

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



I was recently listening to an interview with Dr. Marla Frederick. Dr. Frederick is an African-American woman who studies the Black church and the *faith and lived experiences* of Black women.

In the interview, she mentioned the “unquantifiable impact” of the Black church on individuals. She shared about a time when she was immensely discouraged, feeling down and disqualified, unsure of how to continue. She shared about how at church on that Sunday, an older woman sought her out, lifted her head, and spoke to her simple words of affirmation and faith: “I know you’re smart. I know you can do it. I know you aren’t going to let it hold you down. I know the Lord can make a way.”

She said that simple conversation transformed her life. She credited it with keeping her moving forward at a time when she might have lost herself. A moment like that’s not quantifiable. A gentle word, a simple kindness. One cannot overstate the impact of a moment like that, a moment when a community of love sees every one of its members and then shares wisdom and kindness in face-to-face encounters of joy. That’s immeasurable.

I see this all the time at MDM. I know this exact thing happens at the congregations that worship at MDM every week. I hear it in Solid Foundations’ morning affirmation each day, “I like who I am! And I feel good about myself! I am incredible!” It’s in the hallways, classrooms, and parking lots as small groups of women who are new to this country, often with babies in their arms, gather together. What power there is in a gathering like that. Over and over, I’ve seen that in a group like that, women bring what feel like insurmountable challenges. But in the natural sharing that happens through the bonds of growing friendships, problems get solved.

The Lord makes a way.

Lately, I’ve been thinking about some of the intangibles of MDM’s impact in the community. I’ve wondered about the “unquantifiable impact” of what MDM means for the unhoused friend who enjoys the gardens while he briefly charges his phone at a wall outlet before heading on his way, the Afghan

woman who learns to drive in the parking lot at MDM, the volunteer who comes every spring to plant new flowers because she wants the campus to be as beautiful as possible for all those who visit, the faithful MDM employee who receives a percent increase in MDM’s contribution to retirement plans, the mothers’ meet-up playdate at the playground swings on a Saturday morning.

As I trace what MDM means, in small ways and large ways, I see how community-sharing transforms lives. But even more than that, **I see a kind of signpost, a witness, to a new day that’s dawning. A brighter future. Where we tell the truth about God to one another not only in words, but in deeds.** In a world at war, and sadly that is the world we live in, we MUST have spaces like MDM. We simply must. What does a world of war need more than a counter-witness. A space of hospitality and peace. A community of sharing. To show a different way, a better way.

In the pages that follow, **we want to share with you what your contributions accomplished in 2023.** Capital Improvements, Partner Support, the growth of a Preaching and Teaching ministry were all important throughlines that 2023 saw expand. But in it all, I also want to lift up those unquantifiables, the intangibles, the little acts of person-to-person mercy and kindness whose impact can’t be counted. *Thank you for your generous support of Memorial Drive Ministries in 2023.* And I’m grateful to be able to share in the pages that follow more details about what you accomplished last year!

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Roth'.

David Roth | Executive Director, MDM



See what your generosity helped us accomplish in 2023! 🐦



"It feels like a warm inn, and we've come out of the rain."
 — An Onsite Partner Director



"I see the vast improvements of the facilities, the Capital Improvements, the upkeep of the grounds. It's all quite refreshing to see!"
 — An Onsite Partner Director

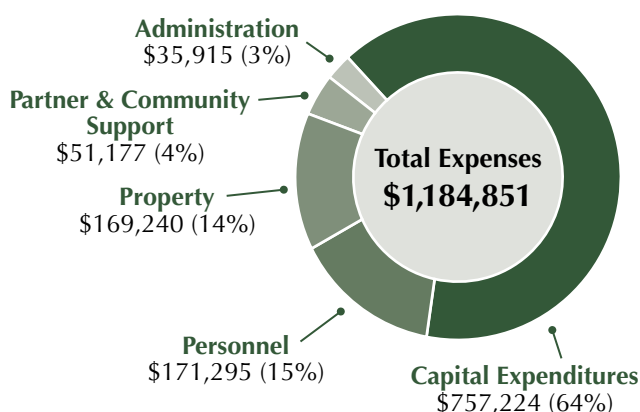
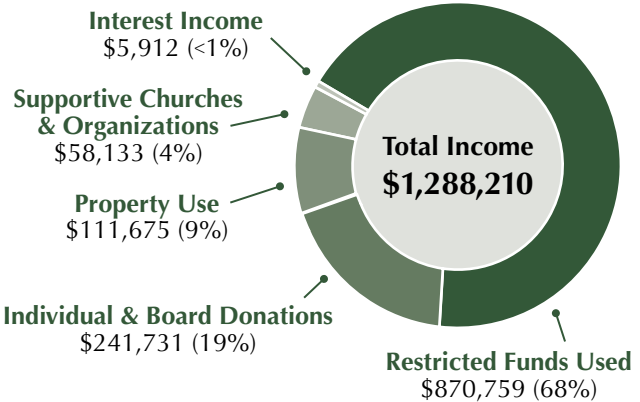


THE Transformation OF THE CAMPUS

Every year since our genesis, Memorial Drive Ministries has asked for gifts to support our Capital Campaign and the necessary Capital Improvements that will **ensure the campus remains inviting, comfortable, and welcoming for decades into the future.** Thanks to your generosity, 2023 was the year this vision truly began to turn the corner. MDM **completed over \$757,000 worth of Capital Improvements in 2023.** 2023 saw the completion of all remaining roof replacements, as well as the installation of new gutters. MDM also replaced 6 HVAC units on campus, greatly

improving our energy efficiency and the comfort of the facilities. The Gym's overhead lights are now all LED bulbs, which cuts down costs, reduces our environmental footprint, and increases the welcoming atmosphere immensely. We also managed the >\$300,000 worth of abatement, remediation, and renovation of the Education Building after water damage from a freeze break in December 2022. MDM **completed over 575 facilities work orders in 2023** and has completed over 1,775 since we started. *The space has never looked better!*

Treasurer's REPORT



2023 was a very affirming and productive year for Memorial Drive Ministries. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, **we ended the year with net income of over \$100,000, which was over twice that of 2022.** We were also able to complete several major capital projects, including new roofs and gutters for the campus and replacing 6 of our 10 major HVAC units. We also received over \$115,000 in new grants in 2023. During 2023 we also managed to **build and maintain assets equaling over 9 months of operating expenses in cash reserves — a nonprofit best practice standard.** Every dollar given makes an impact in support of our vision: the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the diverse community of Clarkston. There are always new needs and new horizons at MDM and we're on solid financial footing to expand our reach. I'm proud of my support of MDM and confident in what my contributions accomplish, and you should be too. **Thank you for your giving to MDM in 2023!**

Sincerely,
Nancy Phillimore
 Nancy Phillimore | Treasurer & Founding Member, MDM

Memorial Drive Ministries is ...

DIVERSE.

"One beautiful story is that we have been received very well, with happiness and good company.

Every time we reach out and have any need, it is answered in a timely manner.

We feel like children of the house as we grow."

— A Pastor of a new church at MDM

INNOVATIVE.

"Partnering with MDM improves our ability to serve others by being on a campus where so many organizations serve the community. We are exposed to **more opportunities, organizations, and resources that we otherwise may not have known about** that we can partner with. The vast use of the facilities allows us to have many of our activities in-house and not have to go have them at other facilities."

— An Onsite Partner Director

TRANSFORMATIVE.

"I enjoy the **spirit of compassion and cooperation among partners** on the MDM campus. It's a special place where **everyone has a heart to serve others**. And the reach extends beyond the campus itself. Partnering with MDM has strengthened connections with fellow refugee service agencies and allowed us to apply for grants that support education, outreach, and policy-change work. MDM has been really supportive of the hard work of trying to have more welcoming and inclusive policies. **MDM is not only creating community and belonging here on campus, but is also helping do that at the state level.**"

— An Onsite Partner Director



THE *Growth* OF MDM'S PUBLIC WITNESS & PARTNER SUPPORT IMPACT

In addition to providing Welcoming Space, MDM also wants to convene critical conversations that uplift refugee services and develop the kind of inclusive, generous community that expands the impact that emanates from our campus.

Our Director's reach through his teaching and preaching ministry, **sharing Christ's call to welcome the newcomer**, greatly expanded in 2023. Board members and colleagues even met regularly with the Director to help hone his skills in this regard and grow in this capacity as an organization. MDM's Director and Board Members have now **shared the MDM vision in over 40 different venues** around Atlanta. Taking MDM "on the road" uplifts our Onsite Partners, shines a light on the work that happens on the MDM campus, and helps Atlanta take practical steps to becoming a more welcoming and generous place for those who flee danger.

In 2023, MDM also **gave away over \$51,000 to multiple initiatives** on our campus and across our city. This investment empowered joint worship services, funded meals together, sponsored advocacy events, piloted new mental health programs, provided school supplies, granted scholarship support for onsite programs, extended the reach of continuing education conferences, improved spaces on campus, secured interpretation at partner events, gave gift cards to onsite programs for those in need, supported interfaith collaborations, and partnered with creation care initiatives.





Support MDM IN 2024

➤ **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), or scan the QR code with your phone. ↑

➤ **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**

"Partnering with MDM enhances our capacity. MDM offers a *beautiful and welcoming environment*. MDM's commitment to supporting community programs creates an invaluable opportunity for services at a scale that would otherwise be impossible. Partnership with MDM is about creating an ecosystem that *makes a meaningful impact, empowers* those served, *strengthens* family ties, and *contributes* to the overall well-being of the community."

— An Onsite Partner Program Director



mdmatl.org | facebook.com/MemorialDriveMinistries
info@mdmatl.org | 470-240-5156
 5140 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Memorial Drive Ministries envisions the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the multicultural community of Clarkston. Located in the most diverse square mile in America due to decades of welcoming those fleeing persecution, MDM fosters diverse Christian worship, innovative social services, and transformative relationships by offering a shared space for multiple 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.

