

2014 Annual Report



redeemer

CENTER FOR LIFE



Redeemer Center for Life's mission is to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

A Letter from the Executive Director

In a time when communities were divided by race, class, and color, Martin Luther King articulated a vision of a community where everybody mattered, each child was valued, and the world was a place of safety and belonging. Martin Luther King described such a world as a “beloved community.”

Thanks to the generous support of donors, volunteers, and neighborhood residents, Redeemer Center for Life strives to be that expression of a *beloved community* in North Minneapolis. Back in 1998, the narrative about the neighborhood was one of isolation as drugs and crime made North Minneapolis unsafe. Milda’s Café was a Northside institution about to close or move out of the neighborhood, but Redeemer Center for Life had a vision of a beloved community.

In 2001, a local retailer complained of young people selling drugs on the street. The vision of a beloved community inspired Redeemer Center for Life to re-open the corner popcorn shop, re-name it the Peace Palace, and operate a daily out-of-school time outreach for children and youth. For more than fifteen years, the vision for a beloved community inspired Redeemer Center for Life to provide quality year-round out-of-school activities for children and youth, 24 supportive attainable housing units, urban farming, a bread oven in partnership with the neighborhood association, and an annual block party with as many as 700 participants.

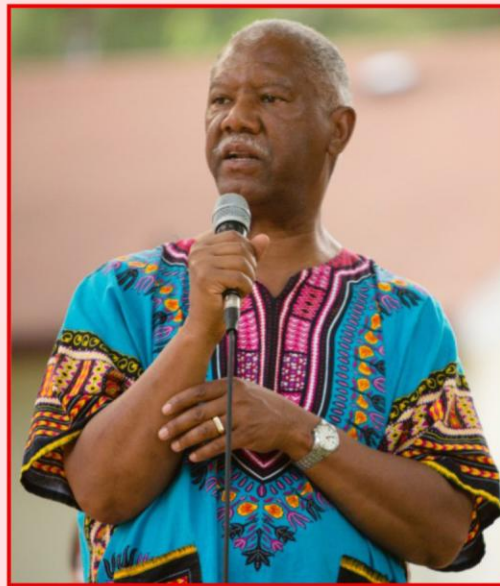
There is an axiom that states, “What we value we measure.” At Redeemer Center for Life, we measure how your support impacts three specific areas—education, an increase in leadership among participants in each program, and job readiness. Programs including out-of-school time for children and youth, 24 housing units, participation in the urban farm, as well as training and employment at the bike and coffee shop result in measurable increases in education, leadership, and employment readiness.

Redeemer Center for Life believes a beloved community is more than feeling good about the neighborhood; it must address the systems that cause Minnesota to have the largest disparity within the U.S. in education, housing, and employment. Redeemer is excited to have confronted that disparity with the Glenwood and Newton Houses where ten recent college graduates live in Redeemer housing and receive partial rental support in exchange for a commitment to volunteer five hours each week in the neighborhood. Venture North Bike and Coffee shop is a beloved community, creating jobs for youth and young adults in growing industries with the options to become bicycle mechanics and baristas.

As you read the annual report, we invite you to consider investing as a donor, volunteering, and becoming a partner in the vision of a *beloved community at Redeemer Center for Life*. Consider writing a check, donating a bike, visiting Venture North to have your bike repaired, or participating in a pizza party at the bread oven. Thank you for your wonderful partnership in advancing the vision of a beloved community where a life of promise and hope is available to everyone.

Pastor Kelly Chatman

Pastor Kelly Chatman



About Us

Our Mission

Redeemer Center for Life’s mission is to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

Our Vision

As a community development organization, we invest in the people who make Harrison their home so that all our neighbors are encouraged to grow, thrive, and contribute to their fullest potential.

Our History

Redeemer Center for Life is a non-profit partner of Redeemer Lutheran Church, a faith community that has been part of the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis for over 100 years. In 1998, the congregation founded Redeemer Center in response to the neighborhood’s identification of three primary desires: youth development, attainable housing, and job growth.

Our Focus

Redeemer Center for Life’s focus is on educational opportunities, leadership development, and job readiness for the youth in our Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

To learn more about us, go to: www.redeemercenter.org

Redeemer's Out-of-School Programs

"I love it!" responded Precious about Redeemer Center for Life's (RCFL) Youth Programs in which her children, Emmanuel and Emander, participate. She's pleased they have goals to achieve through the activities, which often include practice at home. She sees a lot of growth in Emmanuel and Emander.

Emmanuel doesn't want to miss anything, either. He especially enjoys learning music, drumming, rap, playing for church, taking lessons, acting, hearing Agapé and Devo, hip-hop, and break dancing. He's eager to learn from community members who share their hobbies. Emmanuel says, "I like working!" In the Earn-A-Bike program, he earned a bike for a boy in the neighborhood and, now, wants to earn one for himself.

Emander enjoys the Pedal Power program through which she learns about "powerful" women and what they have done. She agrees with her mother—she likes focusing on goals and developing leadership skills. She, too, enjoys the music, especially singing. Emander says, "There are so many activities to choose from!"

Precious is happy her children are involved in RCFL. She knows the caring staff help them learn, develop leadership, and grow through productive activities. She says, "I don't want them to miss anything!"



Redeemer Center for Life's Music Academy

Children and youth enthusiastically join in Redeemer Center for Life's Music Academy. The Academy has four foci, which include:

1. Lessons on the keyboard or hand drums with basic music theory
 2. Music Summer Camp for two weeks
 3. Music as part of the Redeemer Afterschool Program (RAP)
 4. The growing biannual benefit concerts that help support the music programs and generate public interest in the Music Academy
- Mikyoung Park leads the Music Academy with the assistance of approximately 20 volunteers and teachers, including a hand drum teacher who began in the fall.

Over 20 youth participated in the Music Summer Camp during 2014. The days began with a large group choir. Thereafter, the students divided into four small groups for general music, hand drums, group guitar, and spoken word poetry. After lunch, the youth joined in vigorous hip-hop dancing. Performances were an integral part of the Camp.

Mikyoung says her highlight working in the Music Academy is seeing all the youth's enjoyment, growth, and music skills improvement. Previous relationships grow during the two weeks together. Of particular value are the new friendships that develop in the Camp among children who come from throughout the community.

Youth Engagement by the Numbers

6

The number of biking field trips during which youth explored their neighborhood

10

The number of youth who went with three adults to the Boundary Waters

15

The number of meals cooked with food grown during the summer in the urban farm

17

The number of girls in Pedal Power who met with 12 women in science careers

22

The number of children and youth in the summer music camp with 12 instructors

48

The number of Redeemer-After-Program (RAP) days of activities for youth

57

The number of total youth registered during the year for program activities

110

The number of neighborhood youth who received bicycles from Venture North

457

The number of hours of camp provided for youth ages 5 to 18 during nine different weeks

990

The number of hours in which youth engaged in positive activities after school



Redeemer Center for Life acts as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood.

Community Oven

Redeemer Center for Life and the Harrison Neighborhood Association partner to build an outdoor bread oven for community use, especially during summer cookouts.

Summer Cookouts

2014 summer Wednesday night cookouts averaged 45 community members in attendance each week. Over 700 people attended Redeemer's Annual Block Party!

New Deck

Calvary's Hearts and Hammers volunteers build a deck on the house at 344 Morgan, which provides a home for pastoral interns who serve at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The Living Room

Redeemer and Fairview Health Services partner in the Health Commons programs to provide yoga, ZUMBA®, chair massages, and nurse consultations in The Living Room.

Urban Farm

Neighbors come together to grow food, join each other in meals, and share their diverse cultures while they also build a network of friendships and a stronger community.

Building Community

Redeemer Center for Life's (RCFL) vision for the Harrison neighborhood acknowledges building community involves community buildings, including attainable housing set within a strong, healthy neighborhood. During 2014, RCFL joined Urban Homeworks in the visioning and competitive application process to develop 60 to 90 attainable housing units, which will be supported with tax credits. The block-wide development will help stem the gentrification tide that threatens to displace current Harrison residents. This development dream began when Redeemer strategically acquired land around its church. For it to continue successfully, there must be community support, which Rev. Kelly Chatman says is strong due to the trust RCFL has nurtured through its faithful leadership over many years in the Harrison neighborhood.

Venture North

Venture North Bike and Coffee shop serves the Harrison neighborhood as a community gathering place, a site to engage youth, and a source of job training as well as employment.

Northside Leadership

The Glenwood House is one of the sites in which young adults live as they commit to serving in the Harrison neighborhood and mentoring the youth within the community.



1998

Redeemer saves Milda's Café, a landmark, and begins efforts for a *beloved community*

2001

Redeemer opens the Peace Palace, which empowers youth through many programs

2002

Redeemer's first annual Block Party attracts hundreds of local residents

2005

Redeemer's JUMP Crew begins, which engages youth with rap, hip-hop, and video

2006

Redeemer develops a young adult Housing and Transition (HAT) program

2010

Venture North opens and is the first bike shop of its kind in North Minneapolis

2011

Glenwood House is built, opens, and becomes key to leadership development

2012

Redeemer purchases the duplex located at 1805 Glenwood Avenue

2013

Redeemer starts renovations in the sixteen-plex to provide more attainable housing

2014

Redeemer and Urban Homeworks establish a partnership for development

Northside Leadership Project

Kristen Hoyles, who is part of the Northside Leadership Project, says, "During my time in Redeemer Housing, I've been grateful for the opportunities to meet others in Redeemer's safe worship space, actively work to bring healthy food to Harrison as a Wirth Co-op Board member, and brainstorm community engagement opportunities at the neighborhood bread oven. There's something important to me about living in the community in which I work and play and worship. Harrison and Redeemer are that community for me."



Learning to Leading

Clara Jordan graduated from learning as a high schooler and STEP-UP Intern to leading as a Venture North employee. She finds the sense of community powerfully appealing, everyone's lives are connected, and people treat each other like family. As a leader, Clara engages youth in purposeful activities and is particularly interested in empowering girls. As a young adult, Clara says she brings "fresh ideas" of a "different generation" to Venture North. Clara exclaims, "I love being here! My favorite part of my day is coming to work. Not everyone can say that."

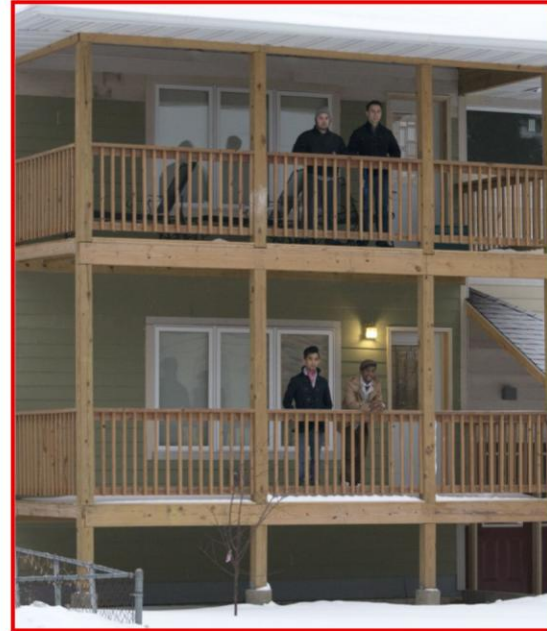


Attainable Housing

Aster Nebro lived in the Milda's building for seven years. Now, Astro, Kirk, and two teenage daughters, have their own home. Yet, they return to Harrison and continue their commitment to the community.

Aster Nebro came to the Harrison neighborhood seeking housing and found it above Milda's. It is what she did thereafter that becomes her story within the Harrison neighborhood. Determined to invest in the community, she began intentionally knocking on doors and reaching out to all people in the neighborhood. She and her family helped bring a sense of community. They created community, including through The Breakfast Club that meets weekly in The Living Room at Milda's.

Aster says, "We were blessed." Passionately, she beams, "I love people!" Kirk and Aster "bundled together ways" to form a community that flows through The Breakfast Club in Milda's The Living Room, and out into the Harrison neighborhood. She says, "Now, it is my community and where my heart belongs."



Giving Back to His Community

Kendrick Hall's roots run deeply in the community. He grew up just north of Olson Memorial Highway and played basketball for Harrison. Kendrick and his friends heard the music from the Wednesday Redeemer community cookouts and eagerly accepted invitations to come for the food and fun. That was his introduction to Redeemer.

In high school, Kendrick and his friends located bikes, repaired them, and set up a loaning system. Now, he works in the bike shop he and his friends started years earlier. After graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College, today, he is the one who mentors Summer Kids and STEP-UP Interns in the Venture North Bike and Coffee shop. He builds relationships through which the youth look up to him and ask his advice. Kendrick focuses on having the youth take ownership of their experiences by sharing leadership, identifying concerns in their community, researching solutions, and taking action. He wants youth to seize with confidence opportunities for productive activities without fearing where the activities may lead and what they might involve.



Developing Leaders, Housing, and Jobs

2 Redeemer and college graduates joined Venture North staff to invest in Harrison youth	3 Venture North's All-About-Bikes apprentices secured jobs at other bike shops	All 3 of the young men living in "Milda's 202" received their 2- or 4-year degrees	6 of the young adult leaders served as Redeemer staff and worked in youth programs	All 9 young adults ages 18-25 in Housing and Transition are in school and/or employed	13% increase in Venture North's 2014 sales growth over the sales achieved in 2013	18 of the young adults living in Redeemer housing serve in the Harrison neighborhood	24 units of well-maintained, attainable housing are managed by Redeemer	46 internships and job opportunities were available for youth in the programs	5,343 hours of internship and leadership growth through Redeemer programs
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Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2014

Assets		Liabilities and Equity (Net Assets)	
Cash and Investments	\$ 39,197	Current and Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 726,541
Accounts Receivable & Prepaid Expenses	\$ 4,756	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,584,276
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	\$2,095,780	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 14,258
Revenue and Support		Expenses	
\$613,488		Total: \$627,544	
Earned	(46%) \$ 281,148	Program Total: \$547,404	
Contributed	(42%) \$ 258,796	Community Strategies	(5%) \$ 29,078
Released	(12%) \$ 73,544	Housing	(43%) \$ 270,497
		Venture North	(21%) \$ 131,219
		Youth	(19%) \$ 116,610
		Administration/Management	(11%) \$ 70,721
		Fund Development	(1%) \$ 9,419

Audited financial statements for 2014 will be available at www.redeemercenter.org or by request.



Foundations and Organizations

- Alliance for Metro Stability
- Athwin Foundation
- Augsburg College
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota
- City of Minneapolis
- Conley Family Foundation
- EMERGE!
- Fairview Health Services
- Harrison Neighborhood Association
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
- Nexus Community Partners
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Our Neighborhood Works/Camden Music School
- Sundet Family Foundation
- Thrivent
- Wells Fargo Community Council
- Youthprise

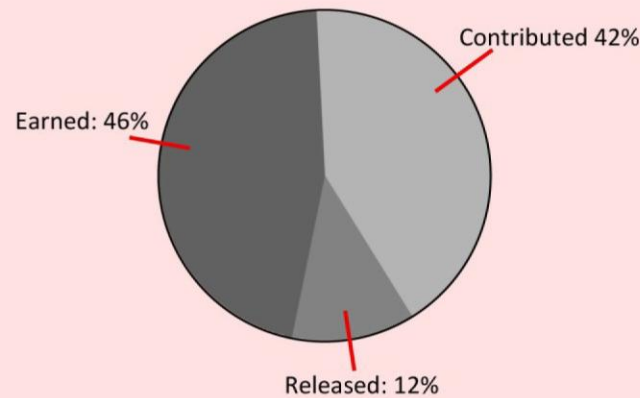
Congregational Partners

- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley
- Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton
- Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina
- Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waconia
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
- Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- Salem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth
- St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Community, Maple Grove
- St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth
- Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Buffalo

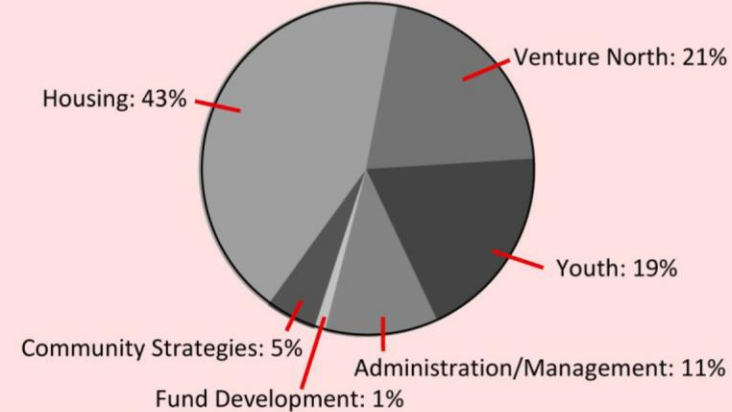
Individual Donors

Redeemer Center for Life's (RCFL) individual donors are too numerous to list. However, RCFL appreciates every financial donation, no matter the amount, and each volunteer's service, no matter the time. RCFL's mission to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis relies on every contribution. Thank you all!

Revenue



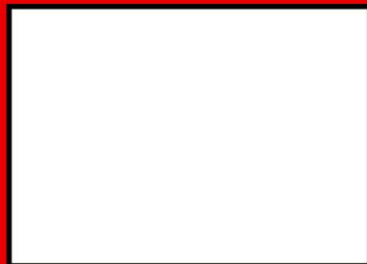
Expenses



Redeemer Center for Life acts as an agent of hope and transformation for the Harrison neighborhood.

1800 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please make a tax-deductible donation to **Redeemer Center for Life**, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Mail your check to Redeemer Center for Life, 1800 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405.

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Babette Chatman, Director of Housing & Facilities
Casey Pavek, Venture North Manager
Denetric Powers, Venture North Coffee Bar Manager
Kendrick Hall, Venture North Youth Program Coordinator
Karis Thompson, Community Development
Joe Davis, Youth Outreach & Poet-in-Residence
Katherine Parent, Youth Outreach/Artist-in Residence
Winnie Zwick, Youth Outreach & Urban Farm Coordinator
Helen Collins, Youth Outreach & Programming
Mikyoung Park, Redeemer Music Academy Director
Sarah Stadie, Communications & Development
Mary Simonson Clark, Partner Engagement

Redeemer Center for Life

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