

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

In the back of the sanctuary at Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM), there is a large, triangular stained glass window. The colors of the glass are warm: yellow, orange, red, and whites. Especially when the afternoon sun hits it just right, it lights up like a flame. **This bright stained glass always speaks to me of two scriptural stories: the Burning Bush and Pentecost.**

You'll remember that when Moses sees the burning bush and encounters the divine, Moses requests God's name. And it was there, at the burning bush, that God first gives the personal name of the LORD to humanity through Moses. Many years later, Pentecost became another personal encounter with that same LORD, again marked by flame. As the Apostles were gathered together, tongues of fire came to rest on each of them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they preached among a diverse crowd. All who heard them understood the proclamation of the gospel in their own languages.

Every time I see the stained glass at MDM and remember these stories, it is simply astounding to me to think that this many years from Moses and this many miles from Midian, **that very same name of the Lord is still being praised every weekend on the campus of MDM, and in 5-7 languages no less!** As the Apostles preached on Pentecost and people of numerous backgrounds could hear and celebrate the good news in their heart languages, so too on MDM's campus, families from so many places and with so many different languages get to partake in joyful worship together.

Both these scriptural stories are about worship. But if I was to stop there, I would be doing a great

disservice to these foundational texts of Christian faith. Because in both these texts, **the encounter with the LORD through the flame leads out into transformation in the world.**

In Moses' case, for liberation: an enslaved and persecuted people becomes free. And in the Apostles' case, for equity: the rich become poor and the poor become rich in a community that shares. This too suggests to me a deep meaning of the stained glass for MDM.

At MDM, an encounter with the triune God doesn't only happen in worship – but also through the liberative work of nonprofits and the equity-seeking community development activities on our campus, empowered by generosity. Worship, liberation, and equity: these are all of one cloth. Each is a vital part of what it means to follow the LORD. And each is an essential component of the kind of life we pursue at MDM.

In the pages that follow, we attempt to trace these themes through 2024. Although it is a volatile time in our country's history, in particular for immigrants and refugees, **what we want to reflect on here is the tremendous good that you have accomplished in MDM's stained-glass corner of the world.** Thank you for partnering in the work of worship, liberation, and equity. We are grateful for you and the counter-cultural witness you are empowering at MDM.



In Gratitude,

David Roth | Executive Director, MDM

See what your generosity helped us accomplish in 2024! 🏡

MONTHLY SNAPSHOT: A TIMELINE OF MDM'S YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Every year on MLK Day, we have a **large volunteer workday** on campus that connects groups from churches and supportive organizations to projects identified by Onsite Partners. In 2024, MDM engaged **over 132 volunteers** on campus!



FEBRUARY: New Americans Celebration

This gathering of the **Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies** at the Gold Dome is an annual chance to elevate the voices and contributions of Georgia's refugee and immigrant communities at the Georgia Capitol. MDM was grateful to be a sponsor in 2024!



MARCH: Visit from the Co-Moderators of the PCUSA General Assembly

Co-Moderators Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis and Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace came to MDM as part of their visit to Atlanta and their term theme of **"Unbounded, We Thrive."**



APRIL: Welcome Kit Donation Drive

In partnership with the Welcome Co-op, MDM collected **over 350 welcome kits** for newly arriving refugee families. **Over 18 churches** plus other MDM supporters contributed to this effort!



MAY: Inspire & First Presbyterian Atlanta Collaboration

Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church Atlanta partnered with Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative to **paint a new mural** over a graffitied section of the MDM gym building. It was a beautiful collaboration to make the campus even more welcoming!

JUNE: The Sanctuary HVAC Replacement Was Completed!

This was MDM's **biggest capital project to date!** Here is a quote from an Onsite Congregational Leader that demonstrates the transformative impact of capital projects like this one: *"In the last 12 months, our church organized a community outreach program at the MDM campus, offering weekly Bible studies and support for students facing personal challenges. This initiative helped foster a stronger sense of belonging, with many students finding spiritual encouragement and a deeper connection to their faith."*



JULY: Executive Director's Medical Leave

Over the summer, David was on an extended medical leave for a heart surgery. While he was away, **MDM staff, board members, donors, and Onsite Partners stepped up** in every way to keep MDM's vision and mission at the center! Reflecting on 2024, one Onsite Partner said, *"Every time I send a request [to MDM] for help, I get a timely response."*

AUGUST: Southface GoodUse Grant

In 2024, MDM received a generous GoodUse grant from Southface Institute. This transformative grant **focuses on Energy Efficiency upgrades** resulting in a more environmentally sustainable footprint, lower utility bills, and a more powerful impact for the community! An Onsite Partner Leader recently testified to this outcome: *"MDM serves as the main facility partner for my organization, offering space to host activities. Beyond just space, MDM has recruited volunteers, sent donations, and given additional funding for us to continue to expand our programs to more refugee and immigrant families."*

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

over
5,080

individuals served across all
Onsite Partner programs in 2024.

\$137,077

given to partner & community
direct support since 2020.

527

facilities work orders
completed in 2024.

\$76,200

in utilities expenses in 2024.
*With almost constant activity on
campus, we've decided that energy
efficiency upgrades are a key goal.*

\$22,411

increase in personnel expenses
from 2023 to 2024. *We've seen
similar growth in personnel expenses
every year since we were founded,
as we mature as an organization.*

\$665,205

in Total Expenses in 2024, with

\$132,244

in Income from onsite usage.



SEPTEMBER: Final New HVAC System Installed

Since MDM's founding, we've now **replaced all 11 HVAC systems** on campus and we completed the final one in 2024! An Onsite Partner Leader recently said, *"When I come, I never have to worry about the upkeep of the facilities. It makes my job much easier, and I greatly appreciate MDM's care of the buildings."*



OCTOBER: Bridge to Belonging

Bridge to Belonging (or B2B) was MDM's first real fundraiser event. At the event in 2024, we honored Rev. Joy Fisher and Rev. Alex Rodgers of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Dr. Eunice Chay of Ethnē Dental, and Sen. Kim Jackson (District 41) for their work cultivating belonging among newcomers to Georgia. **The event raised almost \$60,000 for MDM!**



NOVEMBER: End of Year Onsite Partner Events

November hosted **significant Partner events** on campus, including Amani Women Center's Sewing Academy's graduation, Friends of Refugees' Winter Festival, and the International Rescue Committee's Thanksgiving Feast!



DECEMBER: Alternative Gift Market at NDPC

MDM always loves pop-up markets and chances to **gather with partners and friends** around the holidays. In December, MDM had a booth at the Alternative Gift Market at North Decatur Presbyterian Church and got to interact with many friends, both new and old!

SUPPORT MDM IN 2025

- **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**

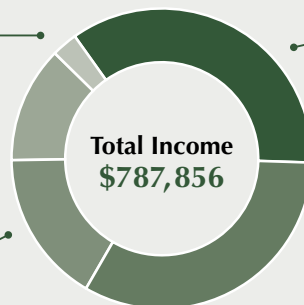


2024 FINANCIALS

Interest Income
\$15,052 (2%)

Supportive
Churches &
Organizations
\$99,722 (13%)

Property Use
\$132,244 (17%)

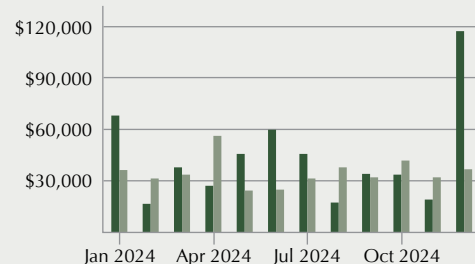


Individual & Board
Donations
\$276,920 (35%)

Restricted Funds
Used
\$263,918 (33%)

Will you consider becoming a monthly donor in 2025?

Monthly donations are critical in helping us plan our budget throughout the year, instead of relying so singularly on donations (unrestricted income) in December.



OPERATING EXPENSES
(fairly steady all year)

UNRESTRICTED INCOME
(unpredictable!)



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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.**

