations!

Come, celebrate how far we have come since 2002--and how much farther we can go together! Be at the ISAAC 2012 Banquet! We are on a most important journey together—building the Beloved Community.

Kalamazoo County
Great Start Collaborative
An early childhood system building program



**Invest in me,
I may be your boss one day.**

All Kalamazoo County children (0-5) have the social, emotional, physical and intellectual foundation to be successful in education and in life.



The Great Start Collaborative was created to assure that every young child in Michigan has a great start and arrives at the kindergarten door healthy and ready to succeed. As a community we want to support families in assisting the children to reach their greatest potential and be a contributing, productive member of the future workforce.

**Early Childhood --
Our Best Investment**

Contact the Great Start Collaborative at (269) 385-1580 or jeatmon@kresa.org www.kresa.org




**ON YOUR MARK. GET SET.
LET'S GO TO WORK!**

THE STARTER PISTOL HAS SOUNDED, AND IT IS TIME TO FOCUS ON THE NEW ISAAC ISSUES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. In addition to progressing in our work on the Eastside of Kalamazoo, ISAAC has accepted the challenge to go beyond the

traditional three issues for the year, and adopted a fourth. The initial issues chosen were Youth Violence & Drug Prevention, Affordable Housing, and Education & Early Childhood; but we didn't stop there. Our member congregations and organizations decided it was necessary for us to also put our time and energy into the Transportation issues in this community. As you can see, we have work to do! It's time to turn our Issues Convention excitement into strategic planning and implementation, so that we can successfully tackle each of the issues we've chosen with the zeal, wisdom and passion they deserve. I am confident that we have the right leadership to accomplish this enormous task. We must continue the excellent work that has been done previously; not resting on our successes, but building on our victories with the understanding and knowledge that there is nothing we cannot accomplish together as a committed community. As your president, I am humbled to assist in leading us into this new season of work. You are who we need! It is you that makes the difference! Please join me and our ISAAC family of leaders as we positively impact justice for our community.

Elder Douglas King, ISAAC President



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*Prudential
wants to thank
ISAAC
for taking a stand
and making a
difference.*

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(David M. Kennedy—continued from page 1)

nationwide.

Today, Kennedy directs the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, but he still regularly goes out into the field.

"It is incredibly dangerous," says Kennedy. "If you talk to these guys, what they say is, 'I'm terrified ... I got shot ... My brother's dead ... I've been shot at ... And they are trying to shoot me ...' That [is] their everyday world."

But there are plenty of law-abiding residents in these neighborhoods that have been overtaken by drugs, says Kennedy. They outnumber the gang members and drug dealers by significant percentages.

Instead of arresting drug dealers, the police officers and Kennedy set up meetings with drug dealers — and their mothers. "We said, 'Your son is at a turning point. He could be arrested right this minute, but we don't want to do that. We understand how much that damages him and his community. There's going to be a meeting in a week. Please come with your son to the meeting,'" he says.

Nearly everybody came. In the meeting, the police said that they wanted the drug dealers to stay alive and out of jail. They also warned that the consequences of not shutting down the drug markets would be severe. In High Point, N.C., where the program was piloted, the open-air drug market disappeared.

"You do one of these meetings ... [and] you can break the cycle in these neighborhoods literally overnight," he says. "All that craziness is gone."

For the entire interview go to:
www.npr.org/2011/11/01/141803766/interrupting-violence-with-the-message-dont-shoot



Youth Violence & Drug Prevention was adopted first after ISAAC President Elder Doug King explained the strong community support for our upcoming Banquet speaker. Affordable Housing, Education & Early Childhood, and Transportation were also adopted and a 2012-13 task force on each one was formed. *Call ISAAC to join!*



Place your Ad in the ISAAC Banquet Book. Send it to amy.peterson1000@gmail.com

by March 5	PILLAR Full Page B/W 7.5 x 9.5 in \$500
	GATEWAY Half Page B/W 7.5 x 4.75 or Vertical Half Page 3.75 x 9.5 \$300
STAIRWAY Quarter Page B/W 3.75 x 4.75 Or Horizontal Quarter Page 7.5 x 2.375 \$200	STEPPINGSTONE Eighth Page B/W 3.75 x 2.375 \$125 GROUND BREAKING (9 per half-page) B/W copy of your business card or B/W layout of information from the business card \$75

Help Build a More Just Community!



Be a GEM (Give Every Month) or make a one-time donation

by March 12

and your Name will be listed in the ISAAC Banquet Book centerfold!

INVEST IN ISAAC

by credit card, electronic funds transfer, check or cash

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www.isaackalamazoo.org

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