

2015 Annual Report



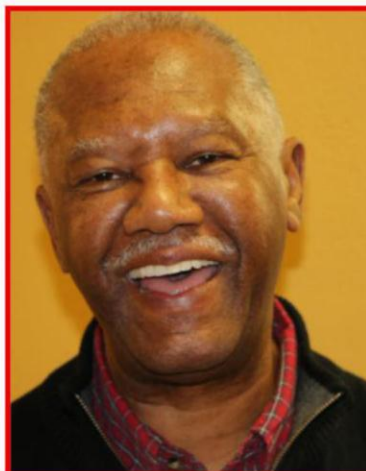
Redeemer Center for Life's mission is to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

A Letter from the Executive Director

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."

Booker T. Washington

Thank you for your generous support of Redeemer Center for Life (RCFL). With your financial support and prayers, you make it possible for our brothers and sisters in North Minneapolis to experience community and success. Every encounter at RCFL is one of community and success because the message is, "We are not alone." The people we serve are not alone and North Minneapolis is not alone. Young people and adults participating in the services at the bike and coffee shop, 24 housing units, community garden, and a myriad of youth activities thrive in the message that they/we are not alone.



Last summer, we provided jobs and work experience for 26 young people in the operation of the bike and coffee shop, community garden, health commons, camps, maintenance, and entrepreneurship team. For most of the young people we employed, it was their first job. Thankfully, we were able to utilize a team of leaders from Mount Olivet Church to provide the youth with a week of leadership training.

Thanks to your support and prayers, Venture North Bike and Coffee shop makes RCFL's commitment to workforce development possible. At Venture North, we operate the first retail bike and coffee shop that has existed in North Minneapolis for many years. Each week at Venture North, we sell and repair bikes along with fulfilling our commitment to hire and train interns from North Minneapolis. Venture North's All About Bikes is our apprenticeship training and jobs skills development program to recruit and employ youth from North Minneapolis. Graduates of All About Bikes have been hired at bike shops in the metro area, including Gear West and Cycles for Change. When you enter the doors of Venture North Bike and Coffee shop, you will experience a community where people are not alone and there is investment in seeing success among our brothers and sisters of North Minneapolis.

While they were working on their jobs, we discovered that two of the youth interns were homeless. We were able to respond to them with the message that they were not alone. We moved them into our housing where they were able to have stable shelter and receive mentoring support from adult residents who served as caring neighbors. We were able to provide this service in North Minneapolis because they/we were not alone.

At Venture North and through all our programs, we strive to nurture in children and youth the values of respect, learning, and discipline while they have fun and are productive. Through generous support of people like you, RCFL provides out of school time programs and activities that are healthy and foster happiness. In addition, we expanded our outreach to provide programs to the children living in the Hawthorne community. In 2015, Redeemer Center for Life also developed deeper investment in youth entrepreneurship. We believe that when children and families in North Minneapolis feel safe, loved, and valued we are being good stewards of your support and faithful to our mission to be a beacon of hope.

As that beacon of hope during the past year, RCFL grew to strengthen the lives of our brothers and sisters by providing quality housing, a bike and coffee shop, the health commons, a shared community bread oven, summer cookouts, community gatherings, and youth programs. The youth, their families, and our North Minneapolis community received these blessings because we are not alone. Thank you, as always, for your faithful support.

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

Darrow: An All About Bikes Success Story

Darrow Jones became connected with Venture North in 2012. A resident of North Minneapolis, he first discovered the bike shop when he was walking around Harrison with his then-girlfriend. As he was walking by, Venture North Manager Casey Pavcek invited the couple in for a tour of the sales floor and workshop. Darrow became one of the second wave of apprentices to take part in the All About Bikes mechanic-training program. Later, he joined the staff of Venture North part-time, assisting with outreach and events. Casey's recommendation helped Darrow get a job at the Hub Bike Co-op in 2015. During the off-season, he continues to work part-time at Venture North building bikes and performing winter service as a bicycle mechanic. Darrow is a real success story from All About Bikes!



Housing and Transition: Providing a Home

In 2015, two of the summer interns asked to speak to Pastor Kelly in his office. They informed him that, while they were successfully navigating their summer jobs, they were also homeless. In fact, they had been homeless for most of their lives. In that moment was the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and to live out Redeemer's mission to be an agent of hope and transformation for two of our brothers from our own neighborhood. The two young people who confided in Pastor Kelly are now living in Redeemer housing. They are connected to a larger supportive community where doors of hope and possibility keep opening thanks to donors and investors who realize that we can't just open the door of hope and possibility. We also must commit to breaking the cycle of poverty for our brothers and sisters.

Venture North: Best Bike Shop for a Cause

The Minneapolis StarTribune named Venture North Bike and Coffee shop the Best Bike Shop for a Cause as part of its 2015 Best of MN. Venture North provided training for seven apprentice mechanics last winter. Marcus Reynolds had 554 training hours and Diamond Wren had 331 plus an additional 64 hours of apprenticeship training for over 1,000 hours of supervised young mechanic experience. Venture North hired two apprentices as mechanics. They served as bike builders, ran the first season of open shop for youth, prepared bikes for Redeemer's summer camp, and provided ride support on the weekly bike field trips. Venture North's coffee bar trained four youth baristas and, thereafter, provided employment for three of the baristas. Some of the interns also share original poetry works during performances hosted at the shop.



Affordable Housing

Addressing the enormous housing disparities in North Minneapolis, Redeemer Center for Life maintains an 80% occupancy rate for its 24 units of affordable housing. Usually, there is a waiting list of people inquiring about available housing, often based on recommendations by current or former tenants. Redeemer also works with Catholic Charities to help clients secure and maintain long-term housing. Through Redeemer's Housing and Transition (HAT) program, over 30 young people have obtained affordable housing, support through mentoring, and connection to various needed resources. In 2015, Redeemer offered three young people independent housing and provided housing for two summer interns. As a beacon of hope, Tyrone Wade tirelessly works to maintain the Redeemer Campus and serves alongside many volunteers.

Growing Leaders, Jobs, and Housing

2

different summer evening community bike rides were hosted by Venture North each week

2

apprentice mechanics were hired by Venture North after completing their training

3

youth baristas were hired by Venture North after receiving training on site at the coffee bar

4

open bike shops for maintenance were hosted by Venture North each week during the summer

4

youth baristas received job skills and readiness training at the Venture North coffee bar

7

apprentice bike mechanics received supervised training in 2015 at Venture North

9

housing unit doors were replaced to improve energy efficiency and appearances

30+

young people have received housing, services, and mentoring through the HAT program

52

new recycling bins were distributed, including one per Redeemer housing unit

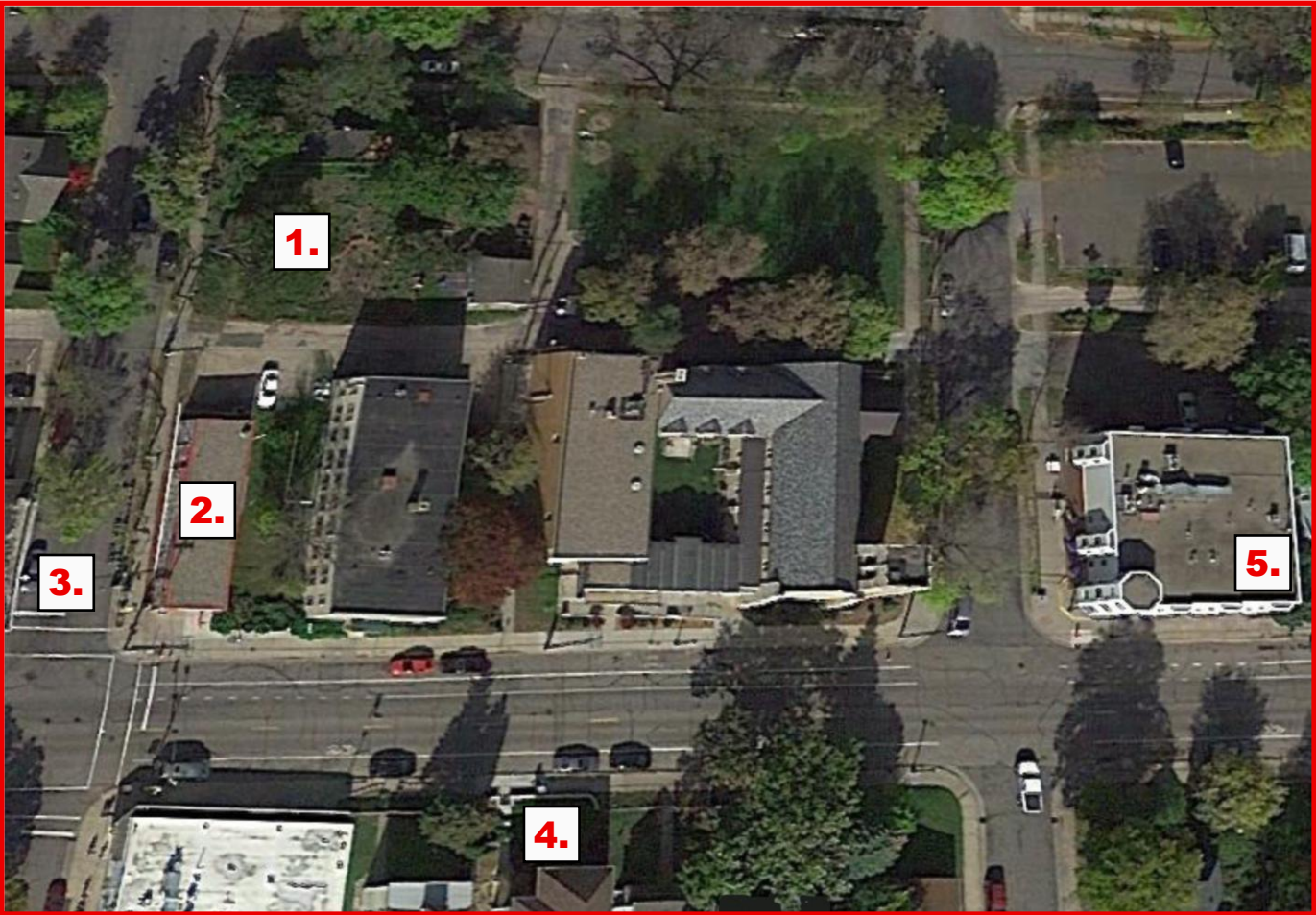
1,000+

supervised hours of bike mechanic experience were completed by 2 apprentices at Venture North



1. Urban Farm and Bread Oven

The 2015 focus of the Redeemer community garden and urban farm was to increase neighborhood leadership in the garden upkeep and to grow foods for Redeemer programs. Eighteen community members owned and tended a total of 13 framed garden boxes. They received one-on-one mentorship on garden planning and care as well as an invitation to weekly workdays that included education about planting, watering, and harvesting. Community members enjoyed the crops of collard greens, kale, tomatoes, black-eyed peas, herbs, corn, lettuce, and peppers during Redeemer cookouts, youth programs, the Block Party, and six bread oven pizza events hosted with the Harrison Neighborhood Association.



5. The Living Room: Cooking Matters

In partnership with Fairview Health Services and the University of Minnesota Extension, Redeemer offered a six-week Cooking Matters® course in its community meeting space, The Living Room. Participants also used Redeemer’s kitchen for their hands-on cooking practice. Classes met for two hours weekly providing twelve hours of cooking instruction to fourteen participants or seven teams of one child and one adult. In addition to the meals participants shared during the course, they received a total of \$750 worth of donated food to prepare meals for their families at home. Wedge Community Co-op also provided outreach kits that explained their Co-op Affordability Program.



2. Venture North

Venture North Bike and Coffee shop is one of the primary learning labs for Redeemer’s workforce development programs. Youth who completed the Earn-A-Bike program continue to return to care for their bikes. Venture North, a full service bike shop with trained mechanics, holds open shop times for adult and youth community members to repair bikes and hosts group bike rides for the public.



3. Northside Greenway Project

In 2015, Redeemer Center for Life, The City of Minneapolis, and Alliance for Metropolitan Stability partnered to engage over 600 Northside residents around a new safe, accessible route for bicyclists and pedestrians. It will provide for recreation, commuting, and physical activity. The North Minneapolis Greenway survey results showed that 70% of the residents who were asked support the greenway idea; 53% of these respondents are people of color. Northside Greenway route options include Morgan Avenue North passing next to Venture North Bike and Coffee shop. Alexis Pennie, a North Minneapolis resident who chairs the Northside Greenway Council, says, “During my time with Redeemer Center for Life, I have collaborated with a number of community partners and staff members to do outreach to Northside residents, promote health equity, and engage people who are not usually decision-makers to become part of the decision-making process, planning, and implementing projects. Similar to Redeemer Center for Life’s vision around community development, a central value of this project is to illustrate how equitable development starts with equitable and authentic engagement processes.”

4. Northside Leaders

Glenwood House is one of the sites in which young adults live and receive partial rent reduction for their commitment to serve a minimum of five hours each week in the neighborhood with their Northside brothers and sisters. Newton House, located north of Redeemer on Newton Avenue, is another housing site for four of the fourteen participants in the Northside Leadership Project.



1998	2001	2002	2005	2006	2011	2011	2012-13	2013	2014	2015	2015
Redeemer saves Milda’s Café, a landmark, and begins a <i>beloved</i> community of brothers and sisters	Redeemer opens the Peace Palace that empowered and engaged youth through a variety of programs	Redeemer hosts its first annual Block Party that attracts hundreds of brothers and sisters from the community	Redeemer’s JUMP Crew begins, which engages youth with music, rap, hip-hop, and video	Redeemer develops a Housing and Transition (HAT) program, which provides support for young adults	Initiated by youth, Venture North opens and is the first bike shop of its kind in North Minneapolis	Redeemer begins renovations in the sixteen-plex to provide affordable housing in the neighborhood	Glenwood House is built, opens, and becomes key to the Northside Leadership Project that serves Harrison	Redeemer purchases the duplex at 1805 Glenwood Avenue with an eye towards future needs	Redeemer and Urban Homeworks establish a partnership for community development	Venture North is named Best Bike Shop for a Cause as it provides youth leadership and workforce development	Redeemer engages youth through social entrepreneurship including CD, jewelry, and clothing projects

Redeemer Afterschool Program (RAP)

The 2014-2015 RAP season was a huge success with over 35 youth involved in the writing, recording, producing, and performing of a collaborative CD album, *Voices Making Change*. The youth were the leaders throughout the process. They saw many small successes, such as completing their songs, working in a professional studio, and, most of all, performing before over 200 community members who came to support them in the CD launch at the Capri Theater. A team of staff, volunteers, college interns, and six high school interns guided them. The words in their CD really capture the thoughts of their generation, including issues such as loving the planet, police conflict, bullying, and basketball. If you would like to hear the talented youth's works, please purchase their CD at Venture North Bike and Coffee shop.



Redeemer Youth Handmade (RYH)

In 2013, Redeemer youth began creating jewelry out of bike parts from Venture North. The summer of 2015, spurred by youth leadership and with support from Youthprise, Redeemer hired 13 youth to work on a project to make and sell products. The project provided successful experiences in creative collaboration among the youth. Together, they chose products, made a budget, determined costs, shopped for supplies, and priced their products. They named their brand Redeemer Youth Handmade (RYH), designed a logo, and launched RYH with a soul food dinner. The youth sold their RYH products at churches, businesses, events, Venture North Bike and Coffee shop, and the Luther Seminary Bookstore. Since October 2015, the youth had nearly \$4,500 in sales of their RYH products.



Internships at Redeemer

Redeemer hosted 64 different internship opportunities in 2015, which were made possible through partnerships with EMERGE's North 4 Project and STEP-UP's Achieve and Discover. Interns received valuable training experiences and job skills as bike mechanics, coffee baristas, and camp counselors. They had opportunities in community engagement, business practices, and leadership. The youth also brought enormous energy and excitement to Redeemer! Youth had ownership of their experiences and, in the summer, spend from 10 to 25 hours a week on the Redeemer Campus. Kyara Lambert, in her fourth Redeemer internship, served as a youth team captain. Out of her passion to build other leaders, Kyara met with younger youth in their first jobs to help them set goals and, later, to affirm their accomplishments.



Summer Camps

Redeemer offered seven weeks of summer camp during which participants tried new things through a variety of experiential learning activities. Youth learned about growing things through activities in the urban farm. They also harvested the produce, cooked meals, and tried new foods. Led by STEP-UP interns, youth designed and painted a 16-foot mural for the community. A nurse with Redeemer's partner, Fairview Health Services, gave lessons on summer safety, including nutrition, hydration, and skin care tips. Venture North youth interns led weekly bike maintenance lessons and field trips to explore fun spots in the neighborhood and beyond. Camp Noah, a program for youth facing trauma, provided games and activities. During the final week of camp, Redeemer Music Arts Academy provided music lessons and activities.



Engaging Youth: The Real Stories

7

weeks of summer camp were held that provided youth with opportunities for new experiences

8

camp bike trips plus high school intern bike trips occurred to explore the community

9

youth were part of the summer youth entrepreneurship pilot program making jewelry

13

youth were hired to be part of the youth social entrepreneurship program beginning in fall

40

healthy meals were cooked with youth during RAP, camp, and the Cooking Matters® course

43

youth participated in the various experiential summer camp programs

64

internship opportunities were hosted in 2015 by Redeemer Center for Life

81

youth enrolled in the year-round Redeemer Afterschool Program (RAP) of activities

84

hours of summer camps, including music activities, were provided throughout seven weeks

244

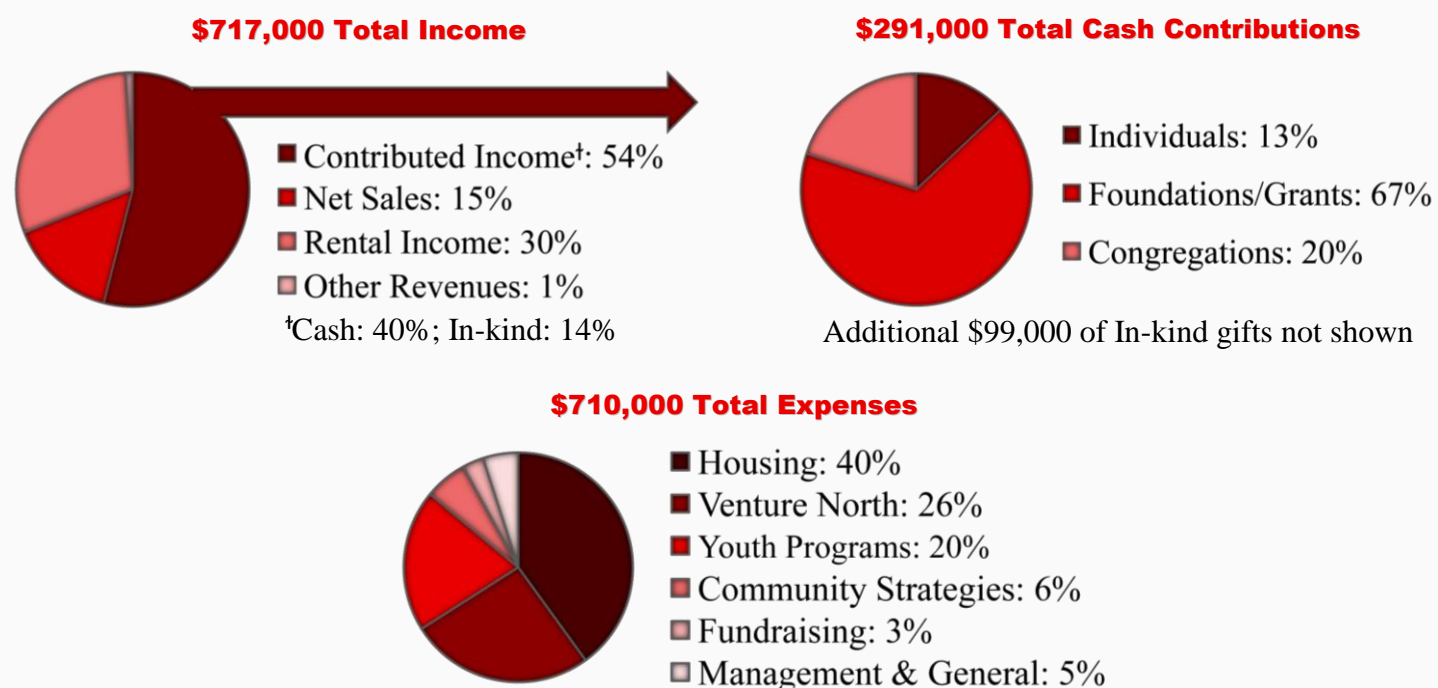
hours of positive afterschool activities were provided for youth by Redeemer



Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2015

<u>Assets*</u>		<u>Liabilities & Equity*</u>	
Cash	\$ 69,000	Current Liabilities	\$ 143,000
Receivables & Prepaid Expenses	\$ 14,000	Long Term Liabilities	\$ 369,000
Inventory	\$ 21,000	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 512,000
Land, Buildings, Equipment	\$2,014,000	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,590,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,118,000	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 16,000

2015 Total Income, Contributions, and Expenses



*These are pre-audit figures rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

The audit completion is projected for June 2016.

The final audited version will be available upon request and at our website, www.redeemercenter.org.

Please see Redeemer Center for Life's report on GUIDE STAR

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and its STEP-UP Program
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*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.*



Your tax-deductible donation to Redeemer Center for Life, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, will make a difference. Thank you!

Please mail your check to Redeemer Center for Life, 1800 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55405

Redeemer Center for Life Staff

Kelly Chatman, Executive Director
Laurie Beckman Yetzer, Finance Director
Angela Bonfiglio, Director of Youth Programs
Alison Stenczynski, Youth Outreach & Programming
Joe Davis, Youth Outreach & Poet-in-Residence
Katherine Parent, Youth Outreach & Artist-in-Residence
Babette Chatman, Director of Housing & Facilities
Alexus Patterson, Housing Assistant
Tyrone Wade, Custodian & Maintenance
Karis Thompson, Community Development
Thomas Siburg, Community Organizing
Alexis Pennie, Community Organizing
Helen Collins, Communications & Administrative Assistant
Mary Simonson Clark, Partner Engagement
Bertha McKinney, Health Commons Manager

Casey Pavek, Venture North General Manager
Derek Otte, Venture North Service Manager
Darrow Jones, Mechanic
Kendrick Hall, Venture North Youth Program Coordinator
Amy Beckman, Venture North Coffee Bar Manager
Clara Jordan, Barista
Kyara Lambert, Barista
Eva Maghanga, Barista
K'Sean Ewing, Apprentice Custodian & Maintenance
Marcus Reynolds, Apprentice Mechanic
Antonio Standley, Apprentice Barista
Seandrea Warren-Strickland, Apprentice Barista
Diamond Wren, Apprentice Mechanic
Mesiah Wright, Apprentice Custodian & Maintenance
Plus Twenty-six Youth Interns in 2015

Redeemer Center for Life

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Venture North Bike & Coffee shop

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

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