

redeemer center for life

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

Black History Month *February 2022*

For the month of February, we highlighted a different aspect of Black History as it pertains to North Minneapolis. We recognize this history and current work should be highlighted not only during the month of February, but all year-round.

We highlighted W. Harry Davis who was an organizer, business owner, and leader in North Minneapolis. He was involved with the Plymouth rebellions in the 60s and 70s. Similar racial justice work is happening today through Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block.

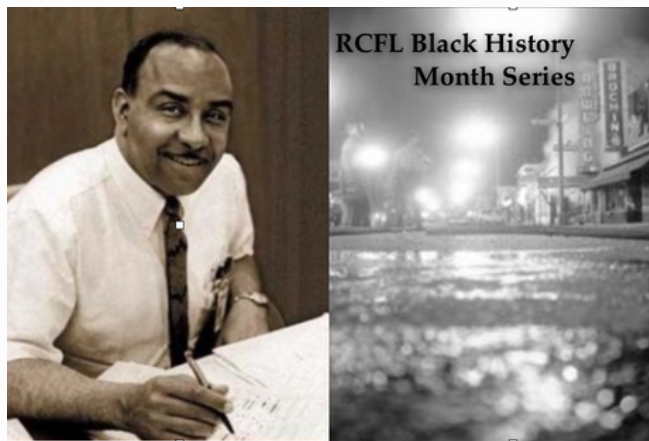
"Due North: Stories from North Minneapolis" is a podcast previous RCFL staff members, Bex and Dylan, created in 2019. This podcast highlights stories from people sharing how North Minneapolis has shaped their lives and what community means to them.

We featured Sumner Library, a near North library, that showcases the Gary N. Sudduth African American History and Culture Collection. Gary was a Northside resident and civil rights leader. This collection offers a wide scope of resources.

Lastly, we highlighted the music coming out of North Minneapolis. Most people know the legend, Prince, lived for a time in North Minneapolis and his impact on music. He performed his first solo performance at Capri Theatre in North Minneapolis, a place that continues to highlight local artists.



Sumner Library



W. Harry Davis



Capri Theater

Transformational Housing

16-Plex Updates

March 15th marked the 1 year anniversary of having Kevin, our Director of Housing and Catalyst, on staff. Kevin is very action oriented and this past year reflects that. Since he's been on staff, our housing has gone through transformational change including:

- Renovated 9 out of 16 apartments in the 16-Plex
- Renovated 6 out of 7 apartments in the Milda's building
- Upgraded the hot water heater in the 16-Plex to 200 gal.
- Installed another washer and dryer in the 16-Plex
- Made repairs to the 16-Plex roof
- Painted the entire basement of the 16-Plex
- Installed security locks for both the front and back doors of the 16-Plex

We still have work to do on updating our housing, including the remaining 7 apartments in the 16-Plex, repainting the hallway walls and installing new carpet in the hallways. Donate today to help complete these remaining projects: www.redeemercenter.org/donate



Kevin

Renovated 16-Plex apartment



Youth N' Power

Our youth apprentices in the Youth N' Power program attended the 4th annual People's Movement Assembly on Sunday, February 20th. This event, hosted by the Just Solar Coalition, had multiple youth-led panels aimed at gaining a collective understanding about climate and to answer the questions communities are facing about the environment, while suggesting solutions. The apprentices prepared a panel discussion about what they are passionate about and why they are excited about environmental justice. They also shared how schools can better engage and teach youth about environmental justice.

The apprentices are excited to participate in activities at the Redeemer Community Garden this summer and a variety of community-centered activities for Earth Day in April. To volunteer/be involved with upcoming Youth N' Power events, please contact Traiveon at traiveon@redeemercenter.org
Follow Youth N' Power on instagram: @youthnpower



Co-Directors of Youth N' Power, Analyah and Traiveon



Youth preparing for the People's Movement Assembly

StrengthGroup

We Stronger Together

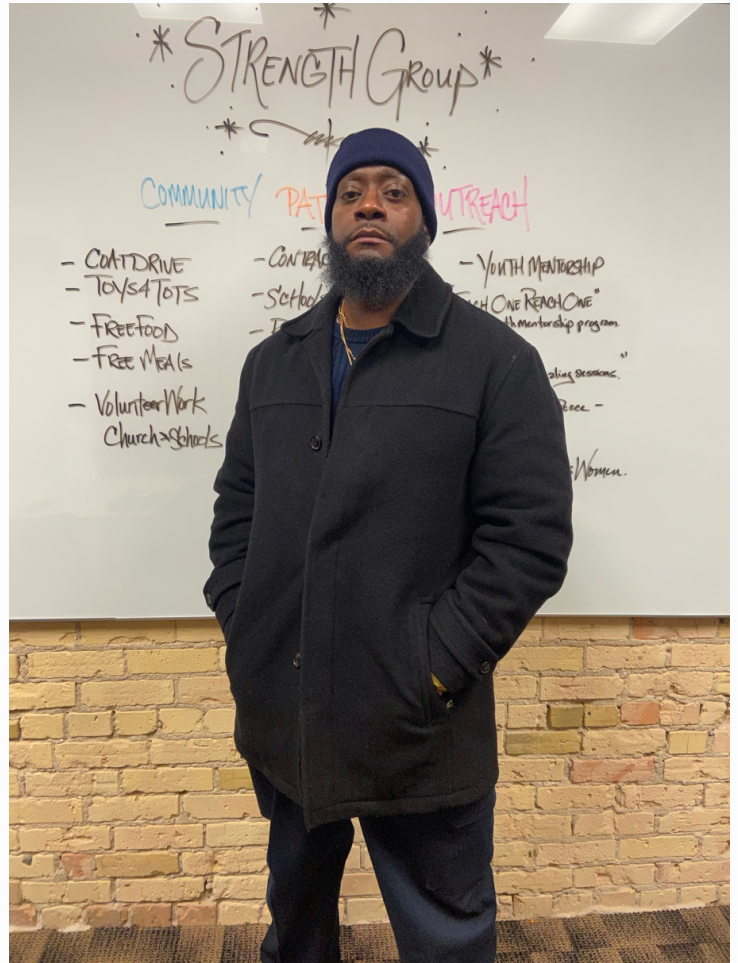
Jovan has lived in RCFL housing for the last few months. Having lived on the Northside a number of years ago, Jovan was eager for the opportunity to live in the community again.

Jovan is passionate about community development and founded StrengthGroup in 2010--a nonprofit aimed at coming together to help aid and service communities. They do this by addressing the needs of a community, providing resources, and offering help. Operating in 27 states, Jovan has grown this organization to provide so many resources that better the community, including: youth programs, healing sessions, self defense classes, movie nights, coat drives, de-escalation groups, and more.

Living on the Northside allows for connections to be made and trust to form. When asked how StrengthGroup is aiding North Minneapolis, Jovan said, with community patrolling and future initiatives to support the community. StrengthGroup is aimed at lowering the crime rate and creating a community consensus for zero tolerance of violence.

"I grew up in the hood and it gives me leverage to speak to it, not only because I have the past experience, but I'm staying in it. I want to lead by example. The Northside has so much potential. I am invested to see it back to that good area."

By investing in our community, we can create something that people want to protect and not destroy. Jovan says it takes all of us to create better and we can do that because, ***"Our most powerful weapon as human beings is to inspire people."*** Like their mission states, We Stronger Together.



StrengthGroup Founder, Jovan



Winter Warmth Assistance Coat Drive, to be distributed to houseless encampments throughout Minneapolis

***"It takes
community to
fix community."***

-Jovan



StrengthGroup Resources

Women's Self Defense

Thursdays 6-7PM

1200 Plymouth Ave Minneapolis

R.I.P "Restoring Inner Peace" Healing Sessions

Wednesdays 6-8PM

Centennial Hall, 725 S 10th St. Minneapolis

"Each One Reach One"-Youth Mentorship Program

Monthly Children's Movie Night

For more information, visit [StrengthGroup's Facebook Page](#)

Phone: (877) 787-4676 | Email: strengthgroup_npo@gmail.com

RCFL Staff

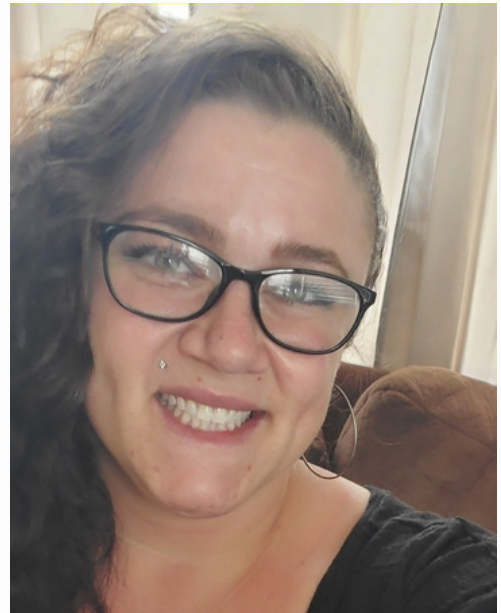
New Roles



Kiesha, Finance Assistant

Originally coming on to RCFL's staff as the Youth Development Coordinator, Kiesha has started a new role in 2022 as the Finance Assistant. In this role, she is aiding the Chief Financial Officer in budgeting, payroll, and daily tasks. She is doing amazing work adapting to this new role and learning new skills.

Anah started at RCFL as the Executive Assistant. Since January, she has continued with general Administrative work, as well as, taking on the role of Program Coordinator. As the Program Coordinator, she is helping Kevin with launching Empowering Adults this year by gathering materials, communicating to Life Advocates, and more!



Anah, Administrative Assistant & Program Coordinator



Claire, LVCer, Development and Partnerships Coordinator

Our Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVCer) volunteer, Claire, started in August as the Development Assistant. Since January, she has expanded her role by taking responsibility for partnership contact as the Development and Partnerships Coordinator. She is excited to make more connections with RCFL's partners and expand her skillset in fundraising. She is also excited to help coordinate the RCFL Community Garden.

New Leadership at RCFL

Dawn L. Johnson was previously the Board Chair for RCFL in 2021. Her role at RCFL has magnified as she began serving as the interim Chief Executive Director in January 2022. In this role, Dawn aims to keep the organization moving forward and provide support to staff as we navigate this time of transition.

We are very grateful to have her guidance, wisdom, and support as we move through 2022!



Upcoming Events

Health Commons at the Living Room

Health Across the Lifespan

This free, nine-part virtual series is designed to help community members improve their health and wellbeing. Every Wednesday from March 30-May 25 @ 12-1PM [Register Here!](#)

Community Garden

Weekly gardening beginning in April!

Sundays from 1-4PM Redeemer's garden (lot behind 1830 Glenwood Ave) Contact our Garden Volunteer Coordinator, [Greta](#), for more info!

Youth N' Power

Neighborhood Clean Up Day! Contact [Traiveon](#) for more info. Follow Youth N' Power on instagram: @youthnpower

Venture North

Soft reopening April 1, more info to come!