



Dear supporters, partners, & friends,

2020 has been a tumultuous year for all of us. And that is perhaps most true for those who fled danger in the last year. **Since 2010, the number of displaced people on our planet has doubled to almost 80 million.** As refugees flee persecution, they are finding fewer and fewer communities willing and able to welcome them. Displacement separates people: disconnecting them from their loved ones, their communities, and their homes.

At Memorial Drive Ministries, we envision the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the diverse community of Clarkston.

Clarkston has been the site of refugee resettlement for decades, so much so that Clarkston has become known as the Ellis Island of the South and is now the most diverse square mile in America. After refugees arrive in Clarkston, they need spaces for reconnection, rebuilding a sense of belonging again. Our goal is to cultivate that kind of space on the Memorial Drive campus.

At Memorial Drive Ministries, we know that to rebuild a sense of belonging, resettled refugees will need worship in their heart languages, access to supportive services and resources, & spaces for relationship-building and community gatherings. **Our mission at MDM, then, is to foster diverse worship, innovative services, and transformative relationships on the Memorial Drive campus.** The Memorial Drive campus is a shared space for congregations, nonprofits, and community groups, which we often call our Onsite Partners, all of whom are serving the diverse, under-resourced neighborhoods around us.

Over the last 5 years, our country has witnessed what happens when we allow our basest instincts to fear and distrust to become weaponized against the vulnerable and the newcomer. To confuse the people who flee violence with the ones who perpetrate it is a grave moral failing and an offense to the Lord, who knows firsthand what it means to flee violence (Mt 2:13-23). Historic commitments to humanitarian diplomacy, to refugee protection, and to never again return asylum seekers to danger were actively eroded because of unfounded concerns for “our” security. The human face of immigration was forgotten or ignored.

But not on the Memorial Drive campus. Our neighbors from Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bhutan, Nepal, Central African Republic, Jamaica, Scotland, the United States, and so many other beautiful places reminded us in every moment of every day of the image of God as we stood shoulder to shoulder to seek the common good and the Beloved Community together.

We could not do this work without you. Far from being content with just providing welcome space, we want to expand our footprint to better attend to the work of developing inclusive community that expands the capacities of our Onsite Partners and convening critical conversations that will strengthen Christian commitments to the “other,” our shared civic life in the presence of pluralism, and a diverse, local community able to support ever-expanding welcome to refugees resettling in Georgia. **As you read through this update from MDM, will you please visit our website and make a reoccurring gift to sustain and expand our impact?**

From news stations to everyday conversations with friends and family, our polarized and anxious age makes it is easy to begin to feel that the deep divisions of our world and our society create walls between us. Are relationships across lines of difference even possible anymore? **They are.** In fact, these relationships are more important than ever. Beyond simply being possible, these relationships are the precise place where I believe God is doing the most exciting and redemptive work that is happening today. Thank you for being a part of it and committing to give witness to this wild growth of God’s abundant kin-dom.

In hospitality,



David Roth
Executive Director
Memorial Drive Ministries



Worship:

Hosting multiple worshipping communities speaking 5 different languages and serving over 200 worshipers every Sunday

Estimated annual cost of **\$52,000**

"I hope that MDM will become the place that the churches in the Presbytery and beyond come together to invest their time, talent, and treasure in refugee and community ministry in Clarkston."

Service:

Providing supportive space for non-profits, community groups, and recreation serving over 600 community members each week

Estimated annual cost of **\$88,000**

"Bringing partners together around a table which allows us to see the bigger picture, to network with one another, and to share resources... Without MDM, that doesn't happen."

Relationship:

Convening partners meetings & maintaining the campus with much needed capital improvements

Estimated annual cost of **\$60,000**

"I'm a big believer that our space shapes our learning and conveys a message of welcome and care. Having a fully-functioning and nice place is a way to say we care about the people who come here!"

"By the Numbers" Snapshot

\$129,686 – The amount MDM invested since our founding into necessary capital improvements to ensure welcoming space for years to come.

7 – The number of rooms MDM has identified for renovation to restore them to use. 3 down, 2 in progress, 2 to go!

41% – The percentage of MDM's monthly operating expenses that Onsite Partners contributed for space use in 2020.

\$37,000 – The amount MDM's income from property users was below budget in 2020, mostly due to rent reductions offered to Onsite Partners due to COVID-19 limiting on-campus activities.

\$14,637 – The average monthly amount of unrestricted donations MDM relied on in 2020.

\$104,746 – The amount donated in 2020 by generous individuals like you! This represents an increase of \$80,331.47 compared to 2019.

\$70,711 – The amount donated in 2020 by churches that support MDM's mission. This represents an increase of \$34,129.44 compared to 2019.

\$73,650 – The total amount of restricted cash and cash equivalents MDM has on hand at the end of 2020. This is mostly grants we have received for specific projects or purposes.

\$21,952 – MDM's average monthly expenses in 2020.

\$21,676 – The amount MDM has donated directly to our Onsite Partners through Community Grants, COVID Emergency Assistance, and other occasional financial partner support.

\$169,332 – The amount of unrestricted cash and cash equivalents that MDM has on hand at the end of 2020 (about 7+ months of expenses).

\$6,414 – The total annual decrease in utility expenditures in 2020 from 2019, due in large part to less in-person activity on campus due to COVID.

2020 Impact

One year ago, our world got turned upside down when the pandemic forced in-person activity to cease. Our Onsite Partners listened to the needs of those they walk alongside and pivoted to online worship, instructional content on Zoom, food delivery, and rent assistance programs to support our diverse community through this pandemic. MDM Partners Meetings also moved to Zoom platforms and MDM began sending out regular Partner Email Updates so that we could remain connected as a community and share vital resources with one another in real time. MDM invited doctors from a local community health clinic, Ethne Health, to attend a Partners Meeting to provide real-time education about COVID and the vaccine to our Onsite Partner community leaders. In response to the growing needs of the community and the challenges facing our partners, MDM offered rent reduction to our Onsite Partners and created restricted accounts for Partner Support, COVID Emergency Support, and an innovative new Community Grant program for occasions when two or more partners are collaborative in a new effort. We also partnered with International Rescue Committee to hold a Food Drive to collect food donations for the Clarkston community. Throughout the pandemic, our Onsite Partners have distributed an estimated \$274,000 in material assistance (rent, utility, food, diapers, PPE, etc.) directly to resettled refugees and other under-resourced families that would otherwise be threatened with falling through the cracks.



While in-person activity on campus has been extremely limited since March 2020 due to COVID, our partners found new, previously under-utilized ways to make use of the campus. Sermons and worship services were recorded in worship spaces, offices became outfitted with camera technology for meetings over Zoom or other platforms, and storage for food, diapers, clothing, and other material necessities became much more common around the campus. In anticipation of the pandemic eventually subsiding, MDM took advantage of the opportunity presented by less on-campus activity to invest in some of the critical infrastructure that facilitates relationship-building and our larger mission. To improve the campus in 2020, MDM:

- Expanded Wi-Fi to the sanctuary, chapel, gym, and kitchen so that now the whole campus is “online.”
- Raised over \$100,000 to begin work on the gym roof, which was leaking in over 12 different places.
- Replaced galvanized piping in the chapel that badly needed to be updated to prevent leaks.
- Completed landscaping improvement projects through volunteer workdays and signed a new grounds care contract.
- Initiated a new HVAC maintenance plan to ensure regular maintenance from trusted professionals.
- Installed security cameras in multiple spots on campus.
- Completed a Georgia Interfaith Power and Light Energy Audit.
- Renovated two rooms to allow our Onsite Partners to expand their services and programming. With generous support from volunteers from Trinity Anglican and St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Matina Dance Academy and Just Bakery of Atlanta both moved into their new spaces in the gym in 2020!



2021 Plans

As the new presidential administration aims to reopen the US refugee resettlement program this year, NOW is the time to get involved in Clarkston. We need YOU to help facilitate concrete welcome for our newest neighbors. Check out the websites of refugee service agencies, attend a volunteer orientation, come grab a coffee or a meal in Clarkston, become a monthly donor. Why not begin volunteering with one of our Onsite Partners, reach out to a refugee resettlement agency directly, or find a way to support MDM's vision? To further our mission in 2021, MDM plans to:

- Expand our Community Grants, COVID Emergency, and Partner Support Funds to be able to invest directly in our Onsite Partners. By March of 2021, MDM has already given out over \$17,000 in direct partner support – mostly COVID Emergency support as well as some Community Grants.
- Invite more experts to our Partners Meetings to present on important topics that affect us all. Our March 2021 Partners Meeting featured Dr. Jennifer Ayres of Candler School of Theology to present on food insecurity, food justice, and how food systems in the US can help build community. We are already planning another expert presentation on “Financial Management and Accounting for Churches and Nonprofits” for later this year.
- Hold more donation drives to benefit our Onsite Partners and those they serve. Our first donation drive of 2021, the Diaper Drive, was an enormous success and allowed us to collect tens of thousands of diapers through the participation of over 11 generous churches and many other individuals who donated diapers.
- Continue addressing necessary major roof repairs and capital expenditure projects. This includes finishing the gym roof in early 2021 and also planning for the Donnell Building roof re-shingling which will cost over \$40,000. (MDM has applied for a grant to do this work but will not hear back until the summer of 2021).
- Upgrade a number of technological systems on campus to decrease the environmental footprint of the campus, better manage our monthly utility costs, and ensure a more connected campus into the future. This includes the installation of Wi-Fi Thermostats and LED Lighting (both recommended by a Georgia Interfaith Power and Light Energy Audit).
- Finish renovating the Sanctuary Children’s Room for use by our Onsite Partners who use the Sanctuary and the downstairs gym classroom for use by the Amani Women Center.



Ways to Get Involved in 2021:

Small Group Volunteer Day Projects:

- Playground Pinecone Pick Up
- Global Growers Community Garden Workday
- Painting the Welcome Sign in the Gym
- Litter Removal on Memorial College Avenue
- Window & Wall Washing

Multi-Day Larger Volunteer Group Projects:

- Woodland Walking Trail Restoration
- Welcome Signs Painting & Hanging
- Refugee Family Literacy Kitchen Renovation
- Welcome Center Creation

In-Kind Donation Needs:

Follow MDM on Facebook and sign up for our e-newsletter on our website mdmatl.org to stay tuned in about a Donation Drive for School Supplies & Board Books in the Summer of 2021!

Ongoing Volunteer Needs:

- Grant-Writer: Identifying / Drafting Grant Apps
- Communications: Drafting Email / Facebook Posts
- Event Planner: Supporting On-Campus Events
- Board Member: We are looking for someone with a heart for refugees and a professional background in accounting/finance to serve on the MDM Board
- Admin & Finance Committee

Financial Needs:

We need you to join our generous supporters who give monthly! Currently, we average around \$5,000/month in monthly gifts. By March 2022, we want that number to be \$10,000! Will you help grow our monthly support? We currently have monthly donors giving at every level from \$5/month to \$2,000/month – every bit helps us reach our goal and achieve our mission!



Thank you for standing with Memorial Drive Ministries and the community we serve.

About

December 2017 – Articles of Incorporation Filed
 June 2018 – First Director Hired
 November 2018 – 501(c)3 Designation Received
 December 2018 – MoU with MDPC and PGA Signed

Our Generous Supporters and Partners

- Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
- Presbyterian Women
- North Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Peachtree Presbyterian Church
- Decatur Presbyterian Church
- Morningside Presbyterian Church
- North Decatur Presbyterian Church
- St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Central Presbyterian Church
- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
- Shallowford Presbyterian Church
- Alpharetta Presbyterian Church
- Eastminster Presbyterian Church
- Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
- Northwest Presbyterian Church
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- St. Thomas More Catholic Church
- Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church
- Trinity Anglican Church
- Immanuel Anglican Church
- The Pittulloch Foundation
- The Pope Family
- Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta
- LEAD Institute
- Certified Translation Services
- New Church Development Commission
- All our generous individual donors!

Current Onsite Partners as of 3/1/2021

- Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
- Shalom International Ministry
- Shalom Children's Ministry
- Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative
- Zo Presbyterian Church
- Mara Christian Church
- Friends of Refugees – Refugee Family Literacy
- Just Bakery of Atlanta
- Amani Women Center
- Solid Foundation Christian Academy
- Global Growers Network
- Ballin' Blazers
- Badminton
- Druk International Shitu-Ryu Karate
- Matina Dance Academy

Current Board as of 3/1/2021

- Logan Thore, Chik-fil-A, President
- Steve Cashwell, Saint Luke's PC, President-elect
- Amy Jensen, Ogletree Deakins, Secretary
- Nancy Phillimore, Shallowford PC, Treasurer
- Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytte, PGA, ex officio
- Rev. Joy Fisher, PGA, ex officio
- Rev. George Tatro, Memorial Drive PC, Standing Member
- Rev. Todd Speed, Decatur PC
- Fran Mohr, North Decatur PC
- Rev. David Lower, Saint Luke's PC
- Rev. Gad Mpoyo, Shalom International Ministries
- Marva Bryan, Memorial Drive PC
- Rev. Anne Fyffe, Alpharetta PC
- Jennifer Green, Refugee Family Literacy
- Janelle Moore, Emory University
- Allison Arsenault, Forum for Theological Education