

MARIE SANDVIK CENTER

Update

CHRISTMAS 2011

BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THE INNER CITY SINCE 1940

Reflections

November and December are very festive months of the year - it is a special time to pause and be thankful for God's goodness and mercy. People around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus and say goodbye to the passing year and hello to the new year ahead. We spend time reflecting on past events and the aspirations for the year at hand. Joys and sorrows are shared, and sometimes thoughts of what could have been.

As individuals we take the time to self-evaluate. We reflect on milestones in our lives, the good times and bad, and the things that we wished we would have done. Some of us lament over what we did do during the past twelve months. We join in the common practice of making "New Years Resolutions" to better ourselves. Frequently, to our dismay, we leave many of them unfulfilled or incomplete. Then these shortcomings become the topic of the next New Year's resolutions.

If you are a Christian, reflect on your life before you repented of your sin and placed your trust in Jesus as your Savior. There are some definite differences, right? As believers we would prefer to reflect on our years spent serving the Lord, rather than when we served ourselves. Thank the Lord for the circumstances and people He used to bring you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). The Lord works through our lives to accomplish His goals. In spite of all of our failings, His will shall prevail. God strategically places His children where He wants them, so that His Word can go forth to the lost.

The Bible tells us that we live on borrowed time (II Cor 5:15). Our lives are not our own. We are to live each day reflecting the Lord and His goodness to a world darkened by sin. It is our duty and calling to carry out the Great Commission to the glory of God. All of our years truly belong to the Lord (Proverbs 16:9).

As we pause, we give thanks and celebrate the birth of our King and reflect on the events of the past. We are so grateful for God strategically using the Marie Sandvik Center to touch so many lives throughout each year that He keeps our doors open. We reflect on the countless people to which we preached the Gospel, the thousands of meals we served and many bags of groceries that

were given away. We are so grateful that we were here for the expecting mother who needed a crib and baby clothes. Praise God that Chaplain Gerald faithfully preaches the truth of the Bible. God used him to touch the heart of a backslidden pastor in need of repentance. We reflect on the children's ministry and the young lives that are reached for the sake of the Gospel. Marie Sandvik Center may be the only "church" that many of these children ever attend.

Through God's provision this mission has seventy-one years to reflect on His goodness. What a blessing to countless lives. There are numerous stories of different people that have been touched by the Marie Sandvik Center. What a privilege to be used to spread the Gospel and help the needy. It's our desire to point the people we serve to the Cross - the only hope for this world. In doing that, we pray that when they reflect on their lives they can look back without regret because of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord that he came to earth to seek and save us (Luke 19:10)! It's a joy to show the captive the way to freedom.

It's been a good year at the Marie Sandvik Center. While there are many struggles going on in our world, the Lord Jesus has once again been faithful to see us through another year. We pray that we will be here for years to come or until He returns. By God's grace and strength, let's keep reflecting the Light of the Gospel in Jesus' name. Please prayerfully consider your continued support for the Lord's work at the Marie Sandvik Center. Help us be here for the lost and needy that don't yet know Jesus as Savior.

We thank God for 2011 and trust in Him to see us through 2012. From all the staff here at the mission we send a heartfelt thanks to you for your prayers and support throughout the years. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



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Director



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Member of the
Association of
Gospel Rescue Missions



Financed entirely through voluntary contributions

Year-end giving Reminder

If you mail a year-end check the envelope *must be postmarked* by December 31, 2011 to qualify for a 2011 tax deduction.

Please pause donations of used clothing and household items during the month of December.

We will continue to receive quilts, coats, mittens, hats, scarves and of course, new gift items.

We have no space to store used clothing until after January 1st.

Thank you :)

Donate electronically at...

www.networkforgood.org

Keep up the 'good search' and spread the word. Every little bit helps. When you search the internet, use GOODSEARCH.COM and select Marie Sandvik Center as your designated cause.

GoodSearch
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

Did you know? that you can donate

your used vehicle to Marie Sandvik Center? Call us

Cars Charities

or go to www.cars4charities.org

Marie Sandvik Center's **Reunion/Open House** is tentatively set for the afternoon of Saturday, May 19th, 2012. We'd love to have you come and hear Kids' Club singers and more. Watch for details in our spring newsletter and our soon-to-be-launched, updated website.

Intercessors' Corner - Prayer Requests

Please agree with us in prayer that the Lord would meet our financial needs.

Holiday ❄️ That we'd have a enough volunteers for our programs. ❄️ That the guests would have ears to hear the Gospel and hearts to respond.

KIDS ❄️ That they'd **have soft hearts**, be **attentive during club, doers of the word** and would demonstrate **growth**. ❄️ That teachers would be faithful and steadfast.

Adults ❄️ Praise God for new visitors who are being touched by the Lord, for the Holy Spirit to continue His work in each 'regular' and guest. Pray for a desire to live whole-heartedly for the Lord

Staff ❄️ Encouragement for staff in personal difficulties and studies (most kids' ministry staff are Christian college students), strength, health and endurance as we enter this busy holiday season.
❄️ For Marybeth's health

Board ❄️ Unity, vision, and wisom for long-term planning and Board development.

Volunteer needs

❄️ **Packing items for Christmas Eve:** if you can help, call 612-481-5565 to inquire for times and scheduling.

❄️ **Christmas Eve ministry opportunities:** we need helpers to assist MSC in proclaiming Christ's first coming and the Gospel to adults and children of all ages, distribute shoebox gifts and food bags, and assist in cleaning up. Call or e-mail the mission to inquire: **612-870-9617** or **MSC@USFAMILY.NET**

Most needed items

❄️ We are desperately short on hats, mittens and gloves for all ages! Also needed: socks for all ages, hygiene products, diapers, large print Bibles and large gifts (toys and games) for Christmas party for club kids on December 10th.

Christmas Toy Wish List

❄️ We deeply appreciate the generosity of everyone who gives toys for the needy children that attend our Christmas programs. We in no way want to diminish the efforts of anyone's giving. Due to anti-Christian, negative and violent themes in so many toys, kids' movies and cartoons, **we are kindly asking that gifts purchased for us are not characters from movies and cartoons.** Some helpful ideas might be: **play dough, cars, trucks, toy tool kits, modest dolls, board games, Children's Bibles, Littlest Pet Shop, Beanie Boos and journals...** Thank you for understanding. We would never want to inadvertently lead any of these little ones astray. Please call us if you have any questions. If you can't get out or wish for us to shop for you, you may also allocate a gift for that purpose.

Furniture Donations needed

❄️ Many individuals and families who are desperately in need of used furniture have been on our waiting list for a long time. If you will be soon replacing or not needing the following types of furniture, please contact Chaplain Gerald at 651-468-9741: living room, bedroom, or kitchen items. Examples: beds, dressers, chest of drawers, night stands, couches, sofas, love seats, end and coffee tables, entertainment centers, tv, kitchen tables and chairs, bakers racks...

Tax Advantaged Ways to Give to Marie Sandvik Center*

Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss the many tax-efficient ways to give to our worthy cause:

- ❄️ **Stock and Bond Gifting**
- ❄️ **Gifts of Insurance or Annuities**
- ❄️ **Leveraged Gifting**
- ❄️ **Gifts stemming from Will, Trusts, or ILITs (Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust)**
- ❄️ **One-time, monthly or annual gifts**

*Marie Sandvik Center and its affiliates do not offer tax advice. Please seek the assistance of a qualified CPA or Attorney. We are able to work with your advisors to find the best gifting option.