

MARIE SANDVIK CENTER

BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THE INNER CITY SINCE 1940

Update

“ And the Word
was made flesh
and dwelt
among us...”
John 1:14a

❖ Christmas Twenty-Twelve ❖

Praise the Lord Jesus for 2012, which God has so graciously given to us. Each passing year at the Marie Sandvik Center is a reminder of how much we depend on the Lord to meet all of our needs. We look back at all that has transpired in the last twelve months and give thanks. We know that we would be helpless without His mighty hand sustaining us.

This has been a productive and busy year of ministry. Now is the time to focus on expressing thankfulness and celebrating the birth of the Savior. It's appropriate that the two come one after the other. Preparations for our Thanksgiving dinner are under way. Many of us will spend Thanksgiving in the warmth of family and friends, but for those less fortunate, the Marie Sandvik Center will be open to serve some 500 plates of turkey dinner. It's our prayer that those with nowhere to call home will find themselves here, among the Body of Christ, to share a meal and hear the Gospel. Pray for us as we minister to the needy, hurting and lost souls on Thanksgiving Day.

December begins with the children's White Bag Party. We are so grateful for the gifts that are donated to give to the children. We truly take to heart the love that God has for children and young people. In addition to toys, we will be giving the children invaluable Christian material that will help them grow in their faith. We know how sinister the devil is and how determined he is to lead them astray. Imagine if your child or grandchild came home from public school and told you that he or she had to write a paper on "the creation *myth* of Genesis." Sadly, this scenario is reality for some of the teens who attend **Generation 2 Generation**, our new teen program. When we hear of this, it angers and saddens us. However, we rejoice that these young people have a desire to continue to learn about the Scriptures and grow stronger in their Christian faith. Christmas is an opportune time to remind the kids that the Word

really did become flesh and lived among us. The Word is no myth! He knows what they are going through and He is there for them. Your generosity helps us bless them with material that will strengthen their faith and equip them to be ready with an answer in these increasingly evil days.

Christmas Eve services bring hundreds of men, women and children through our doors. We are always encouraged by the openhanded giving of our supporters for our shoe box gifts. We are really focusing our efforts on filling the boxes and bags with age appropriate and useful items. Last Christmas we heard wonderful remarks from our guests: they were truly blessed. We pray that with the Lord's leading, a dedicated staff, and numerous volunteers, Christmas Eve will once again be a blessing to many and even a spiritual turning point for those who are in need of salvation. God has enabled us to not only give gifts and food, but to proclaim the good news of Christ, the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. This is truly a reason to celebrate!

As a staff, we sincerely uphold the Word first and foremost in all that we do. So many ministries have lost their saltiness, as Jesus spoke about in **Matthew 5:13**. It does precious little good to care *only* for that which will pass away. It is the eternal soul that needs tending to above all else. **Matthew 4:4** says, "But he answered and said, it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." What a desperate condition we would find ourselves in if we become inattentive to the Word of God.

One of our regular attenders recently told us that **our work is not in vain!** She has come to the Marie Sandvik Center since childhood and now sends her own children here. She can remember the Christ-like love of past staff and encouraged us to keep teaching Bible lessons, songs and

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Marie Sandvik Center, P.O. Box 583692, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3692
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verses. Over her lifetime she has gone to other churches that have lost their salt by failing to teach and cling to the Word. She reassured us that there are those (previous attenders) who have not forgotten the Bible stories and verses that they learned at the Marie Sandvik Center. Praise God!

At Christmas we have a great opportunity to share God's Word with unsaved people that we may never see again. We want you to know that your support is not vain.

Your prayers and giving help us proclaim that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Thank God for Jesus, who is the Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

Grace and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Kristen Hink
Director

Laurie Whitmore
Assistant Director



Year-end giving Reminder

If you mail a year-end check the envelope *must be postmarked* by December 31, 2012 to qualify for a 2012 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 !**

Intercessors' Corner

Pray for: new **Generation 2 Generation** high school ministry for youth seeking continued discipleship and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; **for:** salvation and transformation in lives of children attending Kids Club (K-8); **for:** children to experience interest, and overcome apathy, in their Christian faith; **for:** God's grace to reach the families of kids who attend club; **for:** sufficient donations of coats, mittens, hats, scarves to give to kids in need; **for:** a growing attitude in adults of seeing God's promises are for them *today*; **for:** health, safety, protection and guidance of MSC staff and volunteers.

Praise God for: encouragement for teachers when they witness growth and retention of Bible lessons and demonstrate practical application; **for:** the Lord's supply in ministry - of donations, food, and ministry volunteers.

Donate electronically at...
www.networkforgood.org

Volunteer needs

❄️ **Packing items for Christmas Eve:** If you can help, call 612-870-9617 to inquire for times and scheduling.

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

Most needed items

❄️ We are running out of hats, mittens and gloves for all ages! Also needed, socks for all ages, hygiene products, youth sized toothbrushes, and diapers.

Christmas Wish List

❄️ We deeply appreciate the generosity of everyone who gives toys for the needy children who 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 are 'shut-in' or wish for us to shop for you, you may also allocate a financial gift for that purpose.

Furniture needs

❄️ 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 giving away 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:

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

*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.