

# SHORT TERM MISSIONS





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***Finding the Forgotten, and helping them build a  
Foundation where they can Flourish.***

***If you are ready to  
push your limits,  
grow your faith, and  
use your gifts and  
abilities to make a  
mark on the world,  
then Mercy Drops  
Dream Center Short  
Term Missions  
experience is for  
you!***

In 2012, Joe Friszolowski founded Mercy Drops Dream Center, a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization located in the heart of Hampton Roads. Compelled by a vision to reconnect forgotten people to God and community, Mercy Drops Dream Center (MDDC) offers support and services that impact the areas of homelessness, hunger, poverty, addiction, and education. Currently, MDDC reaches 4,000 people every month through our weekly programs and outreaches.

When you come to MDDC on a mission trip, you have the opportunity to be a part of many of the life-changing outreaches that take place weekly. From playing with kids in under-resourced neighborhoods, to handing out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness in Downtown Portsmouth, you get to play a role in bringing hope and help to those that are forgotten in Portsmouth and Hampton Roads.

With the Mercy Drops Dream Center Short Term Missions experience, you will work hard, pray loud, and return home a different person. With us, through Jesus, you will have the opportunity to be a part of the miracle of restoration in countless lives around Portsmouth and throughout Hampton Roads.

**- MDDC Short Term Missions Team**



## **ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS...**

Your team will meet with a Mercy Drops Dream Center Outreach Team leader before leaving for the outreach site. This is your time to receive information about the outreach, get to know your leader, ask any questions you may have, and be challenged and inspired.

In the morning and afternoon outreach sessions, your team will participate in various ministries and outreaches. Depending on the size of your team, you will most likely stay together. As you come here to serve alongside us and be a part of impacting people's lives, you may not be able to choose in what capacity you wish to serve. We always do our best to ensure you have a great experience, but we trust that God will use your gifts and talents in every outreach capacity with which you have the opportunity to serve.

Please keep in mind Mercy Drops Dream Center's daily operation schedule is subject to change.

A few of the Outreaches you could serve with are...

## **ADOPT-A-BLOCK**

Adopt-A-Block is the heartbeat of Mercy Drops Dream Center, and serves to build relationships and consistency in the community. Volunteers with Adopt-A-Block (AAB) have the opportunity to help with the Care Packages, which serves homeless communities and impoverished areas, as well as participating in random acts of kindness such as picking up trash, painting, sweeping the streets, etc. Our mission is to bring hope and to change the atmosphere of the community.

## **MDDC CONSTRUCTION**

We have a facility here at Mercy Drops Dream Center, and we are always expanding. Construction is an ongoing need for us as we are maximizing our space and beginning new ministries. If anyone in your team has experience in this area, please let us know.



## **PRODUCE HOPE**

Produce Hope's ultimate goal is to educate, grow, and feed the communities we live in. This is done through grocery distribution, lunch distribution, and community gardens. We refer to anything food related as part of our Produce Hope Program.

## **DREAM CLOSET**

MDDC's Dream Closet serves a two-fold purpose. First, it provides shoes, coats, and clothes to anyone in need free of charge. Individuals can come to the Mercy Drops Dream Center Campus to get what's needed by appointment. We distribute to our friends on the streets each week as well. Secondly, the Dream Closet is open to the community on the 1st Saturday of every month from 9:30am-12:00pm. We open to the community to provide a low-cost option for clothes and household items. We are able to use the proceeds to help fund our other outreaches! We have distributed over 3,500 articles of clothing to date! We very much appreciate the donations that we accept by appointment.

## **CARE PACKAGES**

Care Package Distribution is our flagship 'on the streets' Outreach. What you may not know, is that for this to occur our Pack Parties must happen first. From 2 people packing hope in their living room to now dozens of people packing 1,000 packs in a Fellowship Hall, this is a part of the process that is so valuable and so often overlooked! Without this outreach, our friends' downtown wouldn't have a compact, yet filled package. This is a great outreach that the whole family can help with, as well as an easy way to see what Mercy Drops Dream Center is all about!



## WHAT INCOMING TEAMS NEED TO KNOW?

### **Cost involved:**

Our Short Term Missions program is designed to be a one-week mission trip arriving on Monday and departing either Friday or Saturday.

### **Partner Lodging (per person):**

Monday – Saturday: \$150.00

### **When can I check in?**

All teams' check-in on Monday between the hours of 1:00pm-3:00pm. Checkout is on Friday or Saturday. We are flexible and work to accommodate your team's schedule. We recommend that teams stay through Saturday for the full Mercy Drops Dream Center experience.

### **Accommodation:**

During your stay at Mercy Drops Dream Center, you will share a lounge room with 6 to 20 people at our partner, Horizon Community Church. None of the rooms have showers or bathrooms, but showers will be provided on site. Community bathrooms (one for men and one for women) are available. During spring and summer, we have a large number of people visiting on a weekly basis, so you may share a room/ bathrooms with people from other teams. Unfortunately, we do not offer couple housing or private individual rooms. There is also no Wi-Fi available on MDDC campus.

### **Facilities:**

- Free parking
- Common room (Kitchen, dining room, refrigerator, and microwave available)

### **Policies:**

- Credit cards accepted
- Age restriction
- No smoking
- No alcohol
- No weapons
- No drugs



## How do I book a STM trip?

Please call or email the **Short Term Missions Office** at **757-967-7599** or [stm@mercydrops.life](mailto:stm@mercydrops.life) to check availability on dates as well as request the application. Once dates are confirmed and application is received, we confirm via email with a contract agreement that must be signed and sent back to us along with a first deposit of \$100.00 by the requested date on the contract. As soon as we have received this, your booking is confirmed, and you are set to come!

## Age policy:

Due to the nature of the program, we must stress that anyone under the age of 15 will not be allowed to attend unless one of their parents or a guardian is in attendance and has been approved by the assigned STM director. Anyone under the age of 18 will also be prohibited from attending our Friday night downtown outreach. Younger youth are often not ready for the challenges of the Mercy Drops Dream Center environment and outreaches. Please respect our age limit as it is there for your safety.

## Transportation:

We ask that you provide your own transportation while you are here in Portsmouth. You will need transportation to travel to each outreach site. A leader will either provide directions or ride along to navigate.

\*\*Due to limited space, we cannot accommodate teams with buses, only vans.\*\*

## Dress code:

While you are here, you are representing Mercy Drops Dream Center and a Christian lifestyle. It is very important that all volunteers/visiting team members dress modestly and in such a way that does not draw attention.

1. No spaghetti straps, midriff, or low-cut tops.
2. Shorts or skirts MUST be a modest length. Basketball shorts are fine.
3. Closed toe shoes must be worn on outreaches and campus work assignments.

## Taking it to the streets:

Your team will experience several different areas of ministry. At Mercy Drops Dream Center, a typical week will include outreach ministry and prep work. Prepare your team to give their testimony and pray with many people. Also, we'd love you to learn some Spanish for our El Amado Adopt-A-Block!



## **How safe is the neighborhood?**

Downtown Portsmouth, Swanson Homes, El Amado, and Dale Homes are some of the most impoverished areas of this city. During these outreaches, you and your team will be under constant supervision of experienced Mercy Drops Dream Center staff that knows the community well. They are there to guide and protect you.

## **Who should I bring on the missions' trip?**

Bring people who are spiritually, physically, and emotionally ready for this kind of inner-city ministry. This trip can be an eye-opener for teens or young adults who want to grow and fuel their passion for serving others.

## **What kind of teams can I bring?**

We feel tremendously blessed to have you! Bring adult teams, youth teams, or mixed crew; everyone is welcome and we will do our best to set up a schedule that suits your group.

## **Do we get to pick which ministries we will be doing?**

The Short Term Missions team will do their absolute best to give you a great Mercy Drops Dream Center experience, but you will always work alongside us wherever we have the need. If you do have a preference, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate.

## **How should I prepare my team for the mission trip?**

Pray! 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.

## **Meal Time?**

A space will be provided to prepare your own meals.

## **Will there be any free time?**

Yes, free time will be determined by each STM Group

## **Are there any dates you don't accept teams/individuals?**

We are unable to accept teams during Thanksgiving week and the last two weeks of December, as we like to give our staff/volunteers time off to visit with their families. We



have events before breaks, such as our holiday giveaways. These events take place the weekend prior to the holidays.

**\*PLEASE NOTE** – For spring/summer mission trips, you'll want to sign-up 8-12 months in advance. If it is closer to the date, give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate you!

## Can I come as an individual?

Individuals are more than welcome to be a part, as long as you are 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 housed with other teams.

## Packing list:

- **Donations** – Shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine products, male hygienic items, diapers, baby wipes, baby products, socks, underwear, shoes, clothing, hair brushes, fans, blankets, sleeping bags, twin size beds and anything else you would like to donate. (You can call prior to arrival for a more updated list of needs).
- **Daily Clothing** – Shorts, (please make sure they are a modest length), jeans, sweatshirt or jacket, (it may get cold at night) and T-shirts. Also, bring a pair of closed toe shoes for the ministry and flip-flops for the showers.
- **Bible, Pen, and Notebook** – You will have the opportunity to journal during your STM. Remember that you will have down time during your stay. You can use these times for team meetings, Bible studies, etc. This is your chance to really connect with your team on a spiritual level.
- **Bathing Suit** – Virginia Beach is not too far away from us! The weather is always perfect for the beach!
- **Spending Money** – We have a couple of outlets and malls nearby with lots of activities.
- **Willing Hearts** – Be prepared to give of yourself and serve others.



## RENTAL PLACES

### **REMINDER:**

During your stay here at Mercy Drops Dream Center, you WILL need a vehicle. We are not able to drive teams to the outreach site and most of the outreach sites are not within walking distance.

We request that you purchase an EZ-PASS with your rental vehicle. This will allow for faster transportation to and from outreach sites in case of traffic so that teams can allot more time for outreach.

All Rental Companies have Shuttles that can pick you up from the airport.

### **Four Starr Auto Rental** (757) 539-0215

[www.starmotorschryslerdodgejeep.com](http://www.starmotorschryslerdodgejeep.com)

Another great website to look for car rentals is [www.priceline.com/Car-Rentals](http://www.priceline.com/Car-Rentals).

### **Avis Rent A Car**

310-646-5600

[www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)

### **Hertz**

800-704-4473

[www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com)

### **Dollar Rent A Car**

800-800-4000

[www.dollar.com](http://www.dollar.com)

### **Budget Rent A Car**

310-642-4500

[www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)