

DREAM CENTER

SERVING CHICAGO SINCE 2002

DEAR LEADER,

We would like to welcome you to one of the ministries of New Life Covenant Church, the Chicago Dream Center! We pray that your experience will be one that is impacting and life changing.

We have attached information that will benefit you and your group prior to your visit.

Here at the Dream Center, we commit to loving the forsaken, remembering the forgotten, and pursuing the lost in our society. We intentionally reach out to the homeless, drug addicts, prostitutes, convicts, felons, and runaways. We welcome the battered and bruised, the hungry and poor.

Coming to the heart of Humboldt Park you will be a part of praying for drug addicted teens, women and men, handing out warm plates of food to homeless people living in Lower Wacker Drive, handing grocery bags to poor families who are too ashamed to look at you, helping to find clothing for individuals at our Jesus Closet and more.

A mission trip at our Dream Center is filled with hard work, lots of prayer, and an experience you won't forget. Your team will go home totally exhausted. We take none of the glory for what God will do during this time.

In Christ,



Marisol Constanza
Pastor & Executive Director

MINISTRY OVERVIEW AND AVAILABILITY

Homeless Outreach (Bridge 2 Life)

This team lives out the Gospel by meeting the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of homeless individuals within our community. **Available Friday nights.**

Age restriction: 14 & over only (High School and above)

Human Trafficking Outreach (Rose of Sharon)

To seek and find women in the streets that have been affected by life-controlling issues and bring them back into the fullness and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We also inform them about the recovery program that is offered to those in need through the Chicago Dream Center, letting them know that God has opened this door where they can come and begin to dream again. **Available Friday nights.**

Age restriction: 16 & over only.

Food Pantry (Manna for Life)

Food pantry that is available to the community residents who are in need of groceries. Manna also provides special groceries for the holidays. **Available Saturday mornings.**

Clothing Pantry (Jesus Closet)

To open a door where we can allow people from the community to come and clothe them not only with tangible materials but also with love. **Available Saturday mornings.**

Adopt a Block

A ministry that expresses God's heart to the community through service. We strive to find and help the hurting and needy throughout the City of Chicago. **Available daily.**

NLC Academy

Is our Christian elementary school for pre-k through 8th grade. During the summer, they host a camp. Many mission teams participate in activities with the students during this time.

Available Monday – Friday 9am to 3pm

Let's Change Resale Shoppe

This shop sells gently used clothing, shoes and accessories to the Wicker Park community. It is a charitable 501c3 and all proceeds from this shop further our international and domestic mission initiatives. This shop was started by Army of the Kind which is our international missions' arm.

Available Monday-Friday 10am-6pm & Saturday 10 am to 4pm

Hope House for Teens

We adopt teenagers who are truant, runaways or homeless. We become their family and help them get back on their feet. This is a very sensitive ministry and we would need to ask the leaders permission in advance to work with them.

Bus Ministry (Project Nehemiah)

We bus in children that are at risk and disadvantaged from our community. They live in areas that expose them to drugs, alcohol and violence every day. These are children that would not normally attend church if it weren't for us picking them up. We spend time hanging out, learning the word of God and challenging them to live for Christ in the midst of their circumstances.

Note: Ministries may not be available on the days specified. Please let us know what ministries you would like to be a part of and we will do our best to accommodate your group. For the safety of our volunteers, our age restrictions are firm.

WHAT INTERESTED TEAMS NEED TO KNOW

Cost:

\$40.00 a night per person for room and board. If you are not staying on campus, the cost is \$20.00 a day per person.

When can I check in?

If you are staying with us, we suggest that your team arrives at our location before 5pm in order to get you situated into the dorms. We are flexible and can work with you if you cannot arrive by 5 pm but please let us know.

Weekend teams serve on Friday and Saturday. We ask that the team arrives on Friday by 6:30 pm in order to participate in our Friday night Bridge 2 Life Ministry.

Accommodation:

Housing is available the entire year. During your stay at the Dream Center you will share dormitory rooms with 4 to 8 people. Ladies with ladies and men with men. The dorms have private bathrooms. You will need to bring your bedding, blanket and pillow.

How do I book a trip?

Please complete the following steps.

- Go online to <https://www.chicagodreamcenter.org/mission-to-chicago.html> and submit your dates and group information. Once receive the online request, we will contact you and send you a follow up email with the application and waivers.
 - [Click Here to go to Application & Waivers](#)
- Once the forms are received, and availability is confirmed we will officially hold your requested dates.
- Complete the contractual agreement and send back accompanied with a **non-refundable** deposit of \$200.00 of your total trip amount by the requested date on the contract. As soon as we've received this, your booking is confirmed, and you are set to come.
 - [Online Payment Link](#)

Who can join a trip?

Due to liability concerns and nature of our programming no participants 13 years of age or younger are permitted to attend or participate during your time with the Chicago Dream Center. **Our standard policy states that anyone volunteering must be 14 years of age or older, no exceptions.** We understand you may have very mature junior high school students, but we ask that only 14 and older attend. All minors must be accompanied by adult chaperones. Thank you for your cooperation!

Transportation:

We ask that you provide your own transportation the whole time you are in Chicago. You will need transportation to travel to each outreach site. ****With the outreach sites we visit and our parking lot space we cannot accommodate teams with Buses****

Church Services:

Each team/individual is expected to attend New Life Covenant Church while visiting the Dream Center. You're not going to want to miss it! We have services on Sundays at 8:30 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Our youth service is Wednesdays at 7pm. Bible Study is Wednesday's at 7:00pm.

Dress Code:

When participating in missions with us remember that you represent Christ and the Dream Center. It is very important that all volunteers/visiting team members dress comfortably. We ask that your team not wear clothing that will draw attention to themselves.

- No spaghetti strapped, midriff, or low-cut tops
- Short or skirts **MUST** be at knee length. Basketball shorts are fine.
- Closed toe shoes must be worn on outreaches and campus work assignments.
- We recommend loose fitting clothing, t-shirts and gym shoes.

Street Evangelism:

Your team will be able to experience several different areas of ministry. Your team may be asked to give their testimony and pray with many people. We may do a water bottle outreach in the summer and hot chocolate outreach in the winter!

How safe is our neighborhood (Humboldt Park)?

The neighborhoods in which you will be ministering, and working are not safe. Humboldt Park is one of the poorest and neediest areas in the city. However, during the outreaches you and your team will be under constant supervision of experienced Dream Center staff that know the streets inside and out. They are there to guide and protect you. We will work together to make sure we use wisdom and trust God.

Who should I bring on the mission trip?

People that are spiritually, physically and emotionally ready for the kind of exposure inner city ministry of this character brings forth. And even if they may not seem ready, this trip could be an eye-opener to teens or even young adults who are in a dry season. Adult teams, youth teams, or ministry leaders are welcome to attend a trip. We appreciate your help!

What kind of ministries will be a part of? Do we have a choice?

We will do their best to give you a Dream Center experience. As you come, you will work alongside us wherever we have the need. If you do have a preference, please let us know and we will try to do our best!

How should I prepare my team for the mission trip?

Pray, Pray, Pray! Explain what kind of people they will meet and minister to, go through the rules and information and make sure they're ready for a challenging, stretching, and amazing week.

How can we bless the Dream Center?

- Donations- blankets, socks, underwear, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products, men's and women's deodorant, toilet paper, sleeping bags, gloves, hats, scarves, canned goods for our pantry, or pre-made hygiene packets for women and men.

What do we pack?

- Personal hygiene items
- Comfortable Daily clothing that you don't mind getting ruined
- Bible, pen & journal
- Bathing Suit (for summer teams)
- Spending money
- \$20 for a Dream Center t-shirt to take back home as a keepsake
- Willing hearts- Be prepared to give yourself away.

What are the meals like?

For a low cost, we will provide you with meals. The prices are per person, per day.

Breakfast \$7 - We serve a hot breakfast such as pancakes, eggs and bacon.

Lunch \$8 - Lunch will include items like chicken salad sandwiches, pizza, hotdogs etc

Dinner \$9 - Dinner is usually a meat, veggies, salad and dessert.

Please let us know ahead of time of any food allergies.

Will there be any down time?

Yes, in the mornings right after breakfast and ministry assignment, as well as evenings depending on what outreaches you participate in. We suggest that you use this time to communicate with your team and have prayer or devotion. You can also have a day to sightsee in beautiful downtown Chicago!

Dates we do not accept teams:

- During our "Family Week" one week in June and in December
- Thanksgiving weekend
- The last two weeks in December

Can I come as an individual?

Individuals are more than welcome to come, you just need to be 18 or older. If you don't have your own transportation, be aware that you may not be able to participate in certain outreaches. Also, depending on the season, you may be bunking with other teams.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE (BLESSED ARE THE FLEXIBLE)

On the first or second day of your arrival, we will give you a tour around our campus so that you may get to know us and the areas you will be working in throughout the week. In the mornings your team may be split up. Our day will start at 9am and you will get a break for lunch. In the afternoons, your team (depending on the size) will stay together for outreaches. Some of the outreaches, due to their nature, have an additional age limit. This has been specified under the ministry description page. Your team can arrive any day, this is just an example.

Monday

Arrive at the Dream Center between noon and 4pm. Orientation/Tour will be given after you settle in/ or early the next day. Dinner will be served right after and then the evening is free to have your individual team meeting.

Tuesday

7:30 am Breakfast
8:30 am Ministry Assignments
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30-1pm Ministry Assignments
5:00pm Dinner
7:00 pm Outreach Ministry

Wednesday

7:30 am Breakfast
8:30 am Ministry Assignments
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30-1pm Ministry Assignments
5:00pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday

7:30 am Breakfast
8:30 am Ministry Assignments
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30-1pm Ministry Assignments
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Youth Service

Friday

7:30 am Breakfast
8:30 am Ministry Assignments
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30-1pm Ministry Assignments
5:00pm Dinner
7:00 pm Outreach Ministry

Saturday (Check-out Day)

7:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am – Outreach Ministry
12:00 pm Lunch
Free time
5:00 pm Dinner
Free time- Sightseeing?

Sunday (Check-out Day)

7:30 Breakfast
9:00 am Children's Ministry
11:00 am Church Service
1:00 pm Lunch
6:00 pm Dinner

FREE TIME

You will have some free time during the day and evening. You can use this time for bible study, reflections or spend time exploring the amazing city of Chicago.

Resources For Exploring Chicago

- Choose Chicago Day Planner: <https://www.choosechicago.com/things-to-do/>
- Public Transportation: <https://www.transitchicago.com/>
- Groupon: <https://www.groupon.com/>
- Chicago 311 App: https://311.chicago.gov/s/?language=en_US

Cultural Museums

- National Puerto Rican Museum - <https://nmprac.org/>
- DuSable Museum of African American History - <https://www.dusablemuseum.org/>
- National Museum of Mexican Art - <http://nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/>
- Oriental Institute Museum - <https://oi.uchicago.edu/museum-exhibits>

General City Explorations

- **Chicago CityPass (Includes Admittance Into) - <https://www.citypass.com/chicago>**
 - [The Shedd Aquarium](#)
 - [SkyDeck Chicago](#)
 - [Field Museum](#)
 - [Adler Planetarium](#)
 - [Museum of Science & Industry](#)
 - [Chicago Observation Deck](#)
- **Free Things To Do In Chicago**
 - [Lincoln Park Zoo](#)
 - [Millennium Park](#)
 - [Chicago Cultural Center](#)
 - [Navy Pier](#)
 - [Buckingham Fountain](#)
 - [Magnificent Mile Shopping](#)

THANK YOU!

Once again **THANK YOU** for considering volunteering at the Chicago Dream Center. If you have any further questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our Short Term Mission Department at missions@chicagodreamcenter.org or call our offices at **773.384.7113 x 131**.

We receive large amounts of emails and calls regarding mission teams therefore we will contact you within 72 hours.

May the Lord richly bless you!