

HOPE
HAPPENS
HERE



SEPTEMBER 2026

Serving the Phillips community for over 75 years with Christ's love through practical care, discipleship, and the lasting hope of Jesus Christ.

GOD IS AT WORK ON FRANKLIN AVENUE

The Marie Sandvik Center continues to do successful and critical gospel ministry on Franklin Avenue in the Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. We're really excited because our facility has been updated and remodeled inside and outside, and our programs have been realigned to meet the great needs of the neighborhood that we are in. We put a high value on ministry to families, children and youth, immigrant families, drug addicts, and homeless people.

We feel strongly that if we reach the youth and their parents, we will have less people involved in addiction, crime, and homelessness. The time is critical, the needs are great, and we have a strong sense from God that it is our mission to continue having a bright light on Franklin Avenue for many years to come.

So many of you have been faithful prayer and financial partners with the Marie Sandvik Center, but we really need to have that continue. Our 2026 budget is tight, and, as usual, giving in the summer time is low. If you could be so kind as to step up and give now, we would be so thankful. Please tell others about the need and encourage them to give. The news about crime and trouble in Minneapolis is all over the local and national news. We look forward to hearing from you.



From the Executive Director,
Pastor Walt McFadden

"DO NOT LOOK AT THE NUMBERS"

Every Thursday, the Marie Sandvik Street Ministry serves people experiencing homelessness and addiction by bringing food and water, praying with people, and sharing the gospel. The ministry began slowly, as Wayne began visiting a group living under the Cedar Bridge and building relationships. When quick results didn't come, he began fasting, praying, and kept showing up. He would often remind his team: "Do not look at the numbers."

Wayne and a handful of volunteers kept going, and the numbers eventually grew. What began with 12–15 people at the first outdoor meal has grown to 40–60 people gathering each Sunday for a meal, preaching, prayer, and worship. In just six weeks, 20 people have been baptized as they have responded to the gospel and publicly followed Christ.

Wayne has also seen God work powerfully on the streets. One day, while serving under the Cedar Bridge, he encountered a man who appeared to be overdosing. As Wayne prayed, the man began moving and eventually sat up. Wayne later wrote that Jesus had reminded him that He is "the resurrection and the life." The moment was a reminder that programs and human effort cannot give men a heart of flesh, only God can. That is why the good news of Christ is at the heart of the ministry. The recent growth is therefore about more than numbers. Wayne sees it as evidence that God is drawing people to Himself.

Wayne asks for prayer for continued breakthrough in the neighborhood and for more volunteers to help serve. The needs remain great, both physically and spiritually, but Wayne is encouraged by what God is already doing.



From the Street Ministry Chaplain, Wayne Andersen



TEACHING KIDS TO KNOW & LOVE JESUS

Marie Sandvik Center Kids Club has been a real blessing this summer.

With about 20 regular attenders, the smaller group has allowed staff to build deeper and more meaningful relationships with each child. Kids Club is a place for kids to have fun, learn God's Word, and worship our great Creator. Each day includes games, worship songs, Bible stories, snacks, and time to make friends, with regular trips to the park for swimming, sports, and play.

But the heart of Kids Club is that kids would see and know Jesus, build healthy friendships, and connect with godly mentors.

This summer, we studied Joseph from Genesis and Daniel and his friends. Through Joseph, we learned that God is with us and can use even the most difficult parts of our lives for our good and the good of others. Through Daniel, we learned about faithfulness, humility, and the Kingdom of God, which is greater than all earthly kingdoms.

One highlight has been seeing the kids worship God through song and enjoy time with their leaders. They have also been challenged to memorize key verses each week. A majority memorized Genesis 50:20: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." They also memorized a portion of Daniel 2:44: "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed."

While teaching time has been the hardest for the kids to stay engaged, Sam has been encouraged to see some of them grow in attentiveness, ask and answer questions, and show a desire to learn about God and His Word.



Please pray for the salvation of every child at Kids Club, for God to bring repentance and saving faith. Pray also for the volunteers and staff to continue loving these kids and pointing them to Jesus, and for fruitful conversations during small groups.

From the Kids Club Director, Sam Erickson

SERVING FAMILIES & BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Since the third week of June, the Hispanic Family Ministry has held food distribution every Saturday in the Marie Sandvik Center parking lot, serving around 30 families each week with help from volunteers from City View Church and For the One Ministry.

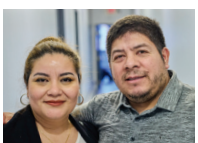
These weekly gatherings provide an opportunity to meet practical needs while building relationships with families in the neighborhood. As the ministry grows, the team is looking for ways to become more connected to the surrounding community. They plan to begin visiting nearby families and businesses, introducing the Center and sharing the vision for the ministry.

The team is also preparing flyers and house signs to establish a kids' safety zone around the Center. They hope to build a relationship with the local police department and work together toward a cleaner and safer neighborhood. Volunteers will have opportunities to serve physically in the neighborhood, prayer walk, and ask God to bring both practical and spiritual transformation.

There are already opportunities to partner in this work. As families prepare for the school year, we are collecting backpacks and school supplies, including notebooks, composition books, highlighters, permanent markers, rulers, calculators, black, red, and blue pens, binders, pencils, index dividers, folders, white-out, and erasers. We are not currently collecting arts and crafts supplies.

To donate, contact sandvikmarie7@gmail.com to arrange a drop-off. Donations may also be dropped off Wednesday afternoon or Thursday.

Your generosity can meet an immediate need while opening the door to relationships through which the love of Christ can be shared. Please pray for the families who come each Saturday, that God would give volunteers opportunities to build genuine relationships and use this ministry to reach entire families with the gospel.



*From the Hispanic Family Ministry Directors,
Yuri and Lorena Reinosa*

