

# redeemer center for life

## INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

### **Pastor Kelly Retires as Executive Director**

#### *A Letter to the Community*

Greetings from my virtual office! Clearly, the corona virus is forcing us to navigate new territory, within our communities, our nation and the world. As we address ongoing challenges presented by the spread of COVID-19, I believe we still have reasons to be joyful. For example, I hope the stories and photos included in this edition of our quarterly newsletter touch your hearts and capture the fun and excitement we shared during recent community events. We look forward to hosting and partnering with you in even more ways in the future.

Meanwhile, spring has arrived, at least according to the calendar, and that means we have months of warmth and sunshine ahead. The circumstances that require us to shelter at home and maintain social distance also give us time for contemplation—a chance to reflect on what we care about, how we spend our time, and whom we can help.

It's a time of change as well, and for some of us that means a change in our work. Many of you know that my last day as pastor of Redeemer was February 23, after a remarkable two-day send-off. I will also be leaving my post as RCFL Director at the end of June. After two decades of working with the Harrison Neighborhood through Redeemer and RCFL, it's time to move at a slower pace personally and pass the baton to a new director.

I have every confidence that RCFL will find the right leader—someone to guide the organization with energy, passion and new ideas. I also feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to interact with the hundreds of friends and partners I met during the last 20 years, and I look forward to working on behalf of North Minneapolis in new ways.

In the spirit of the love we share for our community and each other, I'd like to leave you with a request to remember those who may be suffering, perhaps now more than ever—those in poverty, those without families who live alone, those with serious or chronic illness. We especially invite your thoughts and prayers for two of our staff who have heart disease and have suffered heart attacks.

During the weeks and months ahead, each of us will have opportunities to walk in faith and reach out to those in need. Let's hold hands—virtually—and meet this challenge together.

Thank you to everyone who has made these past 20 years wonderful and who continue to spread RCFL'S mission!

Pastor Kelly Chatman  
RCFL Executive Director



*PK inspired guests at the 2019 RCFL Gala*

# Emergency Rent Fund

## Help RCFL Housing Residents Stay Safe



*RCFL community members playing a game of chess at our Winter Extravaganza*

Residents living in RCFL affordable housing units are suddenly facing financial insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without RCFL housing, many of our 54 residents would face **homelessness or high mobility**, putting them at extreme risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. **Our housing provides a safe place for residents to shelter in place**, which helps to keep you, your family, and our community safe during the pandemic.

Please donate as you are able to support the families and individuals in our affordable housing to remain safe and secure during this challenging time. Remember, rental income is RCFL's main source of income, so this donation also supports the long-term sustainability of our organization.

Thank you!

### From a Resident:

*"I'm grateful to not only have an apartment I can call home, but I'm also grateful to live within a community of people who genuinely care for each other through the way they share information and resources--especially during a time of such great need!"*

*- Joe Davis, Poet, Educator, and RCFL Housing resident*



**To donate to RCFL's Emergency Rent Fund, visit**  
**<https://www.givemn.org/story/Bms0bf>**  
**or**  
**<https://www.redeemercenter.org/donate>**





*Simon, VN's Service Manager, was ready for business*

## Venture North

### *Ready to Serve Customers 7 Days a Week*

On Saturday, February 8th, Venture North returned to winter hours and celebrated with a Winter Reopening. During this event, Venture North staff served 80 people who stopped by to see the renovations, enjoy a winter group bike ride, and nosh on delicious snacks.

Venture North had been closed for three months so staff could redo the floors, paint the walls, take inventory, and revamp programs. We extend our thanks for the bounty of food provided for this event by Augsburg Campus Kitchen, Isles Bun & Coffee, Breadsmith, Butter Bakery Cafe, and Pizza Luce.

When Venture North fully reopens after COVID-19, the shop will serve customers 7 days a week! Follow us on social media for more updates.

**Venture North is open  
every Thursday - Saturday  
from 10 AM - 5 PM for bike  
service only!**

## **Milda's Cafe** *Ready for Take-out*

Milda's Cafe is a longstanding local business and community spot in the Harrison neighborhood. During this pandemic, they are offering take-out food and your support will help this staple in the neighborhood survive this challenging time.

**To order take-out for pick-up,  
call: 612-377-9460.**

They are open 7 days a week from 8 AM - 1:30 PM.

**Visit Milda's Cafe on Facebook for  
more information and their menu!**  
[https://www.facebook.com/Mildas-  
Cafe-141272659269255/](https://www.facebook.com/Mildas-Cafe-141272659269255/)



*This smiling family enjoyed the Venture North Reopening Celebration*



# Free Winter Extravanzas

*Promote Equitable Use of Our Parks*



*Attendees enjoyed a cross-country ski lesson from a Loppet Ski Team Volunteer*



*Our snow tubing hill was a big hit!*

**Thank you to our  
340 participants and The  
Loppet Foundation!**



In partnership with the Loppet Foundation, RCFL hosted two winter events that brought North Minneapolis residents and Redeemer community members together to enjoy the beautiful outdoor space located in our very own backyard.

More than 340 people joined the fun at the Theodore Wirth Park Trailhead; where activities included cross-country ski lessons offered by nine Loppet Ski Club ski instructors; snow tubing, snowshoeing on the snowy Theodore Wirth trails, and indoor snacks and games.

Throughout both events, excitement prevailed as people skied for the first time or sped down the snow tube hill. The cold didn't seem to bother participants, who came inside with big smiles spread across their faces. We intend to hold this event again next year.

Thank you to the many participants, volunteers, and Loppet Foundation staff for making these events possible!



*More smiles at the tubing hill*



# At Home in Harrison: Entrepreneurship Fair Celebrates Black History Month



*Residents of all ages enjoyed community and crafts at the 2020 Black History Month Entrepreneurship Fair*

For the second year in a row, the Redeemer ArtPlace cohort celebrated the future of Black neighborhood economics with a Black Entrepreneurship Fair on Saturday, February 29th. This event focused on Black entrepreneurship as a viable strategy for combating gentrification and displacement in North Minneapolis.

Several local entrepreneurs gathered to promote and present a diverse set of products such as Ms. Opal's natural oils and fragrances, a new jewelry business called Floss Dental Jewelry, and Henna designs created by a young Minneapolis artist. Leslie Redmond, Minneapolis NAACP President, also shared her experience of entrepreneurship through her Don't Complain Activate campaign, where she serves as a public speaker, moderator, podcast host, and community organizer.

Pending the status of the pandemic, the Redeemer ArtPlace Cohort will conclude their year-long creative place-making engagement with an event focusing on Environmental Justice and Climate Impacts in May. The group envisions a final event to celebrate and connect neighborhood stakeholders that will include a spring clean-up of the neighborhood, education around environmental sustainability, and a celebration of the planting season!



*Local entrepreneurs sold Tee Shirts, Body Products, and MORE at the Black History Month Entrepreneurship Fair*





*Gala 2019 attendees enjoyed the wine pull*



*Youth Program Coordinators Trai (holding Noble) and Jazz spoke at the RCFL 2019 Gala*

***For more info, visit [www.redeemercenter.org/gala](http://www.redeemercenter.org/gala)  
Tickets available early summer!***