



Buffalo Dream Center
Short Term Missions
286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14213

January 26, 2018

Dear Mission Team Leader,

We are excited you are interested in bringing a mission team to the Buffalo Dream Center. If you would like more information about our ministry, and what you will be doing on your mission trip, visit our website www.buffalodreamcenter.org.

This package includes some information to get you started with planning your trip. Please let us know the dates you are interested in coming as soon as possible as our schedule gets booked fairly quickly throughout the year and we operate on a first come first serve basis. It is also important that you fill out the **Missions Team Information Form** on the last page of this package and return it as soon as possible so we can plan your week appropriately. Do not worry about having the exact number of people and vehicles, simply give us an approximate count. We can finalized such details as the trip gets closer.

Please note that your team is responsible to arrange your own accommodations while in Buffalo or speak to the mission team coordinator about having your accommodations arranged. At this time we cannot accommodate teams at the Buffalo Dream Center. Accommodation options are included later in this information package.

Your team must also have your own transportation while in Buffalo. It is best if each vehicle has a GPS. The driver of each vehicle will be provided with a list of important addresses for the week. Additional Buffalo Dream Center vehicles will be used when necessary for ministry and work projects during the week.

Each team member needs to fill out an application to participate in a mission trip to the Buffalo Dream Center. If your ministry has its own application process, you may use it. If not, there is an application on our website. Whether you use your own application or our application, it is imperative that each member fills out *The Medical Release Form* and *Buffalo Dream Center Team Member Rules and Guidelines*. They are enclosed. These forms must be handed in upon your arrival in Buffalo. There is an additional parental

consent form (*Student Volunteer Parental Approval Form*) that needs to be filled in for the Buffalo City Mission, one of the places your team may minister during the week. If necessary, we will provide you with this form as well.

In the past the Buffalo Dream Center has left it up to each mission team to receive a love offering or collect items for the Buffalo Dream Center. However, the expenses for all the outreaches and projects done during the week of a mission team have not been met by doing so. Therefore, we have had to implement a required donation for each team member who comes to Buffalo on a mission trip. **We now require that each team member pays \$100.00 to the Buffalo Dream Center.** This money goes directly to provide for all the weekly outreach expenses at the Buffalo Dream Center especially during the teams stay.

I hope this information package gives you a good overview of what bringing a mission team to the Buffalo Dream Center looks like. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (716)854-1001 or ericandmichellejohns@live.com.

We look forward to working with you and pray that God will move in a mighty way while your team is in Buffalo. We pray that God will refresh you and give you fresh vision to take back to your church and city.

God Bless,

Michelle Johns

About the Buffalo Dream Center

Pastors Eric and Michelle Johns founded and have been overseeing the Buffalo Dream Center, in Buffalo, New York, since 1993.

The Buffalo Dream Center is a church that RESTORES PEOPLE, REBUILDS DREAMS, and RECLAIMS THE WORLD.

The church has become well known as a ministry that meets the needs of inner city families, going into crime infested neighborhoods - places other churches are afraid to go.

The Bible says in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for the "least of these" we do for Jesus.

The ministry of the Buffalo Dream Center targets the "least of these" of the inner city, including the homeless, children, young people, prostitutes, and the elderly.

When we meet the physical needs of people, their hearts are opened to receive their spiritual need - salvation through Jesus Christ

About Buffalo

- According to the US Census Bureau in 2014 Buffalo is the fourth poorest city in America
- In 1901 Buffalo was the fastest growing city in the US now it is one of the most rapidly declining cities.
- Approximately 28.7% of the population of Buffalo lives in poverty. That is more than one in four people.
- The poverty rate amongst the children of Buffalo is higher than that of Harlem.
- The high school graduation rate in Buffalo is one of the lowest in the country at only 56%.
- Buffalo is divided into 32 neighborhoods. The lower west side of Buffalo is considered the poorest neighborhood in Buffalo. 75% of the youth ages 18 years and under live in poverty. It is considered to be the melting pot of the city with people from 70 different countries, speaking more than 40 different languages. Some of the countries represented are; Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Burma, Iran, Nepal, Rwanda, Croatia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Congo.
- The West side is also the home to more than 20,000 Puerto Ricans
- In 2011 Buffalo was named the 6th most segregated city in the US.
- Buffalo has big problem with vacant houses. It ranks second worst in the nation with regards to this problem
- There are more than 14,000 refugees living in Buffalo.
- Buffalo has the third largest population of refugees in America and is the leading resettlement city for refugees in America.
- Buffalo was the winner of its "City with a Heart" contest and is said to be the nation's "friendliest city." Buffalo is also a two-time winner of the All-America City Award

Buffalo Dream Center Ministries

The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry is the only mobile food pantry in Western New York. It was started in July 1998. Volunteers pack the food in bags and load them into a truck. The groceries are delivered in six neighborhoods in Buffalo and one in Niagara Falls each month. Approximately ten thousand meals are distributed each month. The food pantry serves over 350 families each month.

Adopt-A-Block meets the needs of inner city neighborhoods every month. Teams of people “adopt” city blocks by building relationships with the families living in those communities. Members of the Buffalo Dream Center invade the blocks with shovels, rakes, and garbage bags. They clean the streets, mow lawns, paint over graffiti, and serve the people with acts of kindness. This ministry makes the church visible in the community. Over time, as relationships are built, people give their lives to Jesus.

Project Prevention is a ministry which assists families who are at risk of losing their children due to the lack of furniture and other basic necessities. Project Prevention also assists low income families that resettle in Buffalo from other parts of the country and the world. Project Preventions provides some immediate needs for families and builds relationships with the family. Its goal is to help the family improve their quality of life and show them God’s love. Currently Project Prevention is assisting more than two hundred families.

The Magdalene Project was started by reaching out to women caught in the life of prostitution. Each month volunteers drive down the streets of Buffalo and Niagara Falls late at night to share the love of Jesus with the women. They distribute roses, toiletries, candy, food, and Bible tracts. The Magdalene Project has now expanded to embrace several other ministries including Kidz Club, free meals, the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry, and hotel ministry. The Magdalene Project is located in Niagara Falls. It is our goal to plant a Dream Center in Niagara Falls.

Elmwood Seniors

It is an apartment building for low-income seniors. Many of them live independently however they are lonely and have a hard time doing things. Some teams do some light house work for some of the residents, serve some snacks, do an outreach program in the common room, and deliver groceries to them.

Kidz Club After School Program/Teen Impact

Every week children and youth from high-risk neighborhoods are provided with free transportation by bus to the Buffalo Dream Center for the Kidz Club After School Program and Teen Impact. When the children and youth arrive they enjoy a meal. After eating many activities are offered including crafts, cooking, video games, and dodge ball. During the program, the children and youth are impacted with the Gospel through a high energy program filled with

music, games, and powerful illustrations. The program is attended by 75 or more inner-city children and youth.

Summer Kidz Club

Every summer since 1996 members of the Buffalo Dream Center have been running sidewalk Sunday School throughout Buffalo and in Niagara Falls. Monday through Friday all summer long there is a Kidz Club site ministering to children. Summer Kidz Club includes lots of fun outdoor activities like sports, crafts, bubbles, face painting, sidewalk chalk and more. It also includes an action packed lesson that shares the Gospel and teaches Christian character. At the end of Kidz Club all the kids get a snack. More than 400 children attend Kidz Club every week all summer.

Warehouse

The Buffalo Dream Center has a warehouse. It is the storage place for the Joseph Project, Project Prevention, Adopt-A-Block, and Boxes of Love. It takes lots of volunteer hours to bag groceries and prepare donations to go out.

Spanish Extension Services

The Buffalo Dream Center is a multi-cultural church. Every Sunday afternoon the Buffalo Dream Center has an extension service. The service is in English and Spanish.

Street Ministry

The Buffalo Dream Center is located just one block away from the highest crime area in the city. The street is plagued with prostitutes, the homeless, pimps, and drug dealers once the sun goes down. Several times a month the Buffalo Dream Center hits the streets to distribute toiletries, snacks and share the love of Jesus.

Table of Grace

On the third Saturday of each month a meal is served for those who are in need and who are homeless at the Buffalo Dream Center. Transportation is provided. During the lunch an encouraging message is shared and volunteers have the opportunity to minister to those in attendance.

Expenses

Fee: \$100.00 per person

This fee offsets the cost for the ministries and work projects your team will be doing during your stay. It also helps cover the administrative expenses and extra staffing it takes to run a missions teams.

Your group is responsible for the following expenses:

- Transportation to and from Buffalo
- Transportation while in Buffalo
- All meals, snacks, and water
- Accommodations (some of the partnering churches are free to use)
- Activities during days off
- Spending money

Meal Suggestions:

Buffalo is known to have the best pizza and wings in the country. Your team may enjoy this for a meal.

Westside Bizarre is a favorite place to visit for many coming to Buffalo. It has food available from all over the world including Burmese, Thai, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Puerto Rican, and Ethiopian. One can enjoy a meal for \$10-\$12. Many mission teams plan a visit to Westside Bizarre in their budget as a fun thing to do with their team.

A \$200.00 non-refundable deposit is due 1 month before your team's arrival. The rest is due upon arrival. You can make your checks payable to the Buffalo Dream Center.

Accommodation Options

Option #1

Harvest House - The Harvest House is a ministry located in South Buffalo. It is about 15-20 minutes from the central part of the city (where you would be doing ministry). The Harvest House ministers to single moms and their children. The Harvest House is also a retreat center. They charge \$60.00/per week/per person. The Harvest House is newly renovated. There are several large meeting rooms with couches where your team can sleep. You need to bring your own sleeping bags and air mattresses. They have newly renovated bathrooms and showers. They have a game room, gym, and a large kitchen and dining area. You are responsible for your own meals. They have a website you can look at if you want more information www.harvesthouse.ws/retreats . They are often booked far in advance. If you are interested in staying at the Harvest House, you should contact them directly and book your week as soon as possible. Tell them you will be doing your missions trip at the Buffalo Dream Center. The phone number for the Harvest House is 716. 825.0929.

Option #2

The Buffalo Dream Center has a few partner churches in the suburbs of Buffalo willing to house a mission team. The cost of using their facilities is minimal or sometimes free. These churches have kitchen facilities, bathrooms with showers, and ample sleeping accommodations for a team in carpeted Sunday school rooms. You would need to bring sleeping bags and air mattresses. If you are interested in staying at one of these churches, then we will make the arrangements for you and confirm when it is finalized.

Option #3

There are local hotels that have accommodated teams in the past. The price varies by hotel and depending on how many people you put in a room. We suggest you stay at a hotel with breakfast included. Your team can pack a bagged lunch and use the kitchen at the Buffalo Dream Center to prepare you dinner. For hotel suggestions please contact the Buffalo Dream Center.

Sample Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday,
<p>Niagara Falls</p> <p>10:00am-1:00pm Work Projects</p> <p>1:00pm-2:00pm Lunch (bagged)</p> <p>2:00pm Kidz Club</p> <p>5:30pm Outreach Dinner</p> <p>7:00pm BBQ for Volunteers By BDC</p>	<p>10:00am-11:00am Prayer @abortion clinic</p> <p>11:00am-12:30pm Kidz Club Flyers</p> <p>1:00pm Bagged lunch @ BDC</p> <p>2:00pm Frederick Douglass Kidz Club</p> <p>5:30pm Dinner @ BDC</p> <p>7:00pm BDC Adopt-a-Block</p>	<p>10:00am-1:00pm BDC</p> <p>Work Projects</p> <p>1:00pm Bagged lunch @BDC</p> <p>2:00pm Maryland-Efner Kidz Club</p> <p>5:30pm Dinner @ BDC</p> <p>Free Night</p>	<p>10:00am-1:00pm Sonfest</p> <p>Project Prevention</p> <p>1:00pm Bagged lunch @ BDC</p> <p>2:00pm Sonfest Kidz Club</p> <p>5:30pm Dinner @ BDC</p> <p>7:30pm BDC Street Ministry</p>	<p>10:00am-1:00pm Warehouse Work Projects</p> <p>1:00pm Lunch at Westside Bizarre</p> <p>3:00pm-4:30pm Food Pantry sites</p> <p>5:00pm Dinner @ BDC</p> <p>6:30pm – 8:30pm BDC Kidz Club</p> <p>Debrief</p>

Things to pack

- Bible
- Note Pad / Diary or Journal /pens
- Work gloves
- Toiletries
- Water bottle
- Backpack (bag to carry daily supplies in)
- Towel / wash cloth
- Hat / Sunglasses / sun screen
- Hand sanitizer/wet wipes
- Camera
- Jacket
- Sleepwear –you will be sharing a room
- Sleeping Bag
- Air mattress
- Clothing: casual work clothes, something nice for Sunday
- Sneakers are a must for some activities (Sandals are fine but not for everything we do)

Girl's dress – short sleeve shirts and shorts (nothing too short, too tight, or revealing). No half shirts or sleeveless shirts. Tank tops are acceptable with the exception of a few outreaches, so one should have some t-shirts as well. Your clothes should not be expensive clothes you are afraid of ruining. Work clothes that are cool, comfortable, and modest. Capris are also good for ladies. You should have a nice casual outfit for Sunday.

Guy's dress – shorts and t-shirts. Work clothes that are cool and comfortable. Clothes you are not afraid to ruin. Nice casual clothes for Sunday

**Do not bring expensive jewelry and electronics. You are welcome to bring a laptop and or ipod/ipad but the Buffalo Dream Center is not responsible for lost or stolen proper

Ministry Needs at the BDC

At the Buffalo Dream Center there are certain items we are in constant need of due to some of our ministries. Below is a list of needs. It would be greatly appreciated if your team could collect some of these things and bring them with you.

Kidz Club

Snack items – chips, individually wrapped snack foods, fruit punch mix

Candy – no chocolate (it melts too easy), suckers, individually wrapped candy

Carnival type prizes and trinkets

Outdoor activity equipment – jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, skip-its,

Sports equipment – footballs, basketballs, Frisbees, soccer balls, jump ropes, wiffle balls and catchers

Game Consoles – Xbox, Nintendo, Play station, controllers, games

TV's

Craft supplies

Playdough

Plastic lanyard for bracelets

Dress up clothes

Balloons

Super soaker water guns

Nerf Guns

Project Prevention

Diapers –all sizes

Wet wipes

School supplies

Toiletries/hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant)

Cleaning supplies

Paper products – toilet paper, paper towel,

Baby clothes and supplies

** We do not take clothing only –only baby cloth

Adopt-A-Block

Gloves

Trash bags

Lawn mowers/weed wackers

Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry

Non-perishable food items

Plastic and paper grocery bags

Street Ministry

Small toiletries

Socks

Blankets

hats, gloves, scarves

Snacks

Artificial flowers

Overseas Missions

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Baby clothes

Medical supplies

Hotel size – soap, lotions, shampoos

Small toys, trinkets, and stuffed animals

Inflatable sports balls

Pens and pencils

Jump ropes

Stickers

Beach Balls

Boxes of Love

Wrapping Paper

New Toys (value at least \$10)

Contact Information

Buffalo Dream Center

286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14213

Office Number: 716-854-1001

Email: information@buffalodreamcenter.org

Website: www.buffalodreamcenter.org

Facebook Pages: Buffalo Dream Center
Boxes of Love
Kidz Club Network

Mission team coordinator contact information:

Michelle Johns

Cell: 716-563-6511

Email: ericandmichellejohns@live.com

Mission Team Information

Please fill out and return the Buffalo Dream Center as soon as possible. You can mail it to Buffalo Dream Center, 286 Lafayette Avenue, Buffalo NY 14213 or email it to ericandmichellejohns@live.com.

Church name: _____

Church address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Mission Team Leader (s): _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Proposed dates of trip: _____

Approximate size of team: _____ Approximate number of leaders/chaperones on team: _____

Approximate number of vehicles coming with the team: _____

Team Information: (Check all that Apply)

- Middle School
- High School
- College
- Family
- Ladies
- Men

Please list any special talents, gifts, or interests that your team (or team members) has:

Please list any requests or special instructions for your team:
