

redeemer center for life

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

Rooted In Community

RCFL Hosted Its First-Ever Virtual Gala on Saturday, September 12, 2020

Due to Covid-19, RCFL's 2020 Gala looked quite different this year. We created an exciting online event, mirroring the fun and communal atmosphere similar to our previous galas. Together, we celebrated 22 years of work, learned about RCFL's history, listened to stories from program participants and invested in the future of RCFL.

At this year's gala, RCFL affirmed the reasons we remain "Rooted in Community" in the Harrison Neighborhood of North Minneapolis. We are rooted in our commitment to racial justice. We are rooted in our programs: Venture North, Attainable Housing, Youth Programming, the Due North Podcast, Workforce Development, Equity and Inclusion and much more.

Thank you to our generous supporters, donors and partners who helped us surpass our fundraising goal and raise over \$115,000!

Your belief in our mission sustains RCFL and makes our work possible. Investing in a Black-led, Northside organization has never been more important.



We raised over \$115,000!
Watch the program [Here](#)
Donate to RCFL [Here](#)

Beloved Community.

Babette

<3 Community!!

Lonna

Yes. Well said, Nia, Anayah, and Payton!! You're all awesome leaders! I love RCFL's investment in community, justice, and young leaders!

Mali

We Are Familyyyy!!!

Liz

It is great to learn more about RCFL!

Margot

Thank you for the inspiring and touching stories Nia, Payton and Anayah! Can't wait to see how RCFL grows!

Chat Box during the event



RCFL Program Participant, Nia, thanking everyone for supporting RCFL. [Watch here](#)

Venture North Happenings

UR on the Move

The Upper Room, a religious community in Edina, MN, generously donated all funds raised from a virtual 8.46-mile bike ride to Venture North. This event was part two of a three-part series in memory of George Floyd and raised awareness for racial inequity and injustice in the Twin Cities.

Northside Bike Giveaway

On Tuesday, September 8, Venture North gave away over 20 bikes to the Northside community. These donated bikes were refurbished by volunteers and Venture North bike mechanics.

Volunteer Opportunity

Want to volunteer as a bike mechanic at Venture North? [Fill out this form!](#)



Northsider with a new bike



Northsiders with their new bikes



Participants in the UR on the Move bike ride

Venture North Hours

Thurs - Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM

***We kindly ask all customers to wear a mask and social distance.**
Visit our [Facebook](#) for more updates

Venture North Happenings

Step-Up Minneapolis Interns

For six weeks, Venture North employed four summer Step-Up Minneapolis interns, who learned bike mechanic and barista skills.



The 2020 Summer Step-Up Interns: Brandon, Elysa, Abdi and Yassin

Surly Bikes Blog Features Venture North Barista Manager

Venture North Barista Manager, Wesley Ferguson, was recently featured in the Surly Bikes blog, discussing the realities of being a Black man in the biking world. Wesley shares his powerful story, from how he got into biking in Chicago to ending up at Venture North. Check out the full article, "[The Realities of a Black Man in the Bike World,](#)" [here.](#)



Wesley, Venture North Barista Manager

The only way you can really survive and keep going to races is to be on a team, and all the teams are so white-dominated. I didn't feel like I fit the puzzle.

- Wesley Ferguson,
Venture North Barista Manager

Venture North Hours

Thurs - Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM

***We kindly ask all customers to wear a mask and social distance.**

Visit our [Facebook](#) for more updates

2019 Annual Report

The Year in Review: Setting up Stability

2019 was a year of transition that positioned RCFL for future stability. We reimagined Venture North, stretched our outreach with a variety of community events, offered internships and more.

With renovations to Venture North, the Winter Extravaganza events and the Due North Podcast, RCFL implemented new outreach strategies based on the needs of the community.

The 2019 Annual Report was published on September 1, 2020.

[Click here](#) to read the
Annual Report



**Read about Venture North's year
of transition, pg. 6**



**Read Kitana's whole story,
pg. 8**

*Everyone who helped
contribute to this situation
made me realize family
doesn't have to mean you're
related by blood, but it gets
built in pieces. Many people
in this community are now
my family and continue to
offer support.*

-Kitana Holland,
RCFL Housing Resident

Hello LVCers

Libby Olson, RCFL Administrative Assistant



LVCer Libby Olson

RCFL is such a unique organization that truly cares about the community it is a part of. I am so excited to work with the passionate staff and help further the mission of RCFL!

-Libby Olson,
RCFL Administrative Assistant

Libby joins RCFL as the Administrative Assistant through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. She has recently earned a BA in Government with a concentration in Social Entrepreneurship & Nonprofits from the University of Texas at Austin.

Through her work at the UT Center for Community Engagement and Hesed House of Wharton, she was able to focus on her passion of community-driven work and experience the many sides to running a nonprofit.

When she's not working, Libby enjoys being in nature, learning new crafts, and meeting new dogs. She's looking forward to her first Minnesota winter and the year ahead with RCFL.

Abram Espe, Venture North Barista and Bike Mechanic

Abe is excited to join Venture North through Lutheran Volunteer Corps in 2020 as both a barista and bike mechanic at Venture North. Recently graduated from Luther College in Decorah, IA with a degree in environmental studies, he is eager to serve the local community, learn new skills, and find out what it truly means to live simply and sustainably.

Abe has historically found solace in both camping and animals. He looks forward to seeing the natural areas that Minneapolis has to offer. Through his work at Venture North, he hopes to enhance the community's experience of these areas.



LVCer Abram Espe

Garden Wrap-Up

Veggies, Pizza and Community

It has been a busy summer for the Redeemer Community Garden. With the help of over 20 volunteers, the garden has been well-maintained and produced lots of fresh vegetables, including peas, tomatoes, greens and herbs.

The latter part of the summer was full of harvesting veggies, and events that brought in many members of the community. From movie nights and fermenting veggies, to pizza parties and drum circles, the garden has had lots of activity.

As the seasons change, the garden will wind down as we prepare for winter.



Greens in the garden



Movie Night in the Community Garden

If you'd like to get involved with the Community Garden in the future, please contact our Volunteer Garden Coordinator, Greta, at gklawiterlein@gmail.com



Pizza Party + Drum Circle garden event on Sunday, Sept. 20



The Gentleman Artist, Robert, painting during the Pizza party + Drum Circle garden event

Upcoming Events and More

Harrison Finn Town Market

On Saturday, October 3, from 7AM - 3PM, Venture North will have a stand selling coffee and cider on the corner of 2nd Ave N. and Morgan Ave. N. (in the parking lot). Stop by for warm drinks and a look at some bikes.

Venture North Garage Sale

On Saturday, October 10, from 11AM - 4 PM, Venture North will be hosting a garage sale. All bikes are \$20. Stop by Redeemer's backyard (1800 Glenwood Ave) to buy a bike and new merchandise. We ask all customers to please wear a mask. If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please email service@venturenorthbwc.org

Venture North Merchandise

T-Shirts - \$20

Small Stickers - \$2 each

Large Stickers - \$5 each

Koozies - \$5



Milda's Cafe: Open for Business



A staple eatery on Glenwood, Milda's Cafe has been hit particularly hard during the pandemic. For the continuation and sustainability of this wonderful restaurant in Harrison, we ask our supporters to consider buying their meals and/or donating specifically to Milda's.

Milda's Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8 AM - 2 PM

Sat. & Sun. 8 AM - 1:30 PM

**To order takeout & pickup call:
612-377-9460**

**Visit Milda's [Facebook Page here](#)
for more**