

SEEDS 22:6

Capital Campaign at First Free Maplewood

“Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

INTRODUCTION

The Mission of First Free Children’s Ministries is to glorify God by discipling children to love and live for Jesus! In scripture, Jesus refers to the word of God as seeds that “fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” He was referring to “those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:8,11,15). It is our desire that every child who is served through our children’s programming would receive the word of God in the same way and grow up to bear fruit for Christ’s Kingdom a hundredfold. Just as it takes time and effort to prepare good soil to yield a strong crop, so it takes love and care to prepare the hearts of children to receive the Gospel of Jesus. We have an exceptionally strong and talented ministry team who labor joyfully and faithfully in ministering to our children, but just as a farmer needs the right soil to plant, so our ministry team needs a facility that will aid in their work to bear fruit. At the same time, we must remember that while one sows, and another waters, only God gives the growth and He must get all the glory (1 Cor. 3:7).

We have an urgent need to raise \$1 million for the renovation of the Children’s Ministry Wing. This area of our space is severely underserving our First Free Children. The space needs to be raised to a level on par with the rest of our church building.

The SEEDS 22:6 Campaign’s goal is to raise \$1 million for the renovation project. The full project cost is \$1.5 million but the church has already allocated \$500,000 of existing funding towards the project so construction can begin. The call is for you to pray and seek His Spirit to lead you. If the Lord is stirring your heart in the way that He stirred the hearts of the Israelites, we humbly ask you to contribute to the SEEDS 22:6 Campaign.

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“22:6” references Proverbs 22:6 that says, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.” The ultimate goal of this campaign is not to have a new and shiny part of the building, but for the children at First Free to grow as seeds landing in the good soil through the teaching of Christ and never departing from it.

SEEDS is an acronym. Examples of each acronym point are on the next page.

- “S” – Safe
- “E” – Equipped
- “E” – Eternal
- “D” – Discipling
- “S” – Spirit–Led

Safe – Creating a secure and welcoming environment so children are free to engage and adults are comfortable

At the completion of the renovation project the Children’s Wing will be safer. This will include relocating the children’s check-in area to be conveniently located right at the entrance of the children’s wing. To aid our security team, new double doors will provide a secure perimeter to protect children on the upper and lower levels. The plumbing will be completely redone to provide safe and clean drinking water that has not been available on that side of the building.

Equipped – Providing a refreshed, expanded and efficient space (Eph. 4:11-12)

God equips His saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12). When completed, the children’s ministry wing will be equipped with twelve dedicated classrooms—four early childhood and eight elementary (K-6 and Special Needs Ministry). Additionally, there will be four adult classrooms. The large group area known as our Family Center will remain, but it will be reconfigured for current ministry needs—removing the sound booth and carving out a teacher resource room. Spaces on both levels will be refreshed with new paint, carpet, ceiling tiles, and lighting. Six restrooms will be refreshed and there will be a new restroom added for children’s ministry staff and volunteers. All restrooms will be ADA compliant.

Eternal – Impacting lives today, tomorrow, and forever (John 3:16)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) We realize that the teaching and learning that happens today has an eternal impact. We pray fervently that our First Free children will hear the Gospel and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior so that they will have eternal life forever with Christ.

Discipling – Building strong relationships with children to foster the joy of loving and living for Jesus (Children’s Ministry Mission)

At First Free, we disciple children by partnering with our entire church body. We all have different giftings and functions that serve the body under Christ, our head (Rom. 12:4-8). We are teaching our children to have love for one another that they may be known as Christ’s disciples (John 13:35). Finally, we want our children to grow in a knowledge and love of God’s word, desired more than much fine gold and sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:7-11).

Spirit-Led – Stirring generous hearts in unity to bring the Lord’s contribution (Ex. 35)

We are seeking the Lord in prayer to provide the funds necessary to complete this renovation project. After the Lord commanded Moses to build the tabernacle, he came to the entire congregation of the people of Israel and called them to bring a contribution to the Lord. “Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord’s contribution.” He called the people to give financially, and he called the people to give of their time and talents. The response was overwhelming. “And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord’s contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart...” (Exodus 35:4-29)