



2025 Tijuana Ministry Trip

Join us!

Our Trip is scheduled to be from Saturday, July 19—Saturday, July 26. We plan to build 3 homes, conduct a children's program and have some immersion activities.

OUR MISSION

We foster friendships and spiritual growth by reaching across borders to bring people together. By putting our faith into action, we build lasting and vibrant communities in collaboration with the Maria Immaculata Parish in Tijuana. We provide opportunities for education, immersion, and commitment to promote human dignity.

OUR PROGRAM

We are focused on building community within one of the most impoverished areas of Tijuana, Mexico. The ministry was founded in 2004 by members of St. Julie Billiard Parish who were focused on the problem of global poverty and social justice. Since that time the ministry has grown to include home building, special building projects, and week-long outreach programs for children, teens, and mothers in the local community. We go to Tijuana because the area of our ministry is just 20 miles from the US border, giving travelers the opportunity to experience severe poverty on a global level. There are many organizations that serve the poor of the United States, while few focus on the needs of families in Tijuana. We had trips each year from 2004 through 2019. In 2020 and 2021 we did not travel due to COVID. However, we provided construction supplies and paid for contractors who we built up a relationship with over the years to build two homes each year. We had construction only trips in 2022 and 2023. In 2025, we are planning a one week trip to build three homes, conduct a children's program and have immersion activities.

WHO TRAVELS WITH THE TIJUANA MINISTRY?

Our participants are men and women of all ages, and different faiths, including teens entering high school, young adults, mid-lifers and seniors. The ability to speak Spanish is most welcome, but not required. You must have a US Passport that expires no sooner than six months after our trip in July, or valid passport and travel paperwork if not a US citizen.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I TRAVEL WITH THE TIJUANA MINISTRY?

The volunteers who travel to Tijuana are welcome to work in any activity of the ministry including:

Home Building: We build homes that are 16' x 32' and include 3 bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchen/living room. You do not need to be experienced in construction to be part of a building crew. Professionals are on site to provide instruction and ensure safety. While special skills are not required, we welcome expertise in electrical, plumbing, framing, tiling, roofing and painting.

Special Construction Projects: We build more than just homes. Our past special projects have included completing classrooms for a special needs school and providing construction support to enlarge a church building for a growing Catholic community. In 2017, we built a community building for the AIDS hospice in Tijuana.

Outreach: To engage more fully with the local community and learn more about their culture. This summer we plan to provide a program for children which will include arts & crafts, games, sports, and fun and educational activities. In addition, we are planning some immersion activities to get exposure to some of the needs and services in the region.

Logistics/Home site: We plan and prepare meals, oversee activities at the location where we stay and provide first aid to the participants.

Travelers don't need to pick one area to work in and do the same thing every day. Participants are encouraged to experience all aspects of the program and may change activities from day to day.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TIJUANA MINISTRY?

Each participant for the 2025 trip will pay or raise a total of \$900 broken down into two parts. \$400 to cover the cost of travel for the week which includes lodging and food. An additional \$500 for the construction costs which is tax deductible (you will be provided with a tax donation receipt early next year for the amount paid in excess of the \$400).

WHAT IF I CAN'T TRAVEL TO TIJUANA?

There are many ways to participate even if you can't travel with us. You can participate in fundraising activities throughout the year to help raise money for the Tijuana Ministry. You can also pray for the people of Tijuana and the success of our ministry.

THE TRIP IS SPONSORED BY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Since 2016, the Tijuana Ministry trips are being administered by Brothers And Sisters In Community Service (BASICS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose leadership have also served as Tijuana Ministry Core Team members for several years. BASICS is recognized by the Diocese of San Jose as an approved provider of immersion experiences for parishes.

WHO DO WE BUILD HOMES FOR?

Families we plan to build for in 2025



Griselda Guerremo is requesting us to build a house where 7 of her family members will live together including her mother, Maria, age 64, her sister, Sofia (27), and her husband, Sergio (50), a second sister, Yucari (18) and her 3 nieces, Perla (9), Maria (6) and Abigain. The photo is Griselda and her three nieces. Maria and her daughters make mini donuts to sell at the local market.



Jose Svastegus and his wife Gloria Mendoza with their son, Sebastian. In addition to them, her grandfather, Jose, and her brother, Felipe, and his daughter, Emily, will be living in the house. Jose is a bus driver. He is humble, hard-working, loves his family and dreams of taking care of his family with a new home. Gloria sells at the market.



Antonio (53) and Maria (48) Herrera have two children, Karen (23) and Marco (20). Antonio is an Uber driver and Maria works at the Honeywell factory. Karen is in the last year of university and plans to be an industrial engineer. Marco goes to school in the morning and works nights. He plans to be an electrical engineer. Antonio has an injury to his leg and walks with a cane.