

The Vision

Fifteen years ago Deacon Mike Howard journeyed to Juarez, saw the need and put in motion the plan to build a few houses in Juarez so that the children, the hope of Juarez, could have a safe place to live, study and feel the hope.

Pat Vachon, a retired engineer, gathered a crew to build the first (pilot) house for the project known as Southern Exposure. Since that first 20 x 20 cement block house went up, more than 200 crews in less than 9 years have built over 200 homes for the people of Juarez. Slowly the cardboard and pallet homes are being replaced by sturdy structures given through the generosity of time and money by their northern neighbors.

The reality of Juarez is 60,000 people moving into the City per month! It is common for houses to be built of cardboard at an elevation which gets well below freezing in the winter. Water is in short supply and there is little infrastructure to support the population. Housing is critical as is the need for an education that is supported only up to the 6th grade by the Mexican government. The needs of the people of Juarez are basic and critical but not beyond reach.

Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. Mission Statement

Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. endeavors to build a sound structure to house the poorest of the poor in Juarez

www.southernexposureinc.org

**Mike Howard
8344 Eaton Way
Arvada, CO 80003**

Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. Casa Build Juarez

Your Opportunity: to immerse yourself in a culture vastly different from your own by spending one week building a house with your own hands.

Your Reward: To gain an understanding about the rights and needs of the truly poor, the dignity of life and the necessity to reach beyond ourselves in giving. To meet the family chosen to receive your particular house and recognize the challenges they face on a daily basis. Share the tears of joy when they move from the pallet and cardboard dwelling to a real structure with a door and windows.

Team Guidelines

1. All build dates **MUST BE** confirmed with the designated build schedule coordinator, Barbara Fox. You must designate how many houses you intend to build when scheduling the time for your build.
2. Teams must consist of a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 15 members per house. (This may vary slightly with the age and experience of a group) Age 18 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Children age 13 to 16 must be accompanied by a parent. **No Children under the age of 13.**
3. The team is solely responsible for putting together a sufficient number of members (12) to qualify for a build program.
4. The schedule coordinator, prior to finalizing the group's, build date will review the team makeup, ages, physical capacity for hard work, etc.
5. Team members are required to attend **at least one orientation**, given by the scheduler, or if outside Colorado, by an experienced Team Leader.
6. Build dates always start on Sunday and end on Saturday.
7. Teams meet at the El Paso Airport Middle Gallery at 3 PM on Sunday for pickup.
8. Teams are returned to El Paso Airport on Saturday morning at approximately 10 a.m.
9. Total cost for materials \$4560.00 and \$120 per team member for food lodging (seven days). (A minimum of \$1440 is required based on a 12 person crew, If more than 12 then an additional \$120.00 per person is due.)
Beginning 2009, a \$700 non-refundable deposit per house is due when a date is reserved, this is for the cost of a foundation, this is part of \$4650 material fee.

10. An additional fee equal to that of the materials (\$4000.00) is required for the exclusive use of the house/compound.
11. Team members provide their own transportation to El Paso.
12. **Materials donation is due 60 days** before the start of build and required to guarantee the assigned build date.
13. **Food/lodging fees are also due 60 days** before the start of the build.
14. All members must sign a release/waiver and all children between the ages of 13 and 18 must have a permission slip and waiver signed by a parent. All paper work must be sent to the Spirit of Christ address before departure.
15. Cell phone # @ Esperanza House, for emergencies and outside contact only 720.839.5256 a Cell Phone. 011-52-656-6-14-91-02 International Number.

All monies should be given to Barbara Fox, (checks must be made out to Southern Exposure Immersions Inc.) and/or sent to Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. c/o Mike Howard, 8344 Eaton Way, Arvada, CO 80003.

Any and all deviations from the above guidelines must be cleared with Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. in Denver, Colorado
Phone 720.479.7784 ask for Barbara e-mail juarezspirit@comcast.net

Guidelines for Your Stay in Mexico

A passport will be required in 2009 it is a good idea to start the application process now.

- ◆ It is a good idea to have your insurance card in case of an emergency. There is a clinic in the colonia, but if anything major should occur you would be transported to a hospital in El Paso.
- ◆ Bringing your car into Mexico (not recommended) requires special insurance and parking of vehicles at the site is non-existent. If you do drive, you should park your car in the long term parking at the El Paso airport, where you will be picked up by our Mexico person.
- ◆ Your lodging will be provided for as well as meals, bedding and some necessary toiletries. (TP, towels, etc.) Bring your own shampoo, soap and personal toiletries.

- ◆ Bring work clothing, a hat with a brim, good gloves are important, leather palms are recommended as cement is hard on the hands. Clothing could be ruined at the work site, so keep that in mind. Loose fitting clothing is cooler and long sleeves protect from the sun. Also bring something comfortable to relax in after work. At times the wind or the mornings can be chilly so a windbreaker is a good choice. For the winter months bring clothes that can easily be layered and of course a jacket.

- ◆ The lodging space is limited, so likewise limit the number of items you bring, pack wisely with the project and purpose in mind.

- ◆ Dress modestly, (this is a cultural issue) no tank tops or shorts and no sandals at the work site. (Sandals and shorts or tanks are ok at Esperanza House). It is recommended to have your legs covered while working at the site, this is a safety/protection issue.

- You will be allowed to have some of your clothing washed once during your stay.

- If you favor a certain water container, bring it along, put your name on it and have it with you always; or you may also purchase a bottle at the corner store. (Del Rio) Dehydration may be cause for illness or hospitalization; but **remember to drink only bottled or purified water**. (provided)

- Don't forget sunscreen, chapstick, sunglasses and camera. (if you want to take pictures)

- For some people the dust, either dirt or from the cement can be an irritant, if this is a possibility for you, bring along a mask of sorts to help keep from breathing in the dust.

- Spending money for the possible shopping trip and/or an evening out during the immersion. (Youth groups will need trip money for food on the way down and back)

- Do not pet local dogs or cats. Avoid handing out money or gifts to the locals to avoid being overwhelmed.

- Our resident leader will give a talk about safety practices during your stay, please listen carefully.

- Remember you will be staying in a foreign country as a guest. Your personal rights will be much abbreviated, be on your best behavior and treat everyone with respect and courtesy.

- If you know some Spanish, use it whenever possible, simple greetings buenos dias or even "gracias" helps to communicate friendliness.

- If you wish to bring useful items to Mexico, laundry detergent, hand or body soap, cleaning products, canned food, dry food and school supplies (pencils, pens, back packs) are among the most desperately needed items. Clothing is not an urgent need at this time.
- ♦ **Alcohol:** Alcohol is permitted within the compound of Esperanza, **in moderation.** Alcohol is never taken out of the compound nor is it offered to the Mexican crews with the exception of an approved celebration within the confines of the Esperanza House compound.

CASA Build Program Schedule

Sunday:

Groups and individuals arrive at El Paso Airport and wait at the Middle Gallery at the front of the airport for the people mover (small bus or van at approx. 3 p.m.) The people mover (van) driven by one of the locals or someone from Southern Exposure's Esperanza House (House of Hope), will transport the group through customs and across the border to the Colonia of Plutarco Elias Calles, (the name of a president) where Esperanza House is located.

Have your identification (Passport) handy, safe but not buried in your luggage you may be asked to present it at the border crossing.

You will settle in at the Southern Exposure House making use of dormitories (separate for men and women) and have your first meal there, prepared by the cooks/housekeepers. There are showers (a luxury in Juarez) but with so many people and only one hot water tank please be considerate of all your team mates in water use. (Water is also a luxury in Juarez)

Breakfast and Dinner is prepared and served at the Southern Exposure House, lunches are prepared and provided for you at the work site, as well as a 5 gallon container of purified water from which you will refill your own drinking container. *(Note, only vegetarian and diabetic meals will be given exceptional treatment. Otherwise everyone is expected to partake of the fare that is presented by the cooks)*

Monday – Friday:

Rise at 6 a.m., eat breakfast and board the people mover (van) for the trip to the work site at 8 a.m.,(it is possible it may be within walking distance) where a foundation has been laid and materials are in place.

Your group leader will get you started and make sure all have a job to do. The crew breaks for lunch and then back to work until approximately 4 p.m. After work you return to Esperanza House for the evening meal and some easy camaraderie with your fellow builders and perhaps a game of soccer with the local children. This schedule may vary slightly according to circumstances or weather conditions.

At least one day will include an immersion tour of the area and the projects that Fr. Stan Martinka has built. This may include the Grade School, Junior High School, Clinic and Technical School. Other sites may include a Cathedral, the Market and perhaps a meal and show in the evening. Please be prepared to pay for your own meal and entrance to the show. **Crews are not allowed to go on any excursions without the presence of the Resident Leader, nor are they allowed to drive any of the company vehicles.**

Saturday

Prepare for the return to El Paso airport and your return trip home once again have your identification/Passport handy.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

THIS WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _____ by and between
(Date)
SOUTHERN EXPOSURE IMMERSIONS INC.

AND _____,
(Name)
a participant in the following group activity.

ACTIVITY: Housing Building Program in Juarez, Mexico
DATES: _____ to _____
METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION: Private cars, and vans.
DESIGNATED SUPERVISORS: Southern Exposure Immersions Inc.

I the undersigned, in consideration of the benefits of participation in this program, hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT to hold harmless, SOUTHERN EXPOSURE IMMERSIONS INC, their offices, servants, agents, employees, and other participants from and against any and all liability, claims, demands, lawsuits, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, or any property belonging to me while participating in the above said HOUSING BUILDING PROGRAM and any work and recreational activities involved in the above said program.

Furthermore, I the undersigned am aware of the risks and hazards connected with participation in the HOUSING BUILDING PROGRAM, including the risks and hazards of vehicle transportation in connection therewith and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in the HOUSING BUILDING PROGRAM and the transportation in connection therewith. I VOLUNTARILY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RISKS OF LOSS, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH that may be sustained by me, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of participation in this program.

I further AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the RELEASEES from any loss liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorney fees, that may incur due to my participation in said program.

It is my express intent that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if any, and my heirs, assigns and personal representatives. If I am deceased it shall be deemed as a RELEASE, WAIVER, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the above named RELEASEES. I hereby further agree that this waiver and Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement shall be considered in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado

IN SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read the foregoing waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless agreement, understand it, and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed. I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent and I execute the Release for full, adequate, and complete considerations, fully intending to be bound by the same.

IN WITNESS THERE OF, I do sign and agree on this _____
(Date)

PARTICIPANT:

Signature Printed Name

Address _____

Phone _____

WITNESSES:

Signatures Printed Name

Signature Printed Name

Parent Permission Form For Off-Campus Activity

Event: Southern Exposure Immersions Inc. (Juarez Mission)

Date:

Time:

Place: Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Cost:

Mode of Transportation:

Designated Supervisors:

Group/Church:

Deadline:

Information Meeting: (Parent/s must attend)

Permission: I give permission for my son/daughter to attend off campus activity (Field Trip). I understand and acknowledge that participation in the Field Trip involves inherent risks of injury to my child, including risks associated with transportation by motor vehicle. I understand and acknowledge that a vehicle in which my child is present may be operated by a volunteer driver.

Medical Release: I authorize the Designated Supervisor(s) of the Field Trip to authorize and consent to any medical care for my child that he or she reasonably believes necessary, including, but not limited to, hospitalization or surgery. I agree to pay any expenses related to such medical care. I understand and acknowledge that the Designated Supervisor(s) of the Field Trip will attempt to obtain my permission by telephone before authorizing or consenting to any medical care for my child if time and conditions permit.

Liabilities: I understand and acknowledge that any medical expenses related to illness or injury to my child while on the Field Trip are not covered by any insurance program maintained by the Archdiocese of Denver, and that I am primarily responsible for such expenses. I understand and acknowledge that by consenting to my child's participation in the Field Trip I am assuming full responsibility for the risk of any illness or injury that my child may incur.

I release the Archdiocese of Denver and any employee or volunteer chaperons or drivers from liability for any illness or injury that my child may incur while participating in the field trip. Whether cause with or without fault by the Archdiocese of Denver, the parish, or by any of their agents, servants or employees, including any employee or volunteer chaperons or drivers.

I hereby consent to my child's participation in the Field Trip. I have carefully read this Field Trip Authorization and I understand and agree to each of the covenants and conditions set forth above.

Name of Minor Child/Student

Parent or Guardian

Date

Address _____

Phone _____

Medical Information

Please Print

Are there any medical or physical conditions of which we should be aware?
If yes, please explain

List any medications your child is currently taking:

List any allergies:

In case of emergency, contact _____

Phone Number(s)

7. Did you get to interact with the locals? In what way?

8. Briefly describe a good experience of the week.

9. Briefly describe any negative experience of the week.

10. Were you satisfied with your group leader? Was he/she helpful, knowledgeable and friendly? Please comment.

11. Please offer any suggestions you might have, regarding any aspect of the trip.

We hope your trip was an educational, fun and rewarding experience.
Thank you, God bless you for your generosity of spirit.