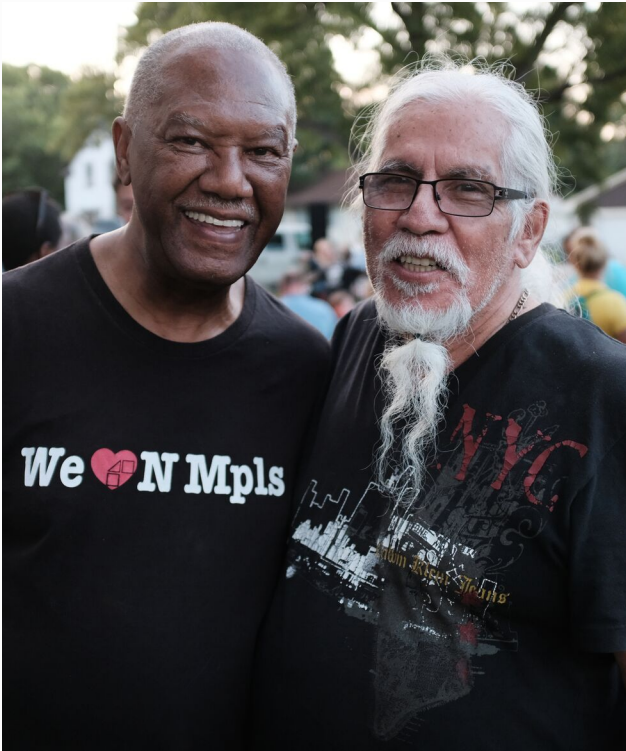


redeemer center for life

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NORTH MINNEAPOLIS



Annual Block Party 2019

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Block Party! With nearly 800 community members gathered to enjoy homemade pizza, greens from the community garden, venison brats, grilled goose, burgers & hotdogs, watermelon and other delicious foods, the atmosphere reflected a truly diverse community. Throughout the evening, we shared warm embraces and exchanged stories while enjoying live music performed by the RLC Praise Team. Those wanting to work off a little of their dinner joined an energetic Zumba session led by Rhonda, an instructor at Health Commons at the Living Room. Additionally, various partner organizations including Mental Health Connect, MetroBlooms, Augsburg, U of M Health Extension, Hennepin County Child & Teen Check Up, the local Minneapolis Fire Department and others tabled along the perimeter of the block providing information of the amazing work they do and how to get involved. We often hear that Redeemer's annual Block Party is the highlight of the year. It's an evening of pure Redeemer Magic; felt when greeted by both new friends and familiar faces. In our view, guests were surrounded by the sounds, sights, and feelings of beloved community. From the youth ensnared by the fun of the bouncy house, to the basketball hoop, face painting, Model T rides, fire truck tours, dunk tank and cotton candy, to the adults mingling, volunteering, and being present in the community, all ages participated in Showing Up for the Redeemer Block Party. We understand the power of community and we are so grateful to everyone who Showed Up to make this year's Block Party such a success-- particularly members from Edina Community Lutheran, Westwood, Calvary, Zion, St. Barnabas, Immanuel, Faith Lutheran, Christ the King, Mt. Olivet, and Robbinsdale Hy-Vee. With their volunteered support and generous donations, this grand event was possible. We look forward to seeing you all again next August!



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SHOWING UP for RCFL... 2019 Fundraising Gala!

*Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 5 - 8 PM
International Market Square*

You are enthusiastically invited to join us for our second annual fundraising gala, 'Showing Up for...', Saturday October 5th, 5-8pm, at International Market Square. RCFL has been 'Showing Up' for our Northside community for 21 years in direct response to the community's ask for attainable housing, youth leadership programming, and workforce development. In 2011 we opened Venture North Bikes & Coffee as a social venture and additional avenue for youth leadership & workforce development. The investment reaches beyond these listed categories.. into health equity via partnership with Fairview and the creation of RCFL's Health Commons @ the Living Room, a thriving community garden, the Due North podcast, and community advocacy work that reaches into the realms of housing justice and racial justice.

On October 5th we will gather together in celebration of all the ways we Show UP for racial justice, health equity, for youth leadership, workforce development, attainable housing, community gardens and community gatherings, for bikes, and for coffee! Last year, we celebrated RCFL's 20th Anniversary with our first ever Gala. Over 200 guests came together to honor 20 years of commitment to our beloved community. We enjoyed music and poetry from Redeemer Community talented artists, stories from long-time RCFL community members, and our generous community raised over \$55,000. Since last October, we have used that financial investment in RCFL to expand programming in the Harrison neighborhood and North Minneapolis at large. We produced our very first podcast, Due North: Stories from North Minneapolis; we hosted 19 Step-Up interns and ran Youth n' Power, a very successful summer camp in partnership with MN Interfaith Power and Light; we took a bike tour around North Minneapolis while learning its history and much more. This year, we'd love to see you at our second annual fundraising gala in support of RCFL! Whether you show up for Venture North, attainable housing, youth programming, the Due North Podcast, workforce development, or equity and inclusion, we greatly appreciate your continued support. We encourage you to join us in celebrating the reasons you are "Showing Up for Redeemer Center for Life" and we look forward to seeing you soon!

To reserve your seat, please visit www.redeemercenter.org or call Sara Huelle (612.374.4139 x14).

Northside Bike Tour

Saturday, August 3, 2019



On August 3rd, we hosted a Northside Bike Ride that began with Cookie Cart cookies and coffee at Venture North and ended with handmade pizza fired in the Harrison-Redeemer Community Bread Oven!

Twenty cyclists of all ages joined for a beautifully sunny Saturday morning ride. Together we traveled west along Glenwood Avenue, around the southern edge of Theodore Wirth lake, north through Theodore Wirth Park, west following the historic Victory Memorial Parkway, and south again through beloved northside neighborhoods. Within this casual ride we took pause to highlight North Minneapolis' rich history, as well as important landmarks, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Our 12 mile ride ended in the beautiful backyard community garden, with handmade pizzas and conversation that pulled together the highlights of our ride, the mission and work of Redeemer Center for Life, and the importance of partnerships rooted in relationship.

This casual ride through North Minneapolis was planned by RCFL board member, Dennis Skovsted, and Jill Griffin in collaboration with Redeemer and St. Michael's Church in Roseville. Neighbors, friends of Venture North, fans of RCFL, Redeemer and St. Michael's church congregants joined as riders and volunteers. This is just how we like to spend a beautiful summer Saturday - good friends, a nice long ride -- intentionally taking in and honoring North Minneapolis history, present day community, and the beautiful landscape -- wood-fired pizza, and engaging conversation. It is by way of events like this that we build authentic relationships that weave the fabric of beloved community.



Venture North - New Leadership & A Change in Schedule

Ian Magnuson joined the RCFL Family in 2017 as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) Volunteer dedicated to storytelling and media. At the end of his LVC year, Ian was hired by RCFL as Director of Communications. Ian continued his work at RCFL storytelling through his fabulous photos, designing posters and quarterly newsletters, and creating the 2017 and 2018 Annual Report. This August, Ian stepped into a new role as the General Manager at Venture North.

We sat down with Ian to hear more about his role as GM, the future of the shop, and some upcoming changes at Venture North:

How did you first get involved with Venture North?

I first fell in love with Venture North when, as an LVC Volunteer, I was working the Earn-a-Bike Camp. It was amazing seeing all the kids so happy with their brand new bikes. Like our youth participants, Venture North also spurred my obsession with bikes. I actually became a cyclist when I moved here because of my time spent at Venture North. The skills I gained through the shop jump-started my passion for cycling advocacy, service, and coffee.

What do you love about Venture North?

What's really special about Venture North is that when you walk in there isn't any judgement that you might see at a lot of other bike shops. We try to make it a space for everyone, regardless of skill level, age, and any other personal identities. Also, I think that the work we do investing in youth is really attractive because I've never seen programs that just give away free bikes to little kids, like our Earn-a-Bike camp. I also really value the community aspect of Venture North. We try so hard to not only be a successful business but also a successful community space which is maybe more valuable and rare.

What are your goals as General Manager of Venture North?

Overall, I hope to strengthen Venture North not only as a business and social venture but also as a community gathering space. While we have consistently created amazing programs that bring people together for bikes, coffee, and community, there's always room for improvement. We aim to deepen our connection to our mission of making the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis an empowering, healthy place to live by increasing racial, economic, and gender equity within the biking community.



Liked by duenorthpodcast and 42 others

venturenorthbwc Happy #FridayBikeSmackdown Here are some hot pics #fresh off the camera of our 2011 breakaway Waterford frame, kitted out with some sweet @campagnolosrl parts. This bike rides like a dream and can fit into a suitcase for #travel What more could you ask for??? (Maybe coffee?) Check this beauty out!
[@waterfordbikes](#) [@qualitybike](#) [@theradavist](#)

One of my immediate goals for Venture North is to set up an online store where we can sell products to a wider audience and also to continue a consistent social media presence that highlight both the donated bikes we're building and refurbishing as well as the people who make them.

As part of this social media campaign we're starting something called #fridaybikesmackdown. As you may know, our WiFi password is "fridaynightsmackdown," so we're riffing off that phrase to highlight the cool bikes we're making and the mechanics wrenching those bikes. It's particularly important to me that our social media campaign showcases the amazing community we have at Venture North because, while we do make sweet bikes, Venture North's mission is really about the people who make and fix the bikes and bikers who ride the bikes. Working on this social media campaign is a way that I can use my skills as a photographer to show off both our amazing mechanics and our bikes for sale! Check out our Instagram and Facebook pages (@venturenorthbwc) and every Thursday for preview of the highlighted bike and then every Friday we'll show the rest of the bike and a description. Most of the bikes we highlight on #fridaybikesmackdown will be for sale.



In addition to this updated social media campaign, what other changes can we expect to see at Venture North in the upcoming months?

Over the winter we are having limited hours and are opening our doors on Sundays. Starting Monday, October 14, our new coffee bar hours will be Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM to 4 PM and the bike service will be by appointment only. Please reach out to service@venturenorthbwc.org to schedule an appointment! We will continue our Open Shop hours on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM, however there will be a few weeks that we won't be able to have it due to restructuring the space. Stay posted on Facebook, Instagram, and our website for further details.



Venture North Winter Hours



Starting Monday, October 14

Coffee Bar: Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Bike Service: by appointment, email
service@venturenorthbwc.org

Why is Venture North changing its hours this winter?

Venture North has been open consistently for 7.5 years, so it's time to update and revamp our aesthetics. For example, we plan to redo the wood floors, deep clean the shop and basement, and move a lot of our products to a new storage location. During this extra time, our staff will also rearrange the showroom space and improve our community programs for the summer season. To recruit more young adults, we plan to visit high school activities fairs and pitch our programs. Throughout this winter hiatus, we plan to host several winter community events like group rides and movie nights and prepare for the next cycling season, so we can be more present at Twin Cities cycling events. When Venture North re-opens fully in the spring, we will have a comprehensive calendar for our youth and community programs, as well as new exciting adventures lined up for our mobile bike shop trailer. Personally, I see this winter change in hours as the shop taking a much needed breath so that we can focus on behind-the-curtain aspects of the shop. The goal is that when we resume our full hours in the spring, we will be better positioned to serve the North Minneapolis community.

Last and most important question: what is your favorite coffee drink at Venture North?

I like to order the cafe con miel (espresso, steamed milk, and honey) from new baristas because it's the hardest drink to make.

Upcoming Events

RCFL 2019 Fundraising Gala

Saturday, October 5, 2019 // 5 - 8 PM

International Market Square, 275 Market Street

The RCFL 2019 Gala is dedicated to all those who are "Showing Up for _____" and your varied reasons for supporting our diverse programming. We encourage you to join us in celebrating the reasons you are "Showing Up for Redeemer Center for Life." RSVP at www.redeemercenter.org or call Sara Huelle (612.374.4139 x14).

Paint and Sip with the Gentleman Artist

Friday, October 18, 2019 // 7-9 PM

Utepils Brewing, 225 Thomas Avenue North

Join us for a night of painting, brews, and community, on Friday, October 18. The Gentleman Artist, RCFL's very own renowned Artist-in-Residence, will teach painting lessons as we enjoy delicious beer from Utepils Brewing. Utepils is generously offering Buy-One-Get-One beer so you should stop by for a fun night!

Sign up here: <https://www.redeemercenter.org/events-1>

And you can learn more about the event on our FB

page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1406196442867118>

Open Mic Night

Friday, October 25, 2019 // 7-9 PM

Venture North Bike and Coffee Shop

We're very excited for our next Open Mic Night! Join us for some music and art from our talented community as well as snacks and drinks. There will be no cover charge so we look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Christmas Store

Saturday, December 14, 2019 // 9:15am - 12:00pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church

During our Annual Christmas Store, children ages 6-12 can buy four gifts for \$1 for their loved ones. With over a thousand gift donations annually, children get to pick out which gifts they'd like to give and then have them wrapped by our many volunteers. The Annual Christmas Store is a wonderful way to share the gift of giving and children come back year after year to celebrate the Christmas spirit with us.



Welcome to Our 2019-20

Lutheran Volunteer Corps Volunteers

This year, Redeemer Center for Life welcomes three Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) members to our staff. Their skills and talents will provide new ideas and energy and we are excited to see how this year will impact them and the community!



Left to Right: Alexa Rother, Beck Galbraith, Becca Sandness

Alexa Rother (she/her)

Youth Program Organizer

I work with youth to develop asset-based youth leadership opportunities and engaging programs.

Tell us about yourself!

I am from Braunschweig, Germany where I recently graduated high school and am taking a year to volunteer. I hope to eventually become a teacher. My passions include dancing, singing, listening to Korean Pop.

What led you to LVC?

I have always wanted to help people and be a part of another culture. The United States appealed to me because I want to improve my English as well as experience the American lifestyle. Through the Lutheran church I am a member of back in Germany, I was introduced to the LVC.

What are you looking forward to most this year?

I am looking forward to having many fun experiences, personal and communal growth and being the best version of myself everyday.

Beck Galbraith (he/him)

Bike and Coffee Shop Assistant

I work at Venture North Bike and Coffee Shop as a barista and I assist with bike maintenance.

Tell us about yourself!

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. I went Hofstra University in Long Island, NY where I double majored in Linguistics and Computer Science. This summer, I lived with my grandma in Germany and I had the opportunity to visit the Netherlands and Greece. I love hammocking, rock climbing and rowing. Also, I have a twin sister.

What led you to LVC?

I was inspired to look into volunteer service programs because my parents are ELCA pastors and my sister is volunteering with the Peace Corps. Ultimately, I chose LVC because of its keen focus on sustainability.

What are you looking forward to most this year?

I am looking forward to getting involved in the North Minneapolis community and learning about the best spots to visit in Minneapolis.

Becca Sandness (she/her)

Administrative Assistant

I assist with daily office tasks and contribute to the coordination of RCFL events and projects.

Tell us about yourself!

I grew up in Minnesota, but now live in South Dakota. I graduated from Luther College in May where I majored in Religion and Nordic Studies. I enjoy outdoors hiking, camping and hammocking.

What led you to LVC?

I wanted to work at a non-profit and I share values with LVC. The placement at Redeemer stood out to me because it's the perfect place for me to explore how non-profits operate while immersing myself in community.

What are you looking forward to most this year?


I am excited to use my current skills and build new ones to uplift and strengthen the Redeemer community. I hope to connect with people in the community. I also look forward to exploring Minneapolis' parks and museums.



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