

Mission Team Members: Youth and Adult

Operación Hogar Mission teams can include youth members and adults. Ten to fifteen members is a good size team to build a house. Top physical conditioning though helpful is not necessary. Almost everyone can contribute to the work in some way. A grace filled heart of which Christ is the greatest exemplar is the most useful attribute.



Cost to Build a home

Two sizes of homes can be built. Below are the costs for both. Included in the cost are all building materials, hired help, a door, and window(s).

Option 1: 4 X 5 meter house = \$2880.00

Option 2: 4 X 7 meter house = \$3180.00

Maintenance of team house = \$250.00

Gifts for families and Mexican team members = \$1000.00

(These funds are normally raised by church fund-raising activities)

Additional Costs:

Food and Lodging: \$100 per person + personal funds for a shopping trip in Juárez

Operación Hogar is a joint outreach ministry between The New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church of Mexico. This ministry has been operational for over 60 years helping those in need of shelter. Over 900 homes have been built in Juárez, Mexico by teams from all over the United States. Currently heading up Operación Hogar is Jose Luis Ramos, The VIM coordinator for the Iglesia Metodista de Mexico.

Operación Hogar is a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Opportunity in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico



Operación Hogar:

A United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Opportunity in la Ciudad Juarez, Mexico



Operacion Hogar is an opportunity for a short-term and relatively affordable mission experience; just 4 to 5 days in duration, including travel. Team members have the opportunity to share their love and skills by providing a new home for a family in need. We also demonstrate the love of Christ through our prayers, teamwork and generosity. Each work day includes prayer and worship which we share with the family and others working on the project. The families who receive homes through Operación Hogar often share their good fortune with other family members. In addition to the new home, they receive several gifts from us including a Spanish Language Bible, as well as lots of good will and encouragement from the team. This is also a strong team building exercise and one which most team members feel they come away receiving as much or more than they have given and thankful for the new members in Christ they have made.

What to expect from your mission experience

The worksites are in the Anapra neighborhood of Juárez not much more than a stone's throw from the US border in El Paso, TX marked by the border fence. Anapra is one of the poorest communities within Juárez. Our job is to work with Mexican project foremen to construct a small home using concrete blocks and mortar, with a wood frame roof.

A mission team in the NM Annual Conference will usually travel to El Paso on day one by car, planning to arrive late afternoon. They will meet Jose Luis in El Paso and leave their vehicle(s) in a lot near the Lydia Patterson Institute, a United Methodist Institution. Team members and their luggage will be driven to the team house in Juárez, Mexico to unpack and get settled. It's a short distance in miles to the team house in Juarez, but it's like a thousand miles in terms of cultural difference. ¿Habla español?

The team starts work the morning of day 2 and within 2 to 3 days of work a family will be able to move into their brand-new home that the mission team built for them. All tools and building materials are provided and ready when you arrive at the work site. Only individual work clothes and gear (e.g. gloves, hat, sunscreen, etc.) are required to be brought by the individual team members. The typical work day is from 7:00 or 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (depending on what time of year your team serves). After work, most of the team "down-time" will be spent at the team house. All meals are prepared at the team house by Jose Luis' wife, Socorro. The food is simple, ample, nutritious and delicious.

The team generally is finished by noon of day 4, returns to the team house to freshen up and then is transported back across the border by Jose Luis for their subsequent return home.

Operacion Hogar Team House



The Operación Hogar team house is a safe, secure, clean home where you can relax while you are in Juárez. There are about 15 sets of bunk beds in 2 large bedrooms, and 3 bathrooms, each with sinks, commodes and showers. The city of Juarez is much safer today than it was several years ago. Teams visiting now do not feel threatened or fear for their safety. Teams are escorted at all times and driven either by Jose Luis or other representatives of Operación Hogar with Mexican drivers licenses.



Who Gets the New Home?



The families who receive the homes must qualify by having land served by utilities available upon which to build; this is usually owned by a family member. They must be employed and be able to afford to keep the home. Jose Luis is responsible for accepting applications from families and screening those applicants against the requirements. There is always a list of a dozen or more qualifying families. The families are also ex-



pected to work with the mission team as much as possible to build their home. Participation by family members can save as much as a day in construction time. Family children are often present and their expectant behavior always brings great joy to the volunteers.

