



**Send Relief**  
Denver





## Contact Information

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## 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 long-term 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, families impacted by foster care and adoption and more.



## Ministry Centers

Send Relief ministry centers are networks of churches and partner organizations strategically delivering compassion ministry within local communities while providing missions and training opportunities for churches from all over the country. The goal of ministry centers is twofold: serve communities well and encourage others to do the same.

All over the U.S. and its territories, Send Relief ministry centers actively assess community needs, develop ministry strategies, deliver ministry and provide opportunities for others to go on mission.

# Community Snapshot

Set against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains on the front range of the Colorado's Rockies, the greater Denver area attracts those who love the outdoors.

- With a population of over **2.9 million**, the greater Denver area is expected to grow over the next decade. As the population grows, the need for the gospel keeps increasing.
- The **poverty rate in Denver is 15.1%**, which means one out of every 6.6 residents of Denver lives in poverty.
- Welfare Info reported that **100,611 of 666,136 Denver residents disclosed income levels below the poverty line** in the last year.
- Homelessness continues to also increase. In January 2020, there were **6,104 people** counted who were **homeless** in metro Denver. This year, **6,888** people were counted, according to the first phase of data.
- Denver Department of Public Health and Environment said **33%** of Denver's total population is facing food insecurity, **up from around 11 %** before the pandemic.
- Currently the metro Denver area includes 78 official neighborhoods as of Jan 2013. Feeding America reports that the north-east neighborhoods have the most food insecurity which make up the 11.0 % of food insecurity in the Denver County. These include Clayton, Cole, Elysria-Swansae, Five Points, Globeville, North Park Hill, Northeast Park Hill, Skyland and Whittier.
- 1 in 6 households (**1 in 5 children**) in Denver experience **food insecurity or hunger**.
- Nearly **70% of the Denver Public Schools student body** is eligible for free or reduced cost meal programs..
- Denver's **immigrants and refugees continue to increase**. The top five countries of origin for its immigrant population are: Mexico, Vietnam, China, Ethiopia, and El Salvador.
- 60% of Denver's immigrants are from Latin America, 20% from Asia, 9% from Europe, and 9% from Africa.
- The neighborhoods with the highest percentage of immigrant populations in Denver are: Kennedy (41%), College View/South Platte (37%), Elyria Swansea (36%), Ruby Hill (35%), and Valverde (33%).
- The refugee population in Denver consists of **9,769 immigrants**.



# Denver Ministry Center Snapshot

## Ministries

### Strengthen Communities

- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Food Insecurity

### Care for Refugees

- Education and After-School Programs
- Basic Needs Ministry
- Skills Training

### Mobilization Opportunities

- Mission Trips
- Vision Tours
- Training



Denver's Ministry Center's work includes opportunities to assist with mercy and compassion projects and outreach opportunities into new communities.

# Denver Ministry Center Community Partnerships

The Denver Send Relief Ministry Center provides resources, invests in intentional relationships and facilitates recovery for refugees, families in the foster care system, and people experiencing homelessness or poverty.

- Located in the city's southeast area, the Denver Ministry Center works collaboratively with other nonprofits, government agencies, established churches and Send Network church plants. They provide support, help and care for the 33-city area of Denver.
- This work includes opportunities to assist with mercy and compassion projects and outreach opportunities into new communities where church plants continue to grow.
- Surrounded by international communities who speak more than 65 languages and represent more than 50 countries, the ministry center develops relationships with local nonprofits and churches.
- In 2020, the Denver Ministry Center worked with Place Bridge Academy and Denver Food Rescue to provide the No Cost Grocery Program for the community.

Jason Tipton, the Denver Ministry Center director, said, "Some of our community struggles that concern me personally involve caring for refugees. We need resources for resettlement, especially around housing costs. The rates of human trafficking have increased. And we need to provide aid in pediatric mental health due to the unprecedented rate of youth suicides."

Jason wrote, "We have a genuine shared effort between us and other nonprofits, government agencies, and our Send Network church plants. The sacrificial spirit among the volunteers has proved amazing."

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***—Jason Tipton***



# History of the Denver Ministry Center

The Denver Ministry center started serving families at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Derick Sherfey, the pastor of Strategy and Sending at The Oaks Church, a Send Network church plant, was asked by The Place Bridge Academy to help feed underserved families in their reduced lunch program. Derick contacted Jason for help in meeting this great need and a partnership was established.

Jason explained, “We said we would help, not knowing where the resources would come from, and so Derick mobilized his church, and I mobilized another local church, and together we worked alongside two other food banks and the Denver Food Rescue.”

Soon they started delivering food Sunday afternoons. They also partnered with Clothes to Kids to provide new clothing for many

children. With the help of several mission teams, they gave the exterior of the school facility and the recreational area a facelift.

They recently launched a resource center on the school’s campus that provides clothing and hygiene resources. Through ongoing relationship development, they plan to help parents by developing a skills training project.







## Vision

Believing broken relationships as the root of poverty, the Denver Ministry Center exists to offer its neighbors who experience poverty access to a restored life. The Ministry Center is building a local Lovewell ministry, a ministry that originated in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Lovewell is a membership-based resource center that gives members the opportunity to earn physical resources they need by attending classes and programs designed to help them move out of poverty and homelessness and into a restored life. Members can use earned credits in The Lovewell stores: The Dresswell clothing store, The Smellwell laundromat, The Eatwell food store and The Stylewell hair salon.

“With the Lovewell Center, we have the unique privilege of entering into people’s stories when they’re at their most in-need, their lowest points, their realization that their lives are completely upended and forever changed,” said Amy Hulst, Lovewell Center director. “With our long-running programs, families tell us they don’t know how they would’ve made it through their week. For some refugees, we’re their only connection to people outside their family, apartment complex, or ethnic community.”

## Denver Ministries

### Future Ministry Plans

- Establish a permanent Lovewell ministry
- Multiply mobile Lovewell outreaches and events
- Offer job and career readiness programs
- Support the replication of resource centers with local schools

# 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 that you can learn how to connect and serve the international and refugee communities in their cities.

[Click here to sign up](#)





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