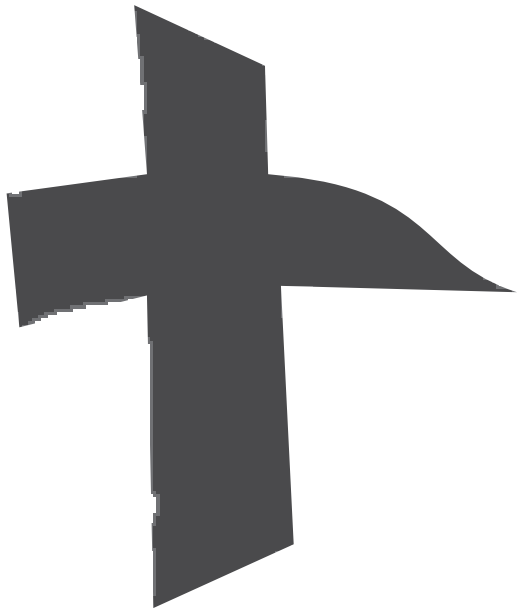


CROSSINGS



CROSSINGS

a resource
for providing
spiritual focus
before, during and after
your CROSS mission trip

Ministry Partners

CROSS Mission Opportunities in Charlotte, NC

WEEKEND SITES

Charlotte Emergency Housing

charlotteemergencyhousing.com

—the only family shelter in Charlotte where men, women and children can all stay. CROSS groups help with maintenance to the facility/grounds such as lawn mowing, shampooing carpets, etc.

Crisis Assistance Ministry

crisisassistance.org

—a wide reaching ministry that provides rent assistance, medical aid and referrals, free furniture and clothing. CROSS groups help with sorting, folding and hanging clothes for the store that is free for Crisis' clients.

Jackson Park Ministries

jacksonpark.org

The vision of Jackson Park Ministries is to see the families, children and all individuals of Jackson Park, Charlotte and surrounding communities come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord; becoming productive citizens in the community and serving others as a disciple of Christ. CROSS groups help in the summers leading VBS and working in their food, clothing and apartment ministries.

Joshua's Farm

joshuasfarm.org

—a farm where youth and adults with disabilities can experience the outdoors through horseback riding and pet therapy. CROSS groups help with physical labor on the farm.

Loaves and Fishes

loavesandfishes.org

—a local food warehouse that collects, sorts, and stores food supplies for 15 local pantries. The pantries provide a full week of food for families in need. CROSS groups sort food into bins.

2nd Harvest Food Bank

secondharvestcharlotte.org

—a regional food bank affiliated with a nation wide program. Serves 16 counties out of its facility. CROSS groups sort salvaged food from grocery stores such as Harris Teeter, Bi Lo, etc. High school age youth only.

Urban Ministry Center

urbanministrycenter.org

—the main function is as a soup kitchen that is open for lunch only 365 days a year. The day shelter also provides showers, laundry, mail, phone, message board, counseling, job advice, art and literacy program, support groups, NA meetings. CROSS groups participate in a tour of the facility and participate in a panel made up of two homeless individuals which is set up to educate youth and adults on homelessness.

WEEK SITES

Boys and Girls Club

bgca.org

—a summer camp and after school program for low-income families. CROSS groups lead games and crafts for 60 children at various sites.

Camp Cool

urbanrestoration.org

—a summer camp that provides activities for inner-city kids. CROSS groups assist staff with children by playing games/crafts and supervising during field trips.

Charlotte Emergency Housing

charlotteemergencyhousing.com

—the only family shelter in Charlotte where men, women and children can all stay. CROSS groups help with maintenance to the facility/grounds such as lawn mowing, shampooing carpets, etc.

Charlotte Rescue Mission

charlotterescuemission.org

—a free substance recovery program for primarily low-income or homeless men. The 90 day residential program houses 120 men in their facility in uptown Charlotte. CROSS groups will prepare, serve and eat lunch with clients.

Classroom Central

classroomcentral.org

—a free store for teachers where surplus goods are donated by corporations/individuals to be used in the classrooms of Charlotte-Mecklenburg most needy schools. CROSS groups work in the warehouse sorting school supplies into a variety of bins.

Crisis Assistance Ministry

crisisassistance.org

—a wide-reaching ministry that provides rent assistance, medical aid and referrals, free furniture and clothing. CROSS groups help with sorting, folding and hanging clothes for the store that is free for Crisis' clients.

Double Oaks Nursery

www.myersparkpres.org/www/docs/349

—a non-profit daycare for 6 week olds- 12 years of age that was started by MPPC and Johnson C Smith University for the Double Oaks Daycare some 55 years ago. Majority of children receive subsidies from Child Resources for daycare fees. CROSS groups can lead games/crafts for kids ranging from 2-12. Also, assist teachers in planned activities or field trips.

Friendship Trays

friendshiptrays.org

—prepares and delivers food to impoverished and shut-in community members. CROSS groups prepare 750 hot/cold meals and deliver a route of food to approx. 10 homes.

Hospitality House

hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org

—a non-profit service that enables families to stay close to their loved ones in the hospital without the emotional or financial stress of finding suitable lodging or making long communities. They provide a comfortable bed, hot meals, and a quite place to relax. CROSS groups assist in maintenance to facility/grounds.

Jackson Park Ministries

jacksonpark.org

—the vision of Jackson Park Ministries is to see the families, children and all individuals of Jackson Park, Charlotte and surrounding communities come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord; becoming productive citizens in the community and serving others as a disciple of Christ. CROSS groups help in the summers leading VBS and working in their food, clothing and apartment ministries.

Lifespan Art Program

lifespanservices.org

—helps disabled adults express their gifts through art. CROSS groups would help with the art program by assisting adults and drawing alongside them.

Lifespan Circle School

lifespanservices.org

—an integrated daycare for disabled children and traditionally developed children. CROSS groups assist classroom teachers with playing inside and on the playgrounds, snack time, circle time, etc.

Lifespan Senior Center

lifespanservices.org

—an adult daycare for mentally disabled seniors. CROSS groups spend time with residents through crafts, singing music and dancing.

Loaves and Fishes

loavesandfishes.org

—a local food warehouse that collects, sorts, and stores food supplies for 15 local pantries. The pantries provide a full week of food for families in need. CROSS groups sort food into bins.

McCreesh Place

No website available at this time.

—Charlotte's first single-room occupancy apartment (SRO) community designed to help disabled men who were formally homeless with permanent housing and support services. CROSS groups help with maintenance to the facility/grounds and interact with residents.

Nevins Center

No website available at this time.

—a non-profit organization that provides job training and placement services for adults with developmental and similar disabilities. CROSS Groups will work alongside adults to complete their assigned work for the day.

2nd Harvest Food Bank

secondharvestcharlotte.org

—a regional food bank affiliated with a nation wide program. Serves 16 counties out of its facility. CROSS groups sort salvaged food from grocery stores such as Harris Teeter, Bi Lo, etc.

Treetops

thefamilycenter.net/treetops

—a week-long camp for under-privileged, abused and neglected children. CROSS groups help with maintenance to the camp, provide lunch for the campers, and swim with the campers.

YWCA

ywcfamily.org

—a daycare for ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Of the approximately 100 children served at the center, approx half children and families qualify for subsidies. Many of the children at the Uptown daycare have parents that work in uptown at business such as Bank of America and Burger King. The range of socio-economic, ethnic diversity and development skills vary. CROSS groups assist teachers in classrooms and the daycare's office.

YWCA summer camp

ywcacentalcarolinas.org/

programsofservice.html

—for middle to low children in various areas of Charlotte. CROSS groups will interact with children and help camp counselors with activities.

Urban Ministry Center

urbanministrycenter.org

—the main function is as a soup kitchen that is open for lunch only 365 days a year. The day shelter also provides showers, laundry, mail, phone, message board, counseling, job advice, art and literacy program, support groups, NA meetings. CROSS groups participate in a tour of the facility and participate in a panel made up of two homeless individuals which is set up to educate youth and adults on homelessness.

Sample Schedules

Sample Weekend Schedule

Friday

- 7-8 p.m. Arrive at MPPC, tour and orientation
- 11 p.m. Lights out

Saturday

- 7 a.m. Wake up, breakfast, pack lunches, morning devotion
- 8-8:30 a.m. Devotion and Review of Ministry Site
- 8:45 a.m. Depart for **Charlotte Emergency Housing**
- 9 a.m. Arrive at CEH, begin project
- 11:30 a.m. Depart for **Urban Ministry Center**
- 11:45 a.m. Arrive at Urban Ministry Center, guided tour
- 12:15 p.m. Depart for **Joshua's Farm**
- 12:45 p.m. Arrive at Joshua's Farm, eat lunch

- 4 p.m. Depart for MPPC
- 5 p.m. Arrive at MPPC, showers, free time, begin preparing dinner
- 6 p.m. Dinner
- EVENING Free time
- 11 p.m. Lights out

Sunday

- 7 a.m. Wake up, breakfast, pack vans, clean up rooms,
- 8-8:45 a.m. Wrap-up and evaluation led by CROSS staff
- 8:45 a.m. Celebrate service in the gym OR traditional service in sanctuary
- 10 a.m. Depart for home

Sample Full Week Schedule

Sunday

- 7 p.m. Arrival
- 7-8 p.m. Tour and Orientation
- 9-10:30 p.m. Open Gym time
- 11 p.m. Lights Outs

Monday

- 7 a.m. Prepare breakfast, eat, clean-up, PACK LUNCHES
- 8-8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
- 8:30 a.m. Depart for **Loaves and Fishes**
- 9 a.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 12 noon Lunch at site
- 12:30 p.m. Depart for **Boys' and Girls' Club**
- 1 p.m. Begin work project
- 4 p.m. Depart for MPPC
- 5 p.m. Arrive at MPPC, shower
- 6-7:15 p.m. Prepare dinner, eat, clean-up
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wrap-up/Devotional led by group's leader
- 9-10:30 p.m. Open gym time

Tuesday

- 7 a.m. Prepare, eat, clean-up breakfast, PACK LUNCHES
- 8-8:30 a.m. Morning Worship
- 8:30 a.m. Depart for **Lifespan Circle School**
- 9 a.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 12 noon Lunch at site
- 12:30 p.m. Depart for **Crisis Assistance Ministry**
- 1 p.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 4 p.m. Depart for MPPC
- 5 p.m. Arrive at MPPC, shower
- 6-8 p.m. Dinner at MPPC member home for food & fellowship
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wrap-up/Devotional by group's leaders
FREE EVENING
- 9-10:30 p.m. Open gym time

Wednesday

- 7 a.m. Prepare, eat, clean-up breakfast, PACK LUNCHES
- 8-8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
- 8:30 a.m. Depart for **Charlotte Rescue Mission**
- 9 a.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 12 noon Lunch at site
- 1 p.m. Depart for **Urban Ministry Center**
- 1:30 p.m. Arrive and begin homeless panel
- 3:30 p.m. Depart for MPPC
- 4 p.m. Arrive at MPPC, shower
- 6-7:15 p.m. Prepare, eat, clean-up dinner
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wrap-up/Devotional led by group's leaders
- 9-10:30 p.m. Open Gym time

Thursday

- 7 a.m. Prepare, eat, clean-up breakfast, PACK LUNCHES
- 8-8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
- 8:30 a.m. Depart for **Charlotte Emergency Housing**
- 9 a.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 12:00 noon Lunch at site
- 12:30 p.m. Depart for **Crisis Assistance Ministry**
- 1 p.m. Arrive and begin work project
- 4 p.m. Depart for MPPC
- 5-7 p.m. Dinner, picture slideshow, and worship led by CROSS staff
- 9-10:30 p.m. Open Gym time

Friday

No mission work done on Fridays; free day

Saturday

- 7-9 a.m. Prepare, eat, clean-up breakfast
Restore and clean rooms, load van
- 9 a.m. Depart for home

Reflections

“We all came home exhausted but still high from the experiences each of us was still processing. You have a terrific program. I’m bringing back a load of outreach ideas for our church to consider.”

– adult leader

“We all grew in understanding the importance of reaching out to others, that mission is ministry, and ministry is often best exemplified by one-to-one outreach – really being present to others. We learned to reach out and take care of each other during the trip, which goes a long, long way to building up the congregation at home. This is one of the good design features of CROSS, having the communal experience in sharing sleeping arrangements, meals, and devotions.”

– adult leader

“This trip to the CROSS program opened my eyes to a whole new world.”

– youth participant, age 15

“We were able to share the love of Jesus with others.”

– youth participant, age 12

“This week I learned not to judge people because they are homeless or poor, but to get to the real person inside.”

– youth participant, age 11

“I really appreciated MPPC opening up their church to us and going out of their way to accommodate us!”

– youth participant, age 18

“This week was a blast! My favorite activities were working at the Urban Ministry Center and spending time with the mentally disabled seniors. They were both life-changing and awesome experiences.”

– youth participant, age 18

“The whole week was very thought-provoking. Our conversations about what we had seen and done continued on the van ride home! Thanks for an excellent week!”

– adult leader

“I learned to humble myself.”

– youth participant, age 16

“This church did a great job with the CROSS program. I had a wonderful time!”

– youth participant, age 14

“This trip surpassed our expectations. The leaders of the ministry sites were informative, patient, and supportive.”

– adult leader

“The whole week was beautifully organized, an incredible learning experience.”

– adult leader

“I learned a lot about homeless people . . . I think I will look at people in a different way now.”

– youth participant, age 14

“I learned what it means to help and to be a follower of Christ.”

– youth participant, age 13

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Reservations

CROSS offers summer mission trips, fall/winter/spring break trips, and weekend trips throughout the year. We can accommodate groups of up to 40 people. Adults, college students, youth as young as sixth grade, and elementary children with their parents are all welcome. The cost of a CROSS trip is \$50 per person for weekends (Friday night through Sunday after church) and \$30 per person per night for spring break and summer trips. Fees include trip coordination, housing, and food for all meals. Mattresses are provided, and groups prepare their own meals in the church kitchen. Shower and recreation facilities are available.

Possible additional costs: Each group will be issued a set of keys to the church. If you lose these keys, you will be charged

\$25. Some special projects that your group may choose may also require an additional fee. Although your registration fee covers all meals while you are here, you may want to bring some extra money for ice cream and donut shops near the church!

CROSS fills up six to twelve months ahead, so please plan accordingly! To register your group for a CROSS trip, please call or email first to find out if the dates you want are available. This will not hold your spot. Fill out the registration form and send it in with a **30% non-refundable deposit** of your estimated total. We realize you may not know the exact number of people in your group, but a good estimate is helpful for planning your schedule. The number can be adjusted as your trip draws closer.

Once we receive your deposit, your dates will be reserved.

Your final number is due 4 weeks before your trip. This is the minimum number of people you will pay for, even if the number goes down. If your final number increases, you will be responsible for paying for all participants.

Your final payment is due in our office 2 weeks before your trip. We must receive your payment before you arrive. A \$100 late fee will be billed to your church if final payment is not received 2 weeks prior to trip. The final payment is non-refundable.

Cancellation

If your group must cancel, your deposit will **NOT** be refunded. **If you cancel within 2 weeks of your trip, you will be charged the FULL AMOUNT of your trip.**

Please be aware that we put a great deal of time and effort into planning each trip. Holding a spot for your group means that we will not receive revenue from groups who could not come at that time because your group was scheduled. Please contact us if you have any questions about this cancellation policy.

Security Deposit

Please send a \$100 check made out to MPPC with your final payment. Security deposit will be returned to your church by mail if changes do not occur, and CROSS items are returned.

What Is Cross?

CROSS coordinates urban mission trips for groups who wish to serve God in Charlotte by reaching out to those in need. Ministry opportunities include serving people who are hungry, homeless, elderly, and disabled. We partner with local ministries to provide meaningful service, both for participants and for our neighbors in need. CROSS trips are forums through which groups can reach out to others with the love of Christ, learn about social justice

issues, grow closer together, and deepen their own spiritual journeys. Groups will be challenged to *CROSS over* lines that divide and *CROSS out* stereotypes, while keeping the *CROSS of Christ* as their focus.

CROSS is an outreach ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, which started CROSS in 1998 and continues to provide direction and involvement from the

congregation. CROSS accepts groups year-round and has hosted over 100 church and college groups from 16 states. Groups typically come for two to five days. They are housed in the church, which provides mattresses, kitchen, showers, and recreation facilities.

Directions & Arrival

DIRECTIONS TO MYERS PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please Note: No Charter Buses Allowed! No Exceptions!

From Hwy 74

Come into Charlotte, exit at Eastway and turn Left.
You will go a few miles, Eastway becomes Wendover.
Turn Right on Providence Road
Take Providence Road towards uptown Charlotte.
You will soon come to a light at Christ Episcopal Church.
After that light, begin to look for Oxford Place on the left.
Turn Left onto Oxford.
Take the 2nd driveway on the right and follow
the signs to the church office.

From I-77

From all points North:

Exit at Morehead St.
Go east on Morehead.
Morehead becomes Queens.
Queens becomes Providence.
Turn right on Oxford Place.
Turn into the 2nd driveway on the right.

From all points South:

Exit on Woodlawn Road/Queens College
Go east on Woodlawn through several lights.
Turn Left on Selwyn Ave, go through 3 lights
Look for Oxford Place on the Right
Turn Right – then left into church parking lot
Follow the signs to the office

From I-85

From all points North:

From I-85, exit at I-77 South.
Go south on I-77.
Exit at Morehead St.
Go east on Morehead.
Morehead becomes Queens.
Queens becomes Providence.
Turn right on Oxford Place.
Turn into the 2nd driveway on the right.

From all points South:

Exit I-85 at Billy Graham Parkway (Hwy 521)
Go east on Billy Graham.
Cross I-77 – Billy Graham becomes Woodlawn
Turn Left on Selwyn Ave, go through 3 lights
Look for Oxford Place on the Right
Turn Right – then left into church parking lot
Follow the signs to the office.

ARRIVAL POLICY

We ask that you arrive no later than 7 pm. Please plan accordingly! The week before your trip, we will request an estimated time of arrival. When you are 30 minutes within arriving at MPPC, please call your trip host. If you realize that you will be arriving at a different time than estimated, please contact your host immediately.

Packing List & Sharing Space

Packing List

Clothes for ministry sites: *(clothes you don't mind getting dirty)*

Work pants/shorts: the longest shorts you have! *(Bring at least one pair of pants)*

Work shirts: NO sleeveless shirts

Closed-toed shoes and socks

Swim suit *(only summer groups working at Treetops):* Modest one-pieces ONLY.

***You will be asked to change, if shorts are too short
or shirts are not appropriate, before going to ministry sites.***

Clothes for free time and relaxing: Please bring only modest clothes!

Toiletries and Carrier (shower facilities are in separate building)

Towel

Sleeping bag or twin-size sheets (mattresses provided by CROSS)

Pillow

Alarm clock

Medications taken regularly

Sunscreen

Bible and pen

Sharing Space

You may be scheduled at the same time as another group, especially if you are coming in the summer. When this happens, we will give you the contact information for the other group's leader. Please make an effort to touch base with the other group before your trip. It's helpful to discuss the experiences of your group, your goals for this trip, and bedtime and behavior rules.

You will not be scheduled to work with the other group during the day, but you will be sharing meal times, sleeping areas, showers, and recreation facilities. Whether your groups join us for evening devotions is up to you.

Sharing space can be a great way to connect with other Christians and make new friends!

Meals & Facilities

Meals

Your fees include food for all meals, which will be purchased before you arrive. Your group is responsible for preparing and cleaning up after meals. Breakfast can include cereal, fruit, toast, eggs, bagels, pancakes, bacon, juice, and milk. Lunches are packed in the morning before you leave and usually include sandwiches (PBJ, turkey, or ham), fruit, chips, and cookies. Typical dinners are spaghetti, chicken, tacos, hamburgers, and pizza. Bottled water, ice, and coolers are provided. Six weeks before your trip, you will receive your schedule, invoice, and menu. Please read over the menu and contact us if you would like to see any changes.

Summer Meals at Member's Homes:

Each week-long group has the opportunity to meet a church member's family from MPPC by going to dinner at the family's home for food and fellowship.

Facilities

Myers Park Presbyterian Church is nestled in the heart of Charlotte's Myers Park, a planned neighborhood of historical importance (see <http://www.cmhpf.org/neighborhoods/MyersPark.html>) that is just steps from businesses like Starbucks and Ben and Jerry's, furniture and antique stores, art galleries, and Queen's University, and just minutes from Charlotte's downtown. For more information about Charlotte, try visiting www.visitcharlotte.com.

Your group will be housed on the first and second floor of the education building at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. There are separate Sunday School rooms for guys and girls, as well as restrooms. The CROSS Lounge is across the hall from the sleeping rooms. The Lounge includes couches, a TV (VCR and DVD), CD player, chalk board, markers, pens, crayons, Bibles,

paper, and many books on missions and outreach. Downstairs from this floor, there is a telephone, another set of restrooms, the fellowship hall (where you will eat your meals), and the kitchen.

The Christian Life Center, a separate building from the education building, houses the gym, game room, and showers. The game room includes a small kitchen with ice maker, vending machines, couches, telephone, TV with cable, pool table, foos ball, table hockey, and ping pong. The showers are located in the basement. There are three showers in the girls' locker room and two showers in the guys' locker room.

Gym is NOT available on weekend trips.

Group leaders will be issued keys to these two buildings.