

## What You Need to Know about CSM

### What is CSM?

The cities of North America can be difficult places to live because of crime, poverty, homelessness, drugs, gangs — the list goes on and on. Many individuals and families that could be making a positive impact on life in the city have left to find a better, safer place to live in the suburbs or smaller cities. This leaves the city in a difficult position — the people that could do the most good are no longer present to fight for quality of life and the quality of their neighborhoods. Local churches, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, childcare facilities and youth facilities are active in the city, but they need volunteers to be successful. That's where CSM comes in.

CSM exists to bring students and adults in to the inner city for ministry. Although not a physical place, CSM is an experience in which students come to know God in a new way. CSM finds places in urban centers for students to use their gifts to promote the Kingdom of God. We do not create our own projects, but link with existing churches and agencies to help them with their ministries. By participating in people-to-people ministries, students make new friends and become involved in the lives of city dwellers.

### Why should I bring my students?

65% of the world's population now lives in urban centers and that number continues to grow. It's time that the church turns its attention to urban centers. By bringing your students to minister with CSM, you will be educating them in the very place where God may call them to serve. The problems that exist in the urban centers and the way that Christians are going about solving them are also transferable concepts that students can take home and apply in their own communities.

### What are the results?

CSM provides over 125,000 volunteer hours to help the poor and needy each year.

The experience opens young people's eyes and hearts to the needs of the poor in the city.

Students understand that they have more in common with the people of the city than they ever dreamed was possible.

Young people develop a lifetime interest in helping others.

## Is it safe?

The media image of the inner-city is skewed. Often, when you watch TV, you begin to think that everyone in the city is out to rob or hurt you in some way. On the contrary, much of the urban center is made up of immigrant neighborhoods. These immigrants provide a sense of family and a sense of well-being in the city. Our strict guidelines, together with our reputation and experience, help to ensure the safety of our participants. We house students in secure areas, while still allowing students to experience the problems and challenges of urban life. Participants are also guided through the experience by our staff, who provide a full-time presence in the city.

## What will our students do?

**They will learn.** Students will be exposed to new situations, opportunities and physical surroundings that will challenge their stereotypes and assumptions. By living in an urban setting, they will interact with people of the city. Participants are fed in small, family-operated, ethnic restaurants that provide an additional window into the cultures of the world.

**They will minister.** Participants minister in shelters, missions, children's programs, clubs, churches, parks, residential hotels, food banks, soup kitchens, and neighborhood centers. By adjusting our efforts to the priorities of these ministries, we are able to help in ways most desired and needed by our urban partners.

**They will process what they learn.** Each evening, a CSM staff person will guide the group through a discussion to help them understand what they have been learning and experiencing.

## What is the cost?

**Cost:** \$65.00 USD per person per night which includes lodging, three meals, all scheduling, and the services of a CSM Staff Host.

**CSM will provide:** All ministry sites, all housing, all meals, a CSM host.

## Some important information.

**Each Group is responsible for:** All transportation (to, from, and in the city), one adult leader for every five students, a morning devotional/Bible study, any preparation for VBS or other specific ministry project. **NOTE:** *When it comes to choosing your group's transportation, please remember that buses and mini-buses can be extremely difficult to maneuver and park in the city. Please DO NOT plan on bringing a church bus or minibus on your CSM trip unless you've cleared it with city staff.*

**Who may participate:** CSM is open to Jr. High (12 years and older), Sr. High, College age students, and adults.

## **CSM Statement of Faith**

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We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost;  
the saved unto the resurrection of life  
and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Mission Statement**

To provide an effective urban ministry experience that transforms lives, influences churches and communities, and honors Christ.

# CSM Current Projects

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## Chicago

This project operates in conjunction with North Park University (NPU) and the Evangelical Covenant Church. Located on the north side of Chicago, NPU is one of a very few Christian universities still located in an urban setting. Students are able to minister in a number of different neighborhoods with organizations involved in food and clothing distribution, children's ministry, tutoring programs, backyard Bible clubs, and housing project outreaches. Because of the ethnic diversity, students are able to experience many different kinds of cultures.

## Denver

Nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains Denver is recognized much of the time for its sports and recreation. Although the city has a small population of only 566,000 residents it is surrounded by a much larger metro population of 2.4 million. Denver has as many social issues including homelessness, lack of affordable housing, prostitution and gang violence. Fortunately, there are many remarkable ministries and organizations advocating on behalf of those affected by these issues. Students will have the opportunity to not only learn more about these issues but to actively participate in the solutions. Their time will be spent both with hands on ministry as well as relational ministry. They will not only serve meals to the homeless or assist with an after-school program, but will have the opportunity to share life with Denver's marginalized.

## Washington, D.C.

The U.S. capitol provides an amazing set of contrasts between the grand monuments and government buildings and the residents of the District, who have the highest rate of poverty (20.2 per cent) in the nation. Although upwards of 2 million people work in DC, the population is only 579,059 (April 2000), which means ministries are scattered throughout the city and are smaller than in some of the other cities CSM serves. Students will be challenged to learn from those they serve in homeless prayer breakfasts, children's programs, rest homes and feeding programs.

## Houston

A sprawling metropolis of over 2 million people, Houston is similar to many urban centers, where the poor and homeless, while not so noticeable, are all around. Students serve in ministries such as food distribution, home repair, backyard Bible clubs, tutoring, and neighborhood gardens. Through food, students experience many diverse cultures, eating in Vietnamese, Mexican, Cuban, Middle Eastern and Cajun restaurants.

## Los Angeles

Since 1988, CSM has taken students into Los Angeles. Students are involved in ministries all over the Los Angeles basin, including Skid Row, South Central, East LA, Watts and Hollywood. Students may participate in ministries that involve young people, the aged, and the homeless. Evening meals are in ethnic restaurants reflecting the Thai, Salvadoran, Indian, and Filipino cultures, among others. A prayer tour of the city allows students to see first hand some of the contrasts of the city.

## **Current Projects, cont.**

### **Nashville**

Nashville is considered to be the “Buckle of the Bible Belt” and the “Athens of the South”. There are more people within a six-hour driving radius of Nashville than any other city in the U.S. Nashville is the country music capitol of the world, as well as a growing recording site for many other styles of music. The city and surrounding counties have a growing economic and industrial side, which is drawing many refugees and immigrants from around the world. As part of this ministry site, students will participate in food and clothing distribution, children’s ministries, as well as tutoring programs.

### **New York City**

NYC is often considered the most cosmopolitan city in the United States with residents from over 180 different countries. Immigrants of Irish, Italian, Chinese, Korean, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Dominican, Jamaican, Iranian, Arab, Greek, African, Jewish (and more) origin all have enclaves within the city. The glimmers of light are all the churches, ministries, social services and justice organizations comprised of hard working, passionate people who labor daily to create change in the lives of people and change in oppressive systems. They are people who are living out God’s call to be his hands and feet in practical ways and they are willing to let us help!

### **Philadelphia**

Known as the birthplace of liberty, Philadelphia is a city of contrasts. In the home of the Liberty Bell you find a poverty rate of 77%, a high school drop out rate of 50% with estimates of 40% of the population addicted to illegal drugs. Despite these dire statistics, many ministries and churches are working to serve these populations. Students will assist with food distribution, children’s programs and homeless ministries and get a chance to taste an authentic Philly cheese steak sandwich!

### **San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area**

San Francisco (SF) is home to approximately 750,000 people of diverse culture, religions, backgrounds, and economic status. “The City by the Bay” covers less than 50 square miles, with a population of more than 15,000 per square mile. 16,000 people in SF are homeless, twice as many as 10 years ago, and 25-30% of the homeless population is families with children. The city has the third largest homeless population behind New York and Los Angeles.

Oakland was founded in 1852 and is the eighth largest city in the state of California. The 2005 estimated population is 395,274 people. Oakland has more than 50 distinct neighborhoods, but not all are recognized on a map.

Looking through Jesus’ eyes at the people and issues that make up the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area, we see great hope for the future of these cities! Because “space” is at a premium, work sites are fairly small but crucial to serving the needs of the poor and marginalized.

### **Toronto**

Toronto is the most ethnically diverse city in the world, giving students an opportunity to see and experience different cultures all in one city. As part of this experience, students eat in a variety of ethnic restaurants and visit an ethnic church. Students serve the poor through working with food banks, assisting with English-language tutoring programs for new immigrants, breakfast clubs, and ministry to the elderly.

# CSM Ministry Site Descriptions

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Following are brief descriptions of some of our ministry sites in the cities we currently serve in. While this list does not include every ministry site, it will give you a general idea of how your group might serve during your mission trip with us.

## Chicago

Hope Alive - Construction Project. Several churches, in partnership with the Chicago Housing Authority, work to rehabilitate public housing apartments in the Cabrini-Green Housing Project.

The Port - Shelter Ministry. This ministry serves the poor and homeless with a drop-in shelter, emergency night shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry, home visitation, clothing ministry, and bread truck which distributes food in local parks. Also affiliated is the Mantle, which operates down the street as an education center/day-care program for families, along with a soup kitchen for kids.

PACE - Prison Ministry. This educational program located within the Cook County Jail allows our students to participate in Friday night worship services and assist with tutoring of inmates. Minimum age for this ministry site is 19.

## Denver

Denver Rescue Mission- Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing. This ministry offers food, clothing and lodging to Denver's homeless. They have an overnight shelter with 200 beds for men. They also have 2 residential housing programs; one for men and families and the other for single women with children. Also connected to this ministry is their Harvest Farm which is a 100 acre rural rehabilitation program for men.

Urban Peak- Runaway Youth Services. This ministry provides homeless teens overnight shelter, food, clothing, showers and laundry facilities. They also assist teens with GED classes, obtaining ID's and counseling. Their goal is to help young people overcome homelessness.

Agape Christian Church- Active urban church with outreach to the community. This church ministers to the surrounding community by providing activities for youth and children, job placement and training for adults and counseling for drug and alcohol addiction. The church also offers a community dinner each week feeding up to 200 people a home cooked meal.

## Washington DC

S.O.M.E. (So Others May Eat) - Soup Kitchen. This organization contains many buildings with services that include drug rehab, medical services and several transitional homes for people to move into as they progress through the program. Clients get job readiness training, prepare resumes, and tune up basic life and household skills. Our students work mainly with the food distribution program. The students help prepare, serve and clean up.

Martha's Table/McKenna's Wagon - Soup Kitchen. This organization is two-fold: They run a youth and children's ministry that includes tutoring and other activities and a mobile food distribution program. This is a great time for a youth pastor or leader to spend one-on-one time with a couple of kids as well as having the students really get to know some of the people that have committed themselves to ministry in the city.

Kids Konnection - Children's Ministry. Kids Konnection is a youth outreach program that uses puppet ministry to teach inner-city kids about the Lord. Our students get involved with K.K. in two ways: On site with the K.K. staff, helping them with their games, songs and puppet shows, and also through kids clubs and Vacation Bible Schools.

## **Ministry Site Descriptions, cont.**

### **Houston**

Harbor Light Center - Rescue Mission/Homeless Shelter. This Center provides hundreds of meals and beds every day for the homeless. Harbor Light has 160 men in their rehabilitation program.

KidCare – A meals on wheels program that specifically serves children. Students help pack and deliver sack lunches to neighborhood kids.

Rehab Mission – A shelter for senior citizens. Students serve in their produce garden, do various work projects, serve dinner, and visit with residents.

The Waystation – A breakfast program for the homeless and the working poor. Students help prepare and serve the morning meal, and then visit with guests.

### **Los Angeles**

Las Familias del Pueblo - Children's Ministry. Las Familias is a daycare facility for low income parents. The majority of helpers here are volunteers and our youth groups are always welcome. The ages of the kids are from four to 12 and the number can range from 30 to 90 during peak hours of the day.

The Lighthouse - Food Distribution. This church regularly distributes food to the needy. They have a chapel service before their food distribution which some groups participate in and then pass out whatever donated food has come in that week.

Union Rescue Mission - Rescue Mission. This is one of the largest Christian rescue missions, which provides thousands of meals and hundreds of beds every day for the homeless. URM also has *over 200* men in their rehabilitation program. Groups work in the kitchen preparing and serving food.

Faith in Christ Ministries - This South Central Church welcomes the poor and oppressed in their neighborhood and ministers to them holistically. Groups are involved in their food ministries, children's programs, and physical work projects on their buildings.

### **Nashville**

Community Care Fellowship - This ministry is one of only two “day shelters” for the homeless in Nashville. They offer to the people that they serve the opportunity to do laundry and shower. They also provide them with some personal hygiene items. Most importantly they offer counseling and referral services to those who need them.

Knowles Senior Center - The Knowles Senior Center is a Community Center for Senior citizens. There are many activities offered here including field trips, classes ranging from computer to language, as well as music. We assist with the Adult Daycare program, which serves seniors that in many cases live with family members that work during the day and it is unsafe to them to be on their own. Many of the participants have mild forms of Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Nashville Cares - They offer the community many services focusing on the issue of HIV/AIDS. They deliver hot meals, operate a food pantry, education program, and 24-hour phone counseling.

Andrew Jackson Boys and Girls Club - Located in one of Nashville’s toughest housing projects, the Andrew Jackson Center is a beacon of hope. They give the neighborhood children a safe place for recreation, education and mentoring.

## **Ministry Site Descriptions, cont.**

### **New York City**

Bowery Residents Committee – BRC serves men and women who are (or are at risk of becoming) homeless. They give their clients the knowledge and skills to become sober and ultimately desire each individual to achieve permanent independence. Located throughout the five boroughs of NY, BRC offers a wide range of programs (job counseling, a shelter, rehab clinic, HIV/AIDS patient support, etc).

Urban Impact NYC – ESL – An independent missions organization that desires to impact the world by ministering to the multitude of ethnically diverse people living in the New York area. CSM teams participate in teaching English as a Second Language to clients.

### **Philadelphia**

Freedom Christian Bible Church - A West Philly church working with several housing projects. Groups would assist in VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, and special outreaches into the community.

Koinonia Connection Ministries - A North Philly ministry working in a small community. Groups would assist in food/clothing pantries, neighborhood meal delivery, and VBS programs.

Whosoever Gospel Mission - A Germantown rescue mission for men. Groups would help prepare and serve meals and visit with clients in relational ministry.

Neighborhood Center - A Camden, NJ ministry working with children and youth in poverty areas just across the river from Philadelphia.

### **San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area**

The Salvation Army Turk Street Central Corps – Serves the people of San Francisco's Tenderloin District. "The Tenderloin" is an eight-block area that is home to many elderly, immigrant families, homeless individuals, and most of San Francisco's SRO's (single room occupancy) hotels. CSM works primarily with the After School Program and the Summer Day Camp. Groups will be asked to help get the children from school, help out with homework, play a game of dodgeball, and generally encourage the children that attend the program.

Project Open Hand - Delivers hot meals and groceries daily to over 2,000 people living with HIV and AIDS in San Francisco and the East Bay. CSM volunteers help cook meals in the kitchen, shop for clients in the Grocery Center, and deliver food on daily routes.

St. Vincent's Day Home – A non-profit organization, located in West Oakland, that provides comprehensive programs for toddlers and pre-schoolers, a licensed full-day kindergarten, and before-and-after school programs for older children. St. Vincent's serves primarily single parent families who struggle at or below the poverty line. CSM volunteers have a great time assisting the classroom teachers in playing with the kids and helping the kids learn new skills.

City Team Oakland – A ministry in West Oakland that provides hot meals, safe shelter, showers, and clean clothing to the homeless population. There is a residential recovery program for men that struggle with drugs and alcohol, as well as a new learning center to meet educational needs for men and women in the neighborhood. CSM volunteers assist with a variety of services that include, but are not limited to: bring groceries to those in need, helping prepare/serve meals, and providing a Friday night chapel service for men in the program and homeless from the community.

## **Ministry Site Descriptions, cont.**

### **Toronto**

Daily Bread Food Bank - The largest food bank in Toronto, taking the lead in collecting and distributing food to 130 smaller food banks in the greater Toronto area. We assist with sorting and packing food.

Toronto City Mission - Working with families in some of Toronto's projects. We assist with their Summer day camp program.

Toronto Baptist Refugee Service – Tutoring Somali refugee children and teens in English and Math.

Out of the Cold – Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the homeless at various participating churches in the greater Toronto area.