



Cleveland

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Cleveland was once one of the great industrial steel towns of the mid-west, but during the last 5 decades Cleveland has experienced devastating change. The population has decreased by over 50%, the educational system has fallen into disrepair, and the prevailing attitude has been bleak. But it is a new day, and Cleveland has been experiencing somewhat of a renaissance in its culture, direction, and potential. There is a growing conviction that the Lord is moving in powerful ways in the region. Doors of kingdom opportunity are opening in the midst of a tough urban environment, a rapidly developing refugee population, and through the collaborative efforts of kingdom minded churches and organizations. Envision Cleveland seeks to collaborate with individuals, communities, ministries, and government to transform neighborhoods across Cleveland.

MEET THE TEAM



Site Coordinators Tom and Nicole Schmidt have been married since 2001 and have four kids: Aidan, Manye, Mia and Abe. Tom has served with the C&MA since 2011 at Beulah Beach Camp and Retreat Center as part of the leadership team, overseeing the maintenance and facilities department. Tom is a carpenter who loves to teach and oversees The Shop, Envision’s vocational training center. Nicole has worked as an advocate for low-income families and children since 2006, serving various roles in and outside of the church. Tom and Nicole have a burden for lost people and a passion for impacting broken systems for the hope and purposes of God. They are excited to live with, learn from, and love the people of Cleveland.



Site Associates Jim and Denise Manchester work with resettled refugees and other immigrants as they oversee the Newcomers Ministry with Envision Cleveland. Jim also serves as our organization’s Financial Manager. They have been married since 1994 and have two adult children. They met in Germany while serving in the United States Air Force. Over the years, Jim and Denise have served in a variety of community roles including 4-H, after-school programs, youth groups, and at a multi-purpose community center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In their off-time, Jim and Denise love enjoying the outdoors and traveling to experience and learn about different cultures.



Site Associate Seng Chang is the Site Host for Envision Cleveland. She served in the Youth, Children, and Missions ministries at Pontiac Hmong Alliance Church (MI) over the last 15 years. Through serving in the local church, she started desiring to do more than just ministry within the church walls and began to pray for opportunities to serve outside the church. On her first mission’s trip to Burma (Myanmar), she discovered a love for the lost and unreached. She decided to finish school and become a teacher, so she could travel across the world to share God’s love through teaching. However, after leading a group to Envision Chicago and to Envision Cleveland, God opened her eyes to see the lost and unreached here in her neighboring cities. She is excited about connecting with the community, listening to the unheard stories, and simply loving people as God has loved her.



ALME Candidates Michael and Kaitlin Husk have been in the Cleveland area since 2018. Kaitlin serves as the Program Coordinator and works with short-term teams and volunteers. Michael is the Short-Term Teams Discipleship Coordinator. Michael and Kaitlin got to know each other while working with international students from Cleveland State University and were married in 2022. They are passionate about building relationships and providing Gospel access to the lost. They are called to overseas ministry and are excited to see what God has in store for them. In their down time, they enjoy playing soccer and volleyball, having campfires, hiking, and making ice cream.



Ministry

When you come to Cleveland, you will quickly notice the many struggles that our city deals with. Some of the external issues that you will notice are poverty, marginalized people, blight, refugees, human trafficking, drugs and crime. Under those issues we have identified four underlying issues:

Lack of Hope

Lack of Identity

Lack of Family

Lack of Resources

At Envision Cleveland we seek to collaborate with individuals, communities, and ministries to transform neighborhoods across Cleveland. One of our main resources is people. When you come to Cleveland, you will be joining us as we collaborate and resource those seeking to transform neighborhoods. You will have opportunities for engaging in local church outreach, assisting with home and property rehabilitation, interacting with overlooked people, meeting refugee families, helping with urban gardening, living life with people and much more. The mission focus of Envision Cleveland is engaging, educating and empowering with the hope of transforming neighborhoods. Our ministry centers around restoring hope and opportunities, not only to area residents but properties as well. It is our prayer that through our efforts and collaboration we will see transformed neighborhoods with wholistically restored people living with purpose.



Ministry Areas

Envision Cleveland does not have one centralized location, but it is spread in different neighborhoods within our city. When you partner with us, you will likely be involved with some or all of these sites and areas.

The Shop

The Shop, our vocational training center, will provide training to people of all ages to give residents greater opportunities for ongoing education, long-term job success, and access to the gospel. The Shop is currently being renovated with the goal of including a full wood shop, mechanics shop, small commercial kitchen, and studio spaces to be used by people of the surrounding neighborhood to provide skills in construction trades, mechanics, farming, culinary skills, and the arts. It is located in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood.

The Bridge

The Bridge Neighborhood Community Center is a resettled refugee and immigrant education and resource center, computer lab, and community gathering space. The services we offer are intended to help smooth newcomers transition as they LEARN English, citizenship, computers, and other valuable life skills; CONNECT with other newcomers and locals to foster a greater sense of community; and ultimately THRIVE as citizens and become an integral part of our community. It is located in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood.

Urban Gardens

Our gardens provide a great opportunity for intentional engagement with neighbors while providing healthy food options for them and their families. On the west side of Cleveland, we have a community garden, an orchard, and beekeeping. We also have a large greenhouse that is in cooperation with the Concerned Citizens Community Council in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood on the east side of Cleveland.

Other

Some of the other ways Envision Cleveland serves the community involve serving the marginalized and poor, providing sports and after-school programs for neighborhood children, and serving with local ministries through camps and VBS's. There is no shortage of organizations and ministries doing great things in Cleveland, but they often lack the people, finances and resources needed to make a true difference. There are resources available, and we want to find ways to redistribute those resources where they are needed most and can have the greatest impact. When you serve as an intern or short-term team you are helping to provide these resources.

General Information

WEEK LONG TRIPS

Length: Trips run from Saturday evening at 5:00 until Friday morning after breakfast.

Cost: The cost is \$525 per individual for 7 days. The expenses cover meals and lodging. Airfare / travel expenses are excluded.

Season: Week trips are offered in March, June, July, and August. View our schedule here: <https://www.envisioncleveland.org/trip-inquiry>. Connect with the Envision National Office at weareenvision.com to schedule a weeklong trip.

WEEKEND TRIPS

Length: Trips run from Friday evening at 5:00 until Sunday morning. Teams are encouraged to attend a local church Sunday morning.

Cost: The cost is \$135 per individual for the weekend. The expenses cover meals and lodging. Airfare / travel expenses are excluded.

Season: Weekend trips are offered in March – May, August, and October. View our schedule and inquire here: <https://www.envisioncleveland.org/trip-inquiry>

TEAM SIZE

Our team house can accommodate up to 16 people.

We require that you have a minimum of 8 participants to book a week with Envision.

If you are a smaller group, there may be another group(s) working alongside you during your time in Cleveland, so thank you for partnering with other brothers and sisters in Christ and being flexible.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Envision Cleveland does not have a minimum or maximum age requirement for its participants. We love having people of all ages! However, for individuals under 12 years old, we ask that they have an adult family member present who is responsible for them.



AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Please plan to arrive at the team house at 5PM the first evening of your trip.

Flying: Cleveland Hopkins is the closest airport to our site. It is about 10 minutes from our team house. Please let us know if you plan to fly, so we can determine transportation for your team during the trip.

Driving: We welcome groups that want to use their own vehicles to transport their group during the week. We are not able to provide transportation for your team.

HOUSING & FOOD

Our team house is located in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. Teams will serve all over the city of Cleveland but return at night to our team house. We can be flexible in hosting teams the best way we can but ask teams to remain flexible as well. We provide bunk beds with mattresses. Men and women stay on different floors; each floor has 12 beds and a bathroom. Please bring all linens/sleeping bags and a towel. Envision Cleveland has sheets, blankets and towels available for a \$25 per person charge if you would like. If so, please indicate this during registration.

Three meals a day are served by our Envision Cleveland team, often with your team's help. If someone on your team has diagnosed food allergies, please indicate so on their health form and contact Envision Cleveland well in advance so that we can make accommodations.

CELL PHONES

An Envision Cleveland trip can be an experience that is fun, impactful and life changing for both the participant and the city. We feel that teams need to be free from distraction and be ready to be all in while at our site. For that reason, we would ask all teams to respect and honor our Cell Phone guidelines while serving at Envision Cleveland.

- Teams will be allowed to have phones during their trip, but we strongly encourage you not to use the phone for personal communication during the day. There is free time in the evening where that could be appropriate (based on guidelines from your team leader).
- If we see that phones are becoming a distraction and hinderance, we will ask for them to be put away.
- We would encourage every team to designate a photographer to capture the trip and what God is doing in and through their team.
- Leaders will be asked to keep phones for us to communicate when necessary, emergencies and photographs. We would ask leaders to respect the guidelines listed above for any other time while serving here in Cleveland.
- Interns will be granted a little more access to phones to communicate with staff and team leaders and emergencies but will still be asked to limit phone use and be fully engaged.



Schedule

We cannot provide an exact schedule before you arrive on our site. Projects are constantly changing depending on what previous teams have completed, as well as the weather and the reality of working in an urban environment. Take a look at the earlier ministry section on page 7 to get an idea of the projects and ministry that may be a part of your trip.

The schedule will be unique on Sunday when your team will attend a local church and explore Cleveland. For the rest of the week, the schedule will look something like this:

7 AM	Wake up, breakfast, get ready
8 AM	Prayer, devotional, training time
9 AM	Load up for the day
9:30 AM	Worksite/Ministry Site
Noon	Lunch
1 PM	Worksite/Ministry Site/Camp
4 PM	Team House to clean up
6 PM	Dinner at staff member's home
7:30 PM	Debrief/group time
8:30 PM	Downtime
10 PM	Quiet hours begin
11 PM	Lights out

Packing List

- Work clothes that can get dirty
- Athletic clothes
- Work / Closed toed shoes
- Work / Garden gloves
- Clothes to wear to church (1 set)
- Comfortable/modest clothes for evenings
- Modest bathing suit (just in case)
- Bedding for twin mattress or sleeping bag
- Toiletries
- Pillow
- Bible, notebook, pen
- Backpack or drawstring bag
- Money for souvenirs
- Water bottle
- Electronic needs (charger, camera...)
- Project-specific tools/resources (ask Envision Cleveland)

DRESS CODE

While you are serving with Envision Cleveland it is important to remember three things when you are packing clothes: Cultural Sensitivity, Modesty, and Safety. For these reasons, we ask you to be prepared by packing clothes that are not overly revealing and tight. Girls, please pack a long skirt or pants and a shirt that covers shoulders. Guys, please pack long pants and a collared shirt. Tank tops and shorts are acceptable if they are not spaghetti straps and shorts are no higher than 4 inches above the knee. Please no two-piece bathing suits or bikini style. You will be assisting us with several projects so bring clothes you can get dirty and closed toed shoes. Last, please be prepared for activities like camp and sports clinics with the proper athletic wear.



Internships

Come serve and learn with Envision Cleveland in a Cross-Cultural / Urban environment! You will be given broad ministry exposure, intentional discipleship, and leadership development as you seek to prepare yourself to join in God's mission.

We offer internships from 2-9 months. Nine month internships begin in January and end the following September. Summer internships last from late May – early August.

The cost is \$1,000 per month. The expenses cover meals, lodging and all other on-site expenses except spending money. Airfare/travel expenses are excluded.

Summer staff will follow a similar schedule depending on the team and projects that are scheduled for the week. Summer staff are a part of helping the Envision Team facilitate ministry and groups throughout the summer.

Longer-term internships will be planned with the Site Coordinator and directors depending on roles, responsibilities and ministry activities. Intentional discipleship, development, and urban ministry experience will be included in the schedule.





Cultural Sensitivity

Cleveland is an urban environment. As such, it comes with unique characteristics that can be both positive and negative. An urban context is a fast-paced environment with lots of people, activities, events and food that can be different and exciting. One of Cleveland's unique characteristics is that it's one of the top five depositories of refugees in the U.S. - over a hundred different languages are spoken here. The world is coming to Cleveland! We have observed four main internal struggles in the city including a lack of hope, family (belonging), identity, and resources. From these internal issues, it seems there are several external symptoms that are produced. These include poverty, crime, gangs, drugs, trafficking, mental illness, segregation, and broken homes to name a few. In response to these, we believe God has called Envision Cleveland to a mission of Engaging, Educating, and Empowering. We seek to bring the hope of Jesus to all cultures represented in our great city. We want to stress to team leaders and teams the importance of understanding and respecting the truly diverse culture of Cleveland. Envision will take every measure to ensure the safety of your team, but we will need your help by following our instructions and guidelines. This is not just for your safety, but also to aid in the longevity and impact of our local churches and ministries. Upon arrival your team will be given safety and cultural guidelines that you will be expected to hold to firmly.

Even though you are still in the States, this will be a cross cultural experience. The people of Cleveland may look, speak and behave differently but always be remember that they are every bit as capable and valued as your team members. We want always to treat them with the respect that they deserve as people loved and bled for by the Most High God. We must remember that it's our mission to bring the people of Cleveland into meaningful interaction with the person of Jesus Christ. This work is done only through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It's our goal to make your time with us as impactful as possible, for the city, local ministries, and your team alike.

We will attempt to work through any problems that arise on your trip but reserve the right to send home any team member who is not committed to upholding the standards of Envision Cleveland.

We are very excited that you're coming to join the work that Jesus is doing through His Church in His city. We at Envision Cleveland are here to help you in any way possible. During your time with us, it's our prayer that you will hear the voice of God and respond in obedience. We commit to the best of our abilities to lead by example a life grounded in His Word and dependent on His Holy Spirit. We hope that you will join us in this style of living.



Contact Info



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