



## Founder Allan Law

## Allan Law Awards & Recognition



Allan Law Addressing the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000

- **American Institute for Public Service: "Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Gold Medallion"**  
Presented at the U.S. Supreme Court
- **American Institute for Public Service: National "Jefferson Award"**  
Presented at the U.S. Senate
- **Recognition from President George W. Bush**
- **Recognition from President Bill Clinton**
- **Recognition from President George H. W. Bush**
- **Recognized in the U.S. Congressional Record by Senator Paul Wellstone**
- **Recognition from Senator Rod Grams**
- **Recognition from Senator Mark Dayton**
- **Recognition from Congressman Jim Ramstad**
- **Recognition from Governor Tim Pawlenty**
- **Recognition from Governor Jesse Ventura**
- **Recognition from Attorney General Mike Hatch**
- **Recognition from Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton: "The Minneapolis Award"**
- **McKnight Foundation: "Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service"**
- **City of Minneapolis: "Martin Luther King" Award**
- **Points of Light Foundation: "Daily Point of Light" Award**
- **Salvation Army: Outstanding Volunteer Service Award**
- **Minnehaha Academy: "Alumnus of the Year" Award**
- **City Business Magazine: "100 Unsung Heroes" Award**
- **Catholic Charities: Volunteer Service Award**
- **North Minneapolis: Community Service Award**
- **KARE11 TV: "Eleven Who Care" Award**
- **Awards from Optimist, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs**
- **WCCO TV: "Hometown Hero" Award**
- **Ventura for Minnesota: Public Service Award**
- **WCCO Radio: "Good Neighbor" Award**
- **Minnehaha Academy Centennial Award: "100 Alumni Who Have Influenced Our World"**
- **Featured in Documentary Film: "The Starfish Throwers"**

## Our History

**Minneapolis Recreation Development, Inc. (MRD)** was founded in 1967 by Allan Law, a teacher in the Inner City Minneapolis Public School System for 32 years. Since its founding the Mission of MRD has been: **"Love One Another"** and the Guiding Principle is best captured in a quote by Hubert Humphrey: **"Judge our society by how we care for our children and the disadvantaged."** Over the past several years MRD has expanded in scope, dedicated to serving the homeless, poor, disadvantaged youth, and their families in the Twin Cities through **Three Core Programs: Youth Builder, Samaritans Outreach, and the 363® Days Food Program.** On any given night, there are an estimated 10,000 homeless people in the Twin Cities metro area, including 3,000 children under age 17. The primary goal of MRD is to feed, and provide emergency assistance to as many of them as possible.

MRD Founder Allan Law spends every night from 8PM to 11AM the next morning, driving the inner city streets of the Twin Cities in search of people to help. Making as many as 50 stops a night, he provides urgently needed food, basic necessities, and compassionate care to hundreds of people from the back of his minivan. Allan Law has devoted his entire adult life to helping inner-city youth, families, and the homeless find hope.... through much needed food, basic living necessities, participation in activities, and the companionship and help only a trusted friend and mentor can provide. Over the years, these initial steps have led to the remarkable transformation of numerous at risk youth and homeless individuals into leading productive lives.

Allan founded Minneapolis Recreation Development in 1967, and since then he has volunteered more than 200,000 hours. His service has given hope to thousands of people throughout his more than 47 years of volunteering. When asked what motivates him he explains, "Because I care . . . and this is what I believe God put me here to do each and every day. . . for the rest of my life." Over the years he's received numerous awards, including the American Institute for Public Service "Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Gold Medallion" presented at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. He has also received recognition from 3 U.S. Presidents for his Public Service. This past year Allan Law was honored to be featured in the documentary "The Starfish Throwers" [www.thestarfishthrowers.com](http://www.thestarfishthrowers.com) by Minneapolis filmmaker Jesse Roesler.



## Our Mission "Love One Another"

### Our Programs

- Youth Builder Program
- Samaritans Outreach Program
- 363® Days Food Program



**Minneapolis  
Recreation  
Development, Inc.**

Website: [www.mrdinc.org](http://www.mrdinc.org)  
E-mail: [mrd.363days@gmail.com](mailto:mrd.363days@gmail.com)  
Phone: (612) 423-9923

## Youth Builder Program

The Youth Builder Program was founded by Allan Law in 1967 to provide inner city youth with free after school, weekend, and summertime recreational activities. Over the years it evolved to include after school, weekend, and summertime personal development, educational, cultural and community service activities.

The focus was on preparing youth for the transition to middle and high school, and providing opportunities for advanced placement programming, college career exploration, and after school tutoring. The Youth Builder Program currently provides over 200 underprivileged children in need annually with backpacks filled with school supplies, school clothing, and funding for field trips. Since 1967, and continuing after Allan retired from teaching in 1999 the Youth Builder Program has served over 15,000 inner city youth.



## 363® Days Food Program

When he retired from teaching in 1999, Allan Law decided to expand his community outreach efforts. Due to the rapid growth in the number of people living below the poverty level, he began feeding the homeless and families in need on a daily basis and the 363® Days Food Program became the cornerstone of that work. He initially received unsold bakery goods, and sandwiches donated from several stores and gas stations every night. In addition, some churches and organizations that were aware of MRD began to make and donate sandwiches. As a result of an incredible outpouring of donor support, for the past 6 years the 363 Days Food Program has received and distributed more than 600,000 donated sandwiches annually to the homeless and hungry! Sandwiches are donated each year by over 500 community groups, churches, schools, individuals, and companies. In total, more than 8,000 individual volunteers participate in sandwich

making events annually, ranging in age from 4 to 97 Years Old! The 363 Days Food Program name evolved from people asking Allan over the years what he does on Thanksgiving and Christmas, since many organizations offer meals to the homeless on those two days. His response has always been, "We'll let those organizations handle those two days, and MRD will take care of the other 363 days of the year".



Every night Allan distributes more than 1,800 sandwiches to individuals, shelters, and locations serving the homeless. Making several stops, he provides sandwiches to people and families living on the street, and totally outdoors. In addition we provide sandwiches to 12 Twin Cities partner organizations serving the homeless and poor, which they distribute to temporary shelter residents as they leave to go back on the streets in the morning. Partners include:

Salvation Army/Harbor Light Safe Bay	Minneapolis
Catholic Charities/Higher Ground	Minneapolis
Dorothy Day Center/Catholic Charities	St. Paul
Union Gospel Mission	St. Paul
Salvation Army	West 7th St. St. Paul
Salvation Army	Payne Ave. St. Paul
Sharing & Caring Hands	Minneapolis
Hospitality House	Minneapolis
Little Earth Community	Minneapolis
Marie Sandvik Center	Minneapolis
Urban Ventures	Minneapolis
Mad Dads Program	Minneapolis



## Sign Up to Make Sandwiches!

To volunteer to make sandwiches, please fill out the request form on our website at [www.mrdinc.org](http://www.mrdinc.org). Once your request is received your name or group name will be placed on our calendar, and you will receive an Email confirmation. Sandwich making instructions along with answers to frequently asked questions are also provided on our website. If you have additional questions you can contact Allan Law at (612) 423-9923.

## Our Impact

Operating on a budget of less than \$170,000, with in kind donations included the 3 programs of MRD deliver over \$1,000,000 in support annually to those in need. The 363® Days Food Program alone distributes more than 600,000 sandwiches, donated by more 8,000 individual volunteers. In addition, we serve thousands of people in need each year with non-food basic living items, and over 200 underprivileged children receive backpacks filled with school supplies, school clothing, and funding for field trips through our other two programs.

MRD is driven entirely by volunteers and no salaries have, or will ever be paid to anyone working for our organization. All donations are used for general operating expenses, or purchasing program specific items. MRD does not rent office space but has always been run out of Allan Law's condominium and three 10x30 offsite rental storage rooms. Allan also maintains 17 freezers in his condo to store sandwiches, along with 6 others located at volunteer drop sites throughout the Twin Cities.

The long term economic decline continues to increase the number of homeless individuals and families, and children living in poverty. Unfortunately the economic conditions have also led to a dramatic decline in our financial donations. To help us serve the growing number of people in our community in urgent need, we ask that you consider becoming a partner with Minneapolis Recreation Development by making a Tax Deductible Donation. **Donations can be made on our website [www.mrdinc.org](http://www.mrdinc.org), or by mail to: Minneapolis Recreation Development, Inc. 7220 York Ave S. #610 Edina, MN 55435.**

## MRD Contact Information

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**Thank You for Your Support and Compassion!**  
**MN Council of Nonprofits Member**  
**Federal 501(c)(3) Tax ID # EIN: 41-1836443**  
**MN State Tax Exempt #: ES 36361**

## Samaritans Outreach Program

The Samaritans Outreach Program provides basic living necessities for the homeless, poor, underprivileged children, and their families. Responding to several calls for help each day, Allan makes multiple stops to deliver basic food items, clothing, personal care & first aid kits, emergency funds, and on-the-street care and support to people in urgent need. He also provides referrals to agencies that help with housing, counseling, chemical dependency, job placement, financial aid, and healthcare. In addition, he provides bus tokens (averaging over 200 per day), sandwiches, and bottled water to homeless people living outside. Riding the bus provides them safe refuge from the city streets, and a place to get out of the cold in winter. He also distributes tokens to people without transportation to get to job interviews, doctor appointments, etc. Basics provided include:

- Emergency Food: Water, Sandwiches, Fruit, Bakery Goods, Baby Formula
- Basic Needs: Blankets, Diapers, First Aid Supplies, Personal Care Kits
- Clothing: Winter Coats, Hats, Boots, Socks, Gloves
- Funds for: Emergency Transportation, Rent, and Prescription Co-Payments