

redeemer center for life

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2018

Annual Redeemer Christmas Store

The second Saturday of every December, Redeemer Center for Life and Redeemer Lutheran Church host our Annual Christmas Store where children ages 6 to 12 get to buy four gifts for \$1 (25 cents each!) for their siblings, parents, family, and friends. This year's 17th anniversary was another smashing success! In partnership with eight partner congregations -- Calvary, Christ the King, Edina Community, Faith Waconia, Immanuel, Mount Olivet, Westwood, and Zion Lutheran Churches -- and with the help of more than 100 youth, young adult, and adult volunteers, Redeemer hosted more than 150 children from the Northside Community for a morning of shopping, gift wrapping, cookie decorating, and lunch. Out of the thousands of gifts donated to the store, more than 600 were wrapped and ready to give at Christmas.



This year we made a point to listen to shoppers about why and how this particular event is life-giving for them. One child, when asked, "How does it feel now that you're about to give presents," exclaimed, "I felt good, I feel like I have a job!" Another told us she likes to "give out gifts because you can show love in different ways . . . and it's fun to see people's reaction when they open them and to see how happy they are." These children bring to life why RCFL exists and what we, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, strive to be in this community: A beacon of hope.

While children shopped with elves, wrapped their gifts, and decorated hundreds of cookies, parents were invited to enjoy \$1 coffee and peruse \$15 bikes and various homemade gifts at Venture North, and enjoy free treats, massage, and health consultations through Hennepin County Child & Teen Check-ups at the Living Room in partnership with Health Commons.

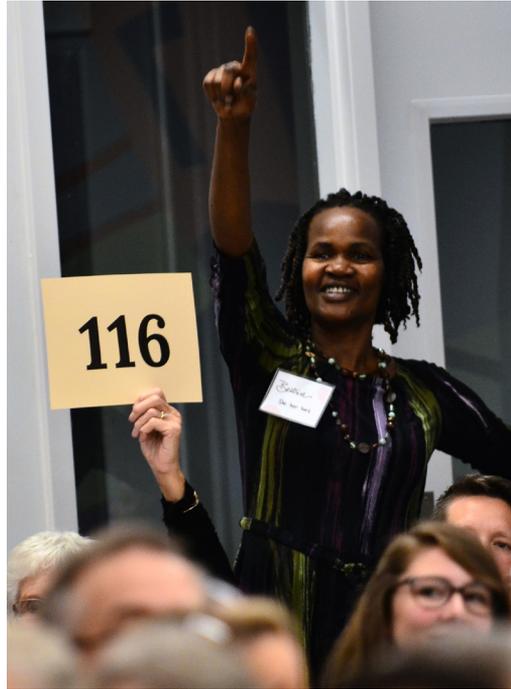
Redeemer's Annual Christmas Store remains a highlight of the year. We know and believe there's no greater joy than sharing the gift of giving. This is one beautiful way to experience Beloved Community on Minneapolis's Northside!

Celebrating 20 Years Oh, What a Night!

Twenty years ago, Redeemer Lutheran Church founded the non-profit Redeemer Center for Life. On the 27th of October, we were overjoyed to celebrate this milestone by hosting a fundraising gala at the Loppet Trailhead in Theodore Wirth Park. With amazing musical performances and powerful personal stories, we came together as a community and celebrated twenty years responding to the neighborhood's call for more affordable housing, youth programming, and employment opportunities.

The generosity of all who joined in celebration, the sense of community, and the support of RCFL could be felt throughout the room--heard in laughter and cheers, seen in the exchange of smiles, and evidenced in generous financial gifts. The evening's fundraising was conducted by way of a silent auction of paintings created by Redeemer Artists-in-Residence, Robert and Katherine, two bicycles donated by collaborative efforts of Quality Bicycle Products and Venture North, and an invigorating Fund the Need auction. Thanks to the outstanding support from our 250 guests, we were thrilled to exceed our goal and raise \$57,000!

The gala was a wonderful celebration of Redeemer Center's mission to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison neighborhood and broader North Minneapolis. In partnership with other congregations, community organizations, and neighbors, Redeemer has been able to listen to neighborhood residents and build on existing assets to build a more vibrant community. Through partnership we are making a difference in the world, this neighborhood, and in everyday lives.



At Home in Harrison an ArtPlace America Grant Project

For six months now, project manager and artist, Denetrick Powers has led three artists from the North Minneapolis community on an exploration of Home and it's meaning. Artists and community leaders, ShaVunda Brown, Amoke

Kubat, and Nestor Olague, have engaged neighbors in Harrison and the broader Northside community asking questions about what Home means to them and their

experiences with gentrification. This project has highlighted the importance of bringing residents together to meet one another, share food and stories, and engage around a relevant topic. It has also highlighted the importance of



being exposed to new experiences and perspectives, especially for professionals who may not spend much time out of the office in the neighborhoods they work in.

The first two At Home in Harrison events took place in June and August of 2018. On October 27th the third At Home in Harrison event brought together residents and professionals alike, including those in the real estate industry, for a conversation about affordable housing. Over an excellent lasagna buffet by local Northside caterer, Msnykol Miller, this group of diverse stakeholders discussed affordable housing and how it plays into public experience of Home.

Similarly, the most recent At Home in Harrison event, hosted December 15th at the Harrison Neighborhood Association, focused on different communities rising to power to claim and take responsibility for the place they call Home. Following a documentary screening, artist leaders moderated a conversation about the relevant topics and questions for North Minneapolis posed by the documentary.



Winter Extravaganza!

Northside residents are invited to join Redeemer Center and Loppet Foundation at the new Theodore Wirth Trailhead for this FREE Winter Extravaganza on Sunday, January 13th from 1:30 to 4pm! Enjoy all kinds of winter activities like tubing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing right in our backyard. All gear will be provided, free of charge, and refreshments will be available. Please wear your warmest clothing!

The Loppet Foundation, located in Theodore Wirth park, has a passion for year-round outdoor adventure, and maintains a commitment to fully engage participants with diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds in a shared passion for the outdoors. Loppet engages Minneapolis with outdoor activities such as mountain biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, nordic ski racing, coached training opportunities, and non-competitive myriad adventures for all ages. Specific to our community youth, Loppet TRAIL KIDS provides year-round outdoor adventures for youth ages 7-14. Youth participants enjoy activities throughout the year that include mountain biking, orienteering, canoeing, adventure running, and cross country skiing. All of the programs are aimed toward general physical development and love for outdoor endurance sports.

Redeemer Center for Life is committed to equitable outcomes and the renewed relationship between Northside community and amazing opportunities to explore the outdoors in our very own Theodore Wirth park.

This Winter Extravaganza is the first of many joint Loppet / Redeemer Center events to come! We hope you will engage with us. Stay tuned!

Contact bex@redeemercenter.org with question and to register!

Join us for FREE winter activities like tubing, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

SUNDAY JAN. 13TH

1:30 - 4:00 PM

AT THE TRAILHEAD
IN THE THEODORE WIRTH PARK

We  N Mpls



Register on the Facebook Event
"Free Winter Extravaganza"

or call Redeemer Center For Life at
612-374-4139



* Limited parking at the Trailhead *
Transportation offered from Redeemer

Youth Leadership at Redeemer Center

Youth leaders, Traiveon Dunlap, Jason Hirsch, Payton Bowdry, and Zach Watson continue to develop and lead activities specifically tailored toward leadership development throughout North Minneapolis, such as Northside Hangouts, Moonlight Madness, and a Northside Youth Leadership (Youth Bank) program.

First, at the new Northside Hangouts, youth of all ages have been attending hangouts Saturdays at River of Life Lutheran Church in the Hawthorne Neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

Second, at Moonlight Madness, an annual overnight event hosted by Augsburg University, ten middle schoolers joined with 140 others from metro area churches. This mobile all-night event included youth and youth leaders from throughout the metro and traveled to a gym, ice skating rink, movie theater, and bowling alley / laser tag center. The event was an opportunity for youth from across the Minneapolis-Area ELCA Synod to gather for a night of fellowship and an introduction to the Augsburg University campus.

Finally, in partnership with Youthprise--a statewide grantmaking organization building a network of youth-led grantmakers across Minnesota--Redeemer Center's Northside Youth Leadership program partners with ten high schoolers to form a Youth Bank. This program, in its third year and led by Marcell & Tasheante Locust, allows youth to develop a grant process to award money to improve some aspect of their community. This year's Youth Bank cohort is at the preliminary idea stage, exploring which issues they would like to focus on this year, and hopes to have the grant process up and running by January or February.



*Happy
Holidays!
From all of us at
Redeemer Center
for Life*

Holiday Shopping at its Finest

Stop in before December 31st to shop Venture North's End of Year Specials! Save money and ride one of our \$15 clearance bikes right out the door! Grab two bags of UP Roasters Coffee Beans for \$25. Getting a bit chilly? How about 25% off gloves to warm you up? The great deals continue: 50% off select helmets, 50% off folded tires, and as always, don't forget \$1 Coffee Wednesdays!

Let's talk about stocking stuffers: Venture North offers Redeemer Center Youth-Handmade jewelry; the famous

Redeemer After-school Program, RAP Squad, CD "Voices Making Change" featuring nine songs of social justice written, produced, and performed by the youth of Redeemer; and last but not least, delicious cookies from the Northside's own Cookie Cart!

Venture North also offers Momentum Fat Bikes for those who bike through the winter like it's still July, as well as merino-wool face masks, ski-goggles, and winter helmets to keep you warm and toasty!

You'll need to buy a 25% off Giant bike rack to take all this stuff home! Come in and save before the year ends!



Big Fat Savings!
Coupon: 20% off any one single item
(excluding clearance items)
Coupon good December 14, 2018 through January 4, 2019



Redeemer Center is truly grateful for support provided by the Otto Bremer Trust. Partnerships such as these are life-giving and directly support the shared vision and commitment to Beloved Community. Read the full story at:

<https://ottobremer.org/stories/keeping-a-community-healthy/>



Keeping a community healthy

REDEEMER CENTER FOR LIFE, INC., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Otto Bremer Trust's \$70,000 investment in Redeemer Center for Life enables its innovative housing, employment, health promotion, and youth arts programming initiatives.

INVEST IN RCFL

RCFL is celebrating 20 Years of serving the Harrison Neighborhood's call for youth leadership opportunities, attainable housing, and work-force development! Join us as we continue to invest in, and celebrate, North Minneapolis.

Become a sustaining donor or send in your one-time gift today!



GIVE NOW @ RedeemerCenter.org/donate

Your support and partnership at every level empower Redeemer Center for Life to continue to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant community in the Harrison Neighborhood and broader North Minneapolis. **We appreciate you!**

STAY CONNECTED

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 **redeemer center for life**

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

