

(from page 1) the love that Christ demonstrated when He laid down His life for a world of condemned sinners. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth His love toward us, is that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." He willingly gave of Himself on the cross to pay our debt. If anyone wants to understand what love is just look to Jesus. Jesus Christ is the greatest example of love. His love puts to shame the schlocky imitations about which the world writes, sings and talks. This great love is steadfast (Lamentations 3:22). There is no other love that compares to it. Because of His sacrifice of love on the cross we can be forgiven, we can be saved from the day of wrath (Ephesians 2:3-5). We can be made new (II Corinthians 5:17). Once you experience this love you'll never be the same. Truly this is the greatest love of all.


The mission of the Marie Sandvik Center has been stated, "Bringing the Gospel and God's love to the inner-city." The love that we bring truly is the love of Christ. This is not lip service or good deeds done to help our fellow man. It is certainly not the love spoken of by our society as in secular songs and movies. It is because of God's transforming love, demonstrated through Christ on the cross, that we are now compelled to share the great news of eternal life that we found at Calvary!

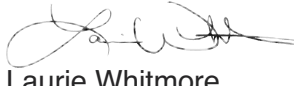
Many of the people that we minister to have been fooled by the phony love the world offers. Heartache, depression, drug abuse, prostitution, anger and other vices come with the price one pays when they don't understand what true love is. True love exposes our sin and shows our desperate state. True

love stands firm and warns of the perils of rejecting God's Son. True love tells of the wrath to come. True love tells the sinner that God loves them so much that He won't leave them in the sin-sick condition they are in, but He will complete what He has begun in His children (Philippians 1:6).

If your neighbors are sleeping and their house is on fire you don't just stand there and pity them. You run to their aid and to do all that you can to awaken them before the smoke and flames devour them. As we have come to know God's greatest love we cannot be silent. At the Marie Sandvik Center, we welcome the sinner to the cross, the only place that anyone can find true love. The precious people that come here face many trials. We are grateful beyond words to be here pointing them to the greatest love of all. It can weather any storm that life can throw at them. The love of Jesus that we share can and does rescue these lost souls from the destructive lifestyles and the eternal peril that they face.

Rejoice! Love came down to save us from our sins. The Savior is still calling the lost to repentance. There is still room at the cross to receive forgiveness of sins and God's life-changing love. Don't be fooled by cheap imitations. Thank you for helping us share the greatest love of all with the people that enter our doors and beyond.


Kristen Hink
Director


Laurie Whitmore
Assistant Director

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
- ♥ One-time, monthly or annual gifts
- ♥ Gifts stemming from Will, Trusts or ILITs

*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.



Spring Donation hours

Sunday 3pm-6pm	Monday 10am-5pm	Tuesday 10am-7pm	Wednesday 10am-5pm	Thursday 3pm-5pm	Friday 10am-7pm	Saturday 9a-11a, 1p-3p
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If you have a special situation and would like to deliver your donation at other hours, call 612-870-9617
If you have furniture you would like to donate for redistribution, please call 651-468-9741.

MARIE
SANDVIK
CENTER

BRINGING THE GOSPEL AND GOD'S LOVE
TO THE INNER CITY SINCE 1940

Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

Update
Spring 2012

The Greatest Love of All - Spring 2012 Newsletter

Love. It is an extensively used word. We hear it on the radio, the TV, in conversations, and movies. We see it on clothing, posters and cards. The word love is used to describe how we feel about an overabundance of things, from food, to pets, songs, favorite clothing and even our precious family members. Love is a very important thing. Love is also very powerful. Some say that love is a choice or commitment.

While there are many uses for love, it's unfortunate that we don't have more English words for the different meanings and intensities of it. There's just one "love" that blankets everything. We have to consider the context to discern what is truly meant by the use of the word at any given time. The essence of what love is becomes muddled because of the many different applications of the word. It doesn't seem right to use the same word to describe your thoughts about a favorite dessert and one's spouse. Love frequently gets confused with lust in our mainstream society. "Love songs" are a perfect example of this confusion. People say they "fall in" and "fall out" of love, as though it is an uncontrollable force that comes as goes as it pleases. They can't help themselves if a new "love" comes along and the old one just won't do any more. As one can see, some serious implications have arisen because of the misuse and overuse of this word.

An even more dangerous view of love is that of self-love. There has been a movement for quite some time that encourages looking into one's self to find answers, peace, guidance and even salvation. It essentially says that we are fine just the way we are. Self-esteem and self-help are all that we need. There is a secular song from the mid 1980s that preaches this very message of self-adoration. The title of the song is, "The Greatest Love of All." While the song seems positive and inspirational, it is quite the

opposite. It is plainly saying that the greatest depth of love that we as humans can experience or know is to love and depend solely on self. It is nothing less than self worship (Romans 12:3). God alone is to be worshipped. Any other person, object or activity that we worship is an idol. Idolatry is not tolerated by God. What a slick lie. This is the antithesis of the greatest love.

What is love? Listening to what the world says it is will leave one completely disillusioned. It certainly doesn't line up with God's view of love at all. When love is spoken of in the Bible it is sacrificial, devoted, selfless, focused on God and others. Here is a small list of Bible verses telling us what God says love is: Matthew 5:43-46, Matthew 22:37-39, John 15:13, Romans 5:8, II Corinthians 13:1-13, I John 3:16 and I John 4:10,16. Not one time do we see God's Word telling us to love ourselves and to seek the truth from within. On the contrary the Scriptures tell us that we cannot trust ourselves. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

The "Greatest Love of All" is (cont. on page 4)



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fax 612-870-9227 * email: MSC@USFAMILY.NET

Member of the
Association of
Gospel Rescue Missions



Financed entirely through voluntary contributions

2011 Statistics

Here are some of the vital activities and ministries you helped us accomplish in Jesus' name:

At a glance ..

Meals provided to children 7,774
 Meals provided to adults + 26,836
 Total meals/snacks fed 34,610

Children's Ministries

Club Ministry attendance:

School Year: 2,037 Summer: 4,648 Nursery: 1,089

- * Valentine party 58 children
- * Resurrection (Easter) party 35 children
- * Reward Trip to Eagle's Nest 40 children
- * Reward Trips to Lake Picnic & Tubing 65 children
- * Hallelujah party (Halloween alternative) 41 children
- * White Bag Christmas party 130 children
(each child received large gifts and candy bags)

Small Group & Special Event Ministries:

*Every Thursday night, MSC brings in small groups of children in order to have quality ministry time where each child receives more attention. Average attendance on Thursday is 26.

*As time allows, staff take children to church, sporting events and to get ice cream. All the while, staff are modeling for them godly Christian character, instilling Biblical values and demonstrating Christ's genuine love to each young man or woman.

Adult Ministries

On-site Ministries:

- * 60-120 adults served every Tue., Fri. & Sun. night at chapel service, followed by meal and clothes.
- * Evening programs: 103 quilts/blankets given.
- * Evening hygiene kits: 150 kits given.
- * Thursday Ladies distribution: 1960 new quilts; 58 baby ayettes; 448 hygiene kits to women; numerous diapers, used bedding, towels, dishes, women & children's clothing given.

CHILD CARE PROVIDED DURING ADULT MINISTRIES

* Cared for 1,089 babies/children during "Ladies Day" and Evening Chapel Services.

- * Bible Study attendance: 1,177
- * Set Free Christian 12 step meeting: 823
- * Christian Videos/Movies: 312

Special Event/Holiday attendance/meals:

- * Resurrection Sunday dinner: 300
- * August Jubilee: 426
- * Thanksgiving dinner: 513
- * Christmas Eve program: 537 (each person received a shoebox gift, hygiene bag, a new quilt & large food bag)

Praise God for 12 people who professed faith in Christ Christmas Eve.
 *Hundreds of pounds of donated food was distributed to grateful guests weekly.
 *Hundreds of Bibles in different languages were distributed throughout the year.
 *Hundreds of Christian dvds and cds were distributed: including media from www.180movie.com, www.drduino.com and www.reachrecords.com

Off-site Ministries:

Street Light Ministries:

* Fed 155 meals & 195 snacks. (MB's health and drop in amount of free food donation hampered this outreach.)

Furniture/Moving Ministries:

* Furniture distributed to: 144 families

Other:

(The following numbers are not included in above Center figures)

* Over 350 adults and children on a reservation in S.D. and

received surplus Christmas gifts. (Maajiigin Ministries distributed them in Jesus' name to those who otherwise would have had nothing)

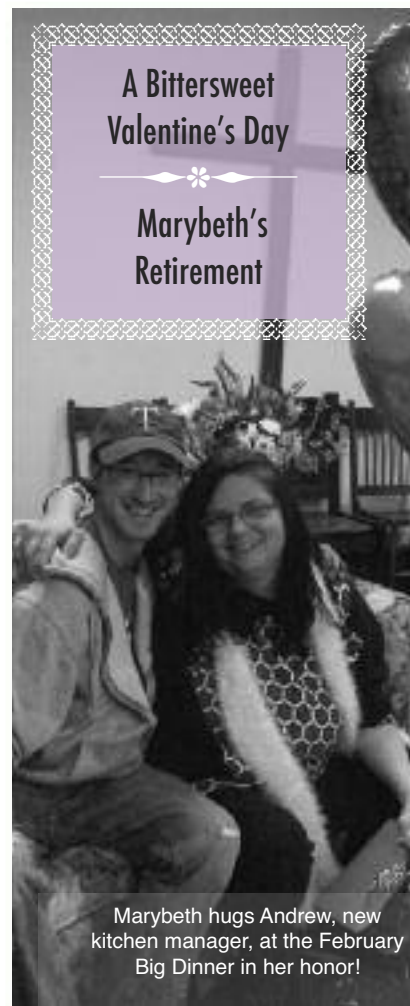
* Helped 25 people with minor financial help (co-pays for prescriptions & glasses, transportation & utilities).

* Food Shelf items and sandwiches, cold weather wear, referrals and prayer given out daily at the door and by phone.

* 200 Hygiene Kits distributed to the needy on the streets.

Volunteers provided approximately 10,458 hours of service in Christian ministry to adults and children at the Center and on the streets, in shelters and with other ministries.

All glory, honor and praise to our risen Savior!



Thank you, Jesus for Marybeth Gay!

In December, MB told us her health issues were becoming so pressing, she needed to retire for medical reasons. Our hearts were heavy, but we knew things were hard for MB. The Lord is in control and he is strongly helping us through this transition. MB's 'right-hand man,' Andrew Carter, is our new kitchen manager. February's Big Dinner fell on Valentine's Day, so we invited all to come and express their love and appreciation for MB. We had a great turn-out and MB felt very loved. Please continue to pray for MB as you are led. If you want to schedule a time to volunteer, maybe on Resurrection Sunday, leave a message for Andrew on our volunteer hotline - 612-481-5565. **We love you! God be with you! Hebrews 13:5-6!**



Giving Praises

- ... Attendance at Bible studies
- ... More and more young adults and youth are interested in volunteering alongside our ministry.
- ... Donations of free food from two food vendors, which reduces the amount of food we need to buy.
- ... Men and women and children are growing in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Handle with Prayer

- ... Volunteers and preparations of around 500 plates of food to be served on Resurrection Sunday!
- ... Selection of summer staff - that the Lord guide and direct and for orientation of new staff.
- ... Selection and planning of summer curriculum.
- ... Transition and health issues of Marybeth Gay, former Kitchen Manager.
- ... Growth in lives of new converts.
- ... Protection, safety, health and strength in the lives of staff and families.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philipians 4:6 KJV