

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



WHEW! WHAT A YEAR.
2022 WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST
YEARS FOR MDM YET!

In December, **Memorial Drive Ministries turned 5 years old!** And the records we set in 2022 were all thanks to **YOU**, our donors and supporters, who make it all happen. *Thank you!*

When people ask, *What does success look like at MDM?* — I often point to pictures like these. **I love these pictures, taken over the last 5 years. Every one of them is a picture of embrace, across a line of profound difference, that wouldn't have been possible without our campus.** What does the world need more than this?

As I reflect on 2022, the following 3 themes emerge.

- 1) God-Focused Exploration
- 2) Service to One Another
- 3) Validation of the Vision

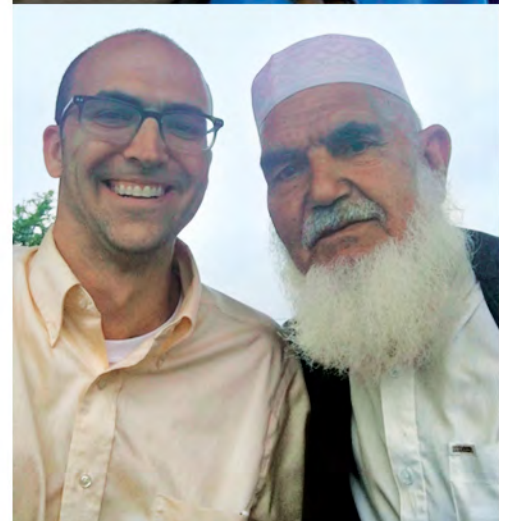
In the pages that follow, we unpack these themes to share more about the year we had in 2022. **Thank you for standing, in justice and hope, with those who flee persecution.** Your generosity and big-heartedness is sustaining MDM as a dynamic site of relationships, worship, and community. **The dollars you contribute to MDM make a tremendous difference for a world of displacement.** *Thank you!*

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Roth".

David Roth | Executive Director, Memorial Drive Ministries

Turn the page to explore the strides you helped us make in 2022! ➔



GOD-FOCUSED EXPLORATION: 2022 was a year of God-Focused Exploration at Memorial Drive Ministries!

- **MDM invited our first seminarian onto campus for contextual education.** Luke (*below, left*) taught chapel with Solid Foundation Christian Academy, volunteered in the kids room at Refugee Family Literacy, worshipped with Shalom International Ministry, and attended all kinds of events to learn and represent MDM!
- In the summer and fall of 2022, MDM **engaged an interfaith consultant, Chris, to lead a relationship-building project** that set up numerous meetings and information sharing sessions. MDM's Director connected with Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, and other community leaders to get more proximate to our neighbors, increase religious literacy at MDM, and lay potential groundwork for more collaborative partnerships in the future.
- 2022 also saw the start of a **Ph.D. dissertation focused on MDM as a site of belonging.** Janelle, a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, began her dissertation research at MDM in 2022 by conducting extensive interviews, participant observation, and preparing for focus group conversations. We're excited to see the fruit of this engaging project!
- **Our Director David began a Doctorate of Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary.** His coursework has already engaged topics such as the Gospel and Culture, Refugees and Forced Migration, and Women of Color as Public Theologians – bringing best practice research to our campus and theological reflection to our work!
- In 2022, **multiple congregations expanded their footprint on campus** by adding more prayer services, worship practices sessions, and youth gatherings.

- **The MDM Board researched, developed, and approved a land acknowledgement** as a way of pursuing our vision and enacting our values. Our new land acknowledgement reads as follows:

Memorial Drive Ministries is located on the ancestral land of the Mvskoke (Muscogee) people. The territory is covered by the 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs between the Muscogee people and the U.S. government. The treaty dispossessed the Muscogee people of 4 million acres of land and culminated in their forced removal from the state in the following years. As an organization that seeks to support our resettled refugee neighbors who experienced displacement and sought refuge in the U.S., we recognize that we do so on land where an earlier displacement occurred.

- **But beyond these more formal avenues, we noticed all year long little “explorations”** in hallways and offices, over lunch and on the walk to the parking lot. Two women sharing stories from their respective scriptures together, a sermon that compares biblical experiences of migration with contemporary experiences of the same, a joint worship service combining the preaching from one onsite church with the singing from another, a student coloring a picture that integrates lyrics from a Psalm with lyrics from his favorite song, a volunteer group conducting a prayer walk through our campus, students from the MDM campus attending Calvin Center's summer camp. **In all these moments and more, 2022 was a year of God-focused exploration!**





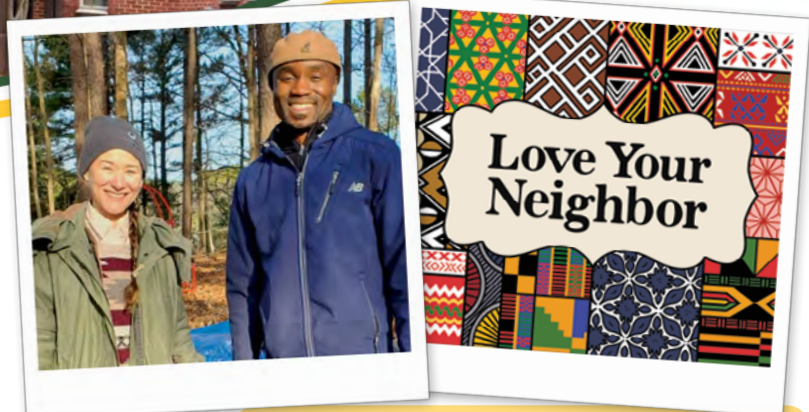
SERVICE TO ONE ANOTHER: Over 16,000 people were served and almost 250 volunteers were engaged on the Memorial Drive Ministries campus in 2022!

- ▶ While we sadly said goodbye to cherished and well-beloved Onsite Partners like Just Bakery and Global Growers Network, we also welcomed new Onsite Partners in 2022 like Center for Victims of Torture, International Rescue Committee's Summer Camp, Emergent COVID Testing and Vaccinations; and new church partners as well, like New Jerusalem Gospel Church which is on its way to becoming a New Worshipping Community with the New Church Development Commission of the Presbytery!
- ▶ One of the big efforts on campus in 2022 was the start of the **reclamation of the Jane Robbins Ramey Wildlife Habitat & Natural Playscape Area** with exceptional help from the Boy Scouts, Twende Porini, and multiple volunteer groups!
- ▶ In 2022, MDM **completed 4 successful donation drives**, raising Bedding in a Bag, Diapers, School Supplies, and Kitchenware for resettled refugee families!
- ▶ One of the key ways MDM serves our community is by managing, maintaining, and improving our campus for our Onsite Partners and all who visit the campus. In 2022, **over 500 facilities work orders were completed** by MDM and we **completed over \$108,000 worth of capital improvements** including replacing the Donnell Office Building roof, installing new gas lines, energy efficiency upgrades, significant tree removal, and expanded security systems.
- ▶ MDM also **gave away almost \$40,000 in 2022 to Onsite Partner efforts and community support.**





VALIDATION OF THE VISION: 2022 was a year when the hard work and vision of Memorial Drive Ministries was affirmed like never before!



- We **completed our first audit** and received a clean opinion on two years of financials.
- We became an **official partner of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**.
- A **significant donor contributed two years worth of personnel investments** so that we could bring our Director on-board full-time, increase our Facilities Manager's hours, extend needed raises, and grow our benefit offerings.
- We **installed signage on the roadsides** to lift up our Onsite Partners, make our address better known, and create a more uniform and welcoming aesthetic on campus.
- We completed a **successful World Refugee Day match campaign**.
- At the end of 2022, **a friend of MDM contributed a large and significant gift to our capital campaign**. This transformative gift means that **every dollar you give now goes even further** in support of the MDM vision and community!

SUPPORT MDM IN 2023

- **Send a check** (payable to *Memorial Drive Ministries*) to:
Memorial Drive Ministries
Attn: Admin Assistant
5140 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
- **Donate online:** Visit our website at **mdmatl.org** and click "Give Now!" (*on the right side*).
- **To inquire about a stock gift:** E-mail **info@mdmatl.org** and someone will be in touch.
- **Sign up for our e-newsletter** at **mdmatl.org/sign-up-for-newsletter**



Located in the **most diverse square mile in America** due to decades of welcoming those fleeing **persecution**, Memorial Drive Ministries envisions the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the multicultural community of Clarkston. **MDM fosters diverse Christian worship, innovative social services, and transformative relationships** by offering a shared space for over 15 different Onsite Partners: congregations, nonprofits, recreation groups, and community organizations that serve our new neighbors. **MDM provides welcoming space, develops capacity-expanding community, and convenes critical conversations to help us all grow better connected to God, one another, and creation.**