

MYTHS VS FACTS

Kzoo POD Community



The Kzoo POD (Place of Dignity) Community is a temporary living space for unsheltered adults that is safe, secure, and provides basic needs and services at no cost. It includes 50 ModPod units, each with beds, storage, heating/air conditioning, and electricity. The site also has shower and sanitation facilities; trash services; food services; onsite security; and 24-hour staffing to help clients through the process of finding permanent housing.

MYTH

"The Kzoo POD Community is just a glorified encampment."



FACT

The Kzoo POD Community provides a safe, secure, clean and warm place for unsheltered adults to stay temporarily. Residents will get their basic needs met and receive crucial support to find stable, affordable housing.

MYTH

"It will be an eyesore. There will be trash, human waste, drug waste, clutter, etc."



FACT

The Kzoo POD Community will have Dumpsters and trash pickup. There will be bathrooms and showers connected to the city's water and sewer system. Staff will be onsite around the clock, and 24-hour security will be there to protect residents.

MYTH

"It will be a hotspot for crime and violence. It will lead to panhandling, theft and other crimes in nearby neighborhoods, too."



FACT

Unsheltered people are far more likely to be victims of crime or violence. The POD Community offers a safe and supportive place to help them. HRI has a 40-plus-year record of maintaining safe, clean dwellings that are assets to the community.

MYTH

"Our tax dollars are being used for this project."



FACT

No tax dollars have gone into funding this POD Community. HRI purchased the ModPods at our own expense. We're planning to fundraise to cover the costs of the units, leasing and developing the space, and ongoing operations.

MYTH

"There are lots of other shelters in town, so this POD Community isn't needed."



FACT

A traditional shelter isn't always the answer. Some shelters have strict criteria that can't accommodate everyone. Space isn't always available. Many people have possessions or pets that they fear losing. The POD Community offers a stable setting where people get the help they need.

MYTH

"People choose to be homeless. This just makes it easier for them."



FACT

No one chooses to be homeless. Homelessness has many causes – trauma, financial crisis, health issues, etc. In fact, being homeless *adds* trauma. Our goal is to help unsheltered people get their basic needs met, find stable housing, and to be in a place of dignity and compassion.

MYTH

"Lots of workplaces are hiring. People should just get a job so they won't be homeless."



FACT

Up to half of all unhoused people *are employed* but aren't paid enough to afford rent. Many who don't work face barriers – no home address, no clean clothes, no transportation, the stigma of homelessness or disability or criminal record. We connect them with resources to help.

MYTH

"This is just a place to hide homeless people so no one has to see them."



FACT

POD means "Place of Dignity." Unsheltered people are *people* first. Residents are able to come and go just as people do in every community. Our job is to work with them to understand their needs and help them move beyond homelessness to a more stable life.

Learn more about HRI at housingresourcesinc.org