



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 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.

## MINISTRY DESCRIPTION AND AVAILABILITY

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**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)**

**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.**

**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.**

**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 a Christian elementary school for pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mpact & Royal Rangers:** These groups are ministries that serve children from the church and outside of the church. Ages of children range from 3 to 1. They get together Friday nights and teach leadership discipleship. The kids earn badges for learning scriptures and more. **Available Friday nights from 7pm-8:30pm**

*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:

\$25.00 a night per person for room and board during the summer months (June through the end of August). If you are visiting us during the fall or winter and you are not staying on campus, the cost is \$10.00 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's and Saturday's. 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 only available during the summer months which are June through the end of August. During your stay at the Dream Center you will share dormitory rooms with 4 to 8 people. The rooms have a private bathroom. You will need to bring your bedding, blanket and pillow. **During the winter and fall we are not able to accommodate large groups in our facilities.**

### How do I book a trip?

First email [Liz@aotk.org](mailto:Liz@aotk.org) to check availability on dates, once we hold your dates, we will send you another email with the application and waivers. As soon as everything is confirmed we can make your booking. We will write and send you a contract agreement that needs to be signed and sent back to us along 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.

### Who can join a trip?

Due to the character of the program we must stress that no one under the age of 12 is allowed on this trip. Younger youth are often not ready for the challenges of the Dream Center environment and outreaches. If coming as an individual, you must be 18. There will be no exceptions to this rule. We understand you may have very mature junior high school students, but we ask that only 12 and older attend. Thank you for your cooperation!

### Transportation:

We ask that you provide your own transportation the whole time you are in Chicago. You will need the transportation to travel to each Outreach Site. A leader will help direct you by having you follow them or if there is space in your vehicle, they will be happy to ride along with you. We can recommend several rental companies for you to call. **\*\*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, 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 and in a way not to 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 a 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 area 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; Nothing will happen to your team.

### **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?**

The Short-term mission committee 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.

### **What are the meals like?**

For a low cost, we will provide you with breakfast and lunch sack lunches. Breakfast charge is \$6 per person per day and lunch is \$7 per person per day. Breakfast is a simple continental type such as bagels, cereal, waffles, fruit etc. Lunch is usually sandwiches or hotdogs, chips and a drink. Dinner charge is \$8 per person. Dinner is usually a meat, veggie, salad, 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 sight see in beautiful downtown Chicago!

### **Dates we do not accept teams:**

- 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.

What to bring:

- 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.
- Personal hygiene items
- Daily clothing
- Bible, pen & journal
- Bathing Suit (for summer teams)
- Spending money
- Willing hearts- Be prepared to give yourself away.

### 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 on your own**  
9:00 am – Outreach Ministry  
**Lunch on your own**  
Free time  
**Dinner on your own**  
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, testimonies or worship.

## 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 mission trip coordinator, **Liz Velazquez** via email at [liz@aotk.org](mailto:liz@aotk.org) or leave a message at **847-380-0920**

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!