



**Send Relief**  
Oklahoma City





### Contact Information

Jim Lehw

Oklahoma City Ministry Center Director

[SendMe@sendrelief.org](mailto:SendMe@sendrelief.org)







## Meeting Needs, Changing Lives

Send Relief works with churches and volunteers to meet needs and change lives in communities within the U.S. and around the world.

By offering help and hope to the most vulnerable in collaboration with missionaries, local ministries and churches, your gifts and efforts through Send Relief have a long-term impact.

With Send Relief's help, churches and partners like you receive resources and training to be the hands and feet of Jesus to communities in crisis, refugees, human trafficking survivors, those affected by natural disasters and vulnerable children and families.



## Ministry Centers

Send Relief ministry centers deliver compassion ministry within local communities while providing mission trips and training opportunities for churches all over the country. The goal of ministry centers is twofold: serve communities well and encourage others to do the same.

All over North America, Send Relief ministry centers actively assess community needs, develop ministry strategies, deliver ministry and provide opportunities for others to go on mission.

# Community Snapshot

**Known as the Modern Frontier, Oklahoma City offers a range of experiences. It's the "Horse Show Capital of the World," full of cowboy culture. There's a thriving arts and food scene. It's also an outdoor adventure destination.**

Beyond the shine of the western lifestyle, though, lies a city in need of gospel-centered hope, with a poverty rate significantly higher than the national average and a high number of families experiencing food insecurity.

- **More than one in seven** Oklahomans live below the federal poverty line.
- OKC's unsheltered population remains high at **35%**. This percentage includes the number of people staying overnight in shelters, transitional housing and people without protection.
- The OKC Public School District had almost **2,000 children** experiencing homelessness enrolled at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year.
- The poverty rate in Oklahoma City is **15.2%**.
- **14.3%** of Oklahomans lack health insurance, which is significantly higher than the national uninsured rate of 9.2%.
- The poverty rate is **18.75% higher** than the U.S. average.
- 18.9% of high school graduates and 42.1% of non-high school graduates live in poverty.
- **Fewer than 70%** of households have internet access in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- One in eight Oklahoma adults reported not having enough food.
- In Oklahoma, on average, a family with two children spends 26% of household income on childcare.
- In Oklahoma County, **19% of children** live in poverty. The breakdown by race is 40% Black, 34% Hispanic, 27% American Indian, 14% Asian and 11% White.

# Oklahoma City Ministry Center Snapshot

## Ministries

### **Strengthen Communities**

By connecting with the schools, the center immediately engages with those with the greatest needs.

### **Care for Refugees**

The center is working with local organizations to help meet basic needs.

### **Protect Children & Families**

By partnering with the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children, the OKC Ministry Center helps to meet the long-term needs of single mothers coming out of homelessness and addiction recovery. They also help churches start Family Advocacy Ministries to serve families experiencing foster care.

### **Mobilization Opportunities**



# Oklahoma City Ministry Center Partnerships

**Ministry center director Jim Lehw also serves with the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC). OBHC's mission is to "demonstrate God's love by providing hope through empowering children and their families to follow Christ."**

The OKC Ministry Center has also started working with Moore Public Schools to help meet the needs of food insecurity and provide clothing for students and their families.

"Our main challenge is simply starting everything from the ground up," says Jim. "We are

listening to local leaders and learning how we can best minister in the area we serve."

The Oklahoma Ministry Center is located in the largest population of Vietnamese in OKC and is partnering with a local church planter in reaching out to the Vietnamese community through citizenship classes and other needs.

"We are assessing community needs and are looking to get beyond a handout and identifying ways for long-term help and discipleship opportunities," Jim explains. "Our work with the public schools puts us into a front-line context of meeting needs by helping educators with needs they see firsthand and connecting local churches to those needs. Helping teachers, counselors, PTA, and administration with resources."

The OKC Ministry Center also has partnered with the local police department to serve those experiencing homelessness.

- They work alongside officers to help with resources while they patrol neighborhoods.

Send Relief partners with OBHC in their work as the state's largest provider of private, not-for-profit, residential childcare.

- As an affiliate of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, OBHC does not charge for any services nor accept government funds.
- Serving more than 200 at-risk children and families, OBHC has four campus locations across the state of Oklahoma, providing for families and children's physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs.
- They have a variety of services across the state, from child placement services to programs for single-parent families, unplanned pregnancies and foster care training.

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*—Jim Lehw*



# History of the Oklahoma City Ministry Center

The OKC Ministry started as a conversation with Southern Hills Baptist Church and the North American Mission Board. The ministry center started with a vision of impacting

OKC and the surrounding region with compassion ministry. The ministry began in August 2022.







## Vision

The vision for the Oklahoma City Ministry Center is to engage hard places in Oklahoma and Cleveland County to show compassion and to share the gospel. They do this by continually serving the local community and connecting them to the church.



## Oklahoma City Ministries

### Future Ministry Plans

- Expand Strengthen Communities ministry projects
- Expand Care for Refugees ministry projects
- Expand Protect Children and Families projects

# Get Involved

One of the most powerful ways to show the most vulnerable the love of Christ is by taking steps toward them. By helping churches be the hands and feet of Jesus, Send Relief supports and provides opportunities for those who desire to respond directly to these needs in lasting, meaningful ways while sharing the hope of the gospel.

## Give

Your gift provides critical, immediate help to families and communities that need it most. Give today to provide practical care and share the love of Jesus.

[Click here or scan the QR code to give](#)



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## Serve

Participate in various compassion opportunities by taking a mission trip and vision tour to a ministry center around North America. Mission trips can include apartment outreach, food pantry ministry, after-school programs, sports ministry, canvassing, prayer walking, homeless ministry, physical labor, serving at-risk families and university campus ministry. The trip also includes aspects of training and equipping so you can learn how to connect and serve the international and refugee communities in your cities.

[Click here to sign up](#)





4200 North Point Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30022  
1-833-SENDHOPE  
SendRelief.org