

MORNINGSIDER

The Official Newsletter of Morningside



Volunteer Rakeemah Haynes talks with children enrolled in LWSC's summer program. Photo by Miracle Nored

On A Mission To Unite And Heal

By Susan Newell | Morningside Community Organization

Detroit — Miracle Nored is clearly a woman with a mission. It's evident in the quiet but passionate way she describes the personal journey that led her to create the LWSC Community Circle in MorningSide.

"When I first started, I was just looking to have a positive atmosphere where families could be involved and the community could be united.... I wanted to provide a safe haven," she says. "I didn't have anywhere to go when I was a kid or as a young adult."

At first, that haven was the Lovewalk Social Café, which Miracle and her husband Paul opened in a storefront on E. Warren near Cadieux in 2013. It started as a café and community meeting space with a traditional for-profit business model. In addition to selling coffee and snacks, they hosted private parties, community games nights, youth open mic nights, and educational workshops. Story continued on page 3...

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One-on-One Interview w/ M&M Pet Supplies Owner Steve Franks

By Vaughn Arrington | Morningside Community Organization



M&M Pet Supplies Owner Steve Franks. Photo by Vaughn Arrington

Vaughn: How long have you been working here?

Steve: I've been here at M & M for 30 years but I took ownership back in April.

Vaughn: What made you want to take ownership?

Steve: I always enjoyed working with the people in the neighborhood, after so many years of doing it, I couldn't let the place close down.

Vaughn: Oh M & M was about to shut down?

Steve: Yes, the owner Martin was ready to retire. I understand it's been open over 50 years but it was a bad feeling to think of this community pet store shutting down and the customers really showed that they didn't want that to happen. I have watched kids grow up here, 3 and 4 generations. Parents that used to bring their kids in, I now watch those kids (all grown up) bring their kids in. People feel at home here and they've said they want to come here and nowhere else, I couldn't let it close, so I bought it.

Vaughn: I commend you, my fellow entrepreneur. So how did you begin, what started this whole M & M journey?

Steve: I started working here when I was 17, I would be on my way home from Finney High School and I would come in all the time to check out the fish supplies. I have always loved fish, even now I have fish and reptiles, bearded dragons, two cats, two dogs, and 4 aquariums (laughs). Martin Gallow, asked me did I want to work here, and 30 years later, here I am the owner. This is what I know, so I am sticking with it. I have a real good reputation here and I like taking care of the people.

Vaughn: Do you have any new plans for the building?

Steve: I am reorganizing things inside here, working on supplies, ensuring we have everything anyone would need. With the outside, I plan on prettying things up next spring. I'm also looking to get some stuff done with the homes behind the store. I want it to look good around here.

Vaughn: You seem to be a good community member Steve and I love how everyone coming in keeps saying things are nicer inside. I appreciate your dedication. Continued on page 4...

On A Mission To Unite And Heal

Over time, Miracle realized that a non-profit model was more in line with her personal goals and organizational mission. "Since the beginning," she says, "it has definitely evolved more into being centered in my passions and experiences." Her own experience, which she talks about freely, included running away from home at the age of 13 to escape sexual abuse. Coming to terms with that experience has led her to refine the goals of her project to include a greater emphasis on helping youth, especially girls and young women, face and overcome personal obstacles.

Over the past two years, Lovewalk Social Café was transformed into a non-profit, LWSC Community Circle. They moved to their current location at the corner of Three Mile and Harper, recruited a board of directors, a team of 25 volunteers, and developed new programs. "None of the programs or events we have done would have been possible without the support of committed board members and sponsors," Miracle is quick to point out.

Most recently, she ran an eight-week summer program for 22 children ages 3-11, which included free breakfast and lunch, field trips, and activities based around themes important to growing minds, such as friendship, gratitude, dealing with bullying, and money management. The organization also sponsored an August back-to-school skating party in partnership with Faith Deliverance Church. Last winter, the LWSC Community Circle also became a warming center for those lacking adequate shelter from the cold.

Central to fulfilling Miracle's mission are the free "Community Awareness Dinners", held on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 4 p.m. These dinners bring to light issues that are often hard to talk about, such as sexual abuse, suicide, mental illness, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

Another program close to her heart is "Winning the War Within," which Miracle describes as "punchbowl conversations" for girls and young women age 16 and up. Those attending place possible topics for discussion in a punchbowl, and the topics are then drawn at random. These sessions, held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 10 a.m., are usually attended by 5-15 young women. "We don't really want our groups to be much larger than that," Miracle says, "because we're dealing with very sensitive topics, and a smaller group feels safer." She describes the atmosphere as a "non-judgement zone" where women can get tools, resources, and the strength necessary to empower themselves.

During the month of September, LWSC Community Circle is drawing attention to the problem of human trafficking, with a "Human Trafficking Awareness Walk & Rally" on Saturday, September 21, starting at 10 a.m. at Corrigan Park, at the corner of East Warren and Alter Rd.

For more information about that and other programs and events sponsored by LWSC Community Circle, contact Miracle Nored at 313-458-7859, email info@lwsc3.org, or visit their website at lwsc3.org.

Gleaners Food Distribution

The 2nd Monday of every month, Gleaners Food Bank will be present in Morningside distributing food to those in need. We encourage those within Morningside, as well as our surrounding communities to come out. Please share with those who may be of need. The distribution will begin at 10AM and will be located at The Craft Cafe, 15641 E. Warren Avenue.



Volunteers of Morningside and employees from Blue Cross Blue Shield prep for July's food distribution. Photo by Zelda Anderson

Want to help Morningside while buying groceries?

It's easy, if you shop at Kroger. Just sign up for the Community Rewards Program, designate MorningSide as the organization you want to benefit, and Kroger will donate 10% of the value of your purchases to us, whenever you shop. It only takes a couple of minutes to do this online at: Kroger.com/communityrewards, or visit the Customer Service desk of the Kroger you normally shop at. You can only choose one Kroger location to donate from, so please choose the one you shop at most often.

One-on-One Interview w/ M&M Pet Supplies Owner Steve Franks

Steve: Well, we have been open 53 years in the neighborhood in this neighborhood, a little dedication definitely comes with that (Vaughn and Steve laugh).

Vaughn: So what are some things you would like the neighborhood to know?

Steve: We have some serious knowledge about your pet(s) and their needs, we are not just a pet store, I am your neighbor, I grew up here, on Barham between Windsor & Waveney. I spent almost my whole life working with animals. So, when you come here, I am able to help you with almost everything, we are a full line of pet supplies, one stop shop for anything you need. Plus we care and we are not going away.

Vaughn: Steve I can tell you mean that.

Steve: Listen, you can call, come by, or message me on facebook, M & M Pet Supply. 15625 East Warren, 313.882.3944.

Vaughn: Is there anything you need from the community?

Steve: Actually it's just me right now running the store, I'm looking for someone pet knowledgeable, and really into animals. I just took over and could use the help. I'll take someone who has time to volunteer as well. You know it's funny looking back Vaughn... I've watched the younger ones who used to come in and rough house us grow up to be all sweet and kind, it's awesome when I look back. I really do love this place and this neighborhood.



Owner Steve Franks keeps the grounds surrounding M&M clean. Photo by Vaughn Arrington

Don't miss these upcoming events!

- Month of Design Community Opening Party! September 7th, 3-5PM @ the Alger Theater (RSVP: <https://www.detroitdesign139.com/events/>)
- Urban Outdoor Outreach Canoe Learning Event. September 7th, 11AM. 809 Loiter Way, Detroit, MI 48207
- Detroit Future City: Working with Lots. September 10th, 6-8PM, MorningSide (RSVP: <https://www.detroitdesign139.com/events/>)
- Detroit City Council Military & Veterans Affairs Task Force Meeting. September 11th, 3-4PM, Michigan Veterans Foundation, 4626 Grand River Ave
- Detroit Design Community Show & Tell. September 13th, 6-8PM (RSVP: <https://www.detroitdesign139.com/events/>)
- Alger Theater Open House. September 14th, 12:00 PM. Free to attend!
- MECCA Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshop. September 20th, 6PM, 3964 Guilford Street (Cornerstone Village)
- Wreck It Ralph: Ralph Breaks the Internet. September 21st, 7:30 PM, Balduck Park
- Jobs for Life. Classes begin Tuesday, September 24th at Bethany Lutheran Church, 11475 E. Outer Drive. Program is for 8 weeks with classes being held on Tues. and Thurs. For more information, please call (313) 885-7721
- Detroit Design - Kids Designing Detroit's Future. September 28th, 1-4PM

Morningside's Finest for September Goes to: Sonia Hudson

By Vaughn Arrington | Morningside Community Organization

I was robbed of about 15 thousand dollars worth of renovation supplies when I first began my Morningside home project. After this catastrophe, I was unsure if I wanted to continue working on the house I planned to call home. A woman walked down the street and offered me a lawnmower to cut my grass, and also talked with me about the nice aspects of the neighborhood. I did not share my awful situation with her, or that I was completely down in the dumps, but her kindness was really helpful at the time and I have to state that her neighborliness made me feel like this "Morningside" area may have some sunshine in it. It turned out that the contractors I hired from outside of Morningside had stolen my stuff and not the neighborhood anyway. I am grateful for Sonya, she plays a huge role in me being a resident here, as well as our block looking the way it does, she cleans, lends lawn supplies, and will make you a plate of food if you're hungry too. Speaking of, I'm headed down to her place now, it's Labor Day and I can smell her bar-b-qing, thanks for reading.



Morningside's Finest, Sonia Hudson

Every month we are highlighting a neighbor who will be honored as **Morningside's Finest** for the month. We know there are many dedicated individuals in our community and we want to acknowledge them for their everlasting commitment to our neighborhood. To make a nomination, please call Susan Newell at (313) 587-5484 or email her at sdnewell50@gmail.com. We'll recognize one of our neighbors each month until we run out of great neighbors - which should take a very long time!

Morningside's Gateway Park Planting Kickoff

By Jeffrey D. Lewis II | Morningside Community Organization

One of Morningside's prominent spaces will be receiving a major facelift on September 21st! This initiative is being led by one of our very own, Treasurer Zelda Anderson. "Gateway Park is a major entry point into our community and it should reflect what Morningside is all about, a thriving community that is truly on the rise! When visitors travel into Morningside, we don't want them to be greeted by a bunch of overgrown weeds and trash in our public green space," Anderson says. Donations of all kinds, as well as volunteers are welcome. For more information, please contact Zelda Anderson at (313) 657-7152 or by email at: josh.rowland23@yahoo.com.



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P.O. Box 24325, Detroit, MI 48224

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