



Send Relief
St. Louis





Contact Information

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St. Louis Ministry Center Director

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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 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

St. Louis is an innovation hub. The ice cream cone, iced tea, 7-Up, American kindergarten and the interstate highway started here.

There is also a thriving startup scene; St. Louisans love supporting local products, businesses and leaders.

The St. Louis Ministry Center currently offices in Ferguson, Missouri, a northern suburb of St. Louis, about 12 miles from downtown. Ferguson has just over 18,000 residents.

A little more than **1 in 4 people** in Ferguson live under the poverty line, and there is a significant unhoused population that the city is struggling to care for, particularly during harsh winter stretches.

The average household income is **\$37,376**

The two largest ethnic groups in Ferguson, Missouri, are Black or African American (**68.9%**) and White (**22.5%**).

1 in 6 individuals lives in poverty and struggles with hunger in the greater St. Louis region, including **more than 173,000 children**.

More than 40% of St. Louis' residents live in poverty.

Racial tension and inequality in the city are still evident though progress has been made over the past few years.

St. Louis has the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia. After the Bosnian War in the early 90s, tens of thousands of refugees made their way to St. Louis, and the city still has more than **50,000 Bosnian immigrants** in the metro area. Beyond the Bosnian community, St. Louis continues to receive hundreds of refugees from around the world each year.

St. Louis City Ministry Center Snapshot

Ministries

Strengthen Communities

Poverty
Housing Stability
Food Insecurity

Care for Refugees

Basic Needs Ministry

Protect Children & Families

Foster & Adoption Ministries



“St. Louis is a city filled with both beauty and brokenness and we are learning every day how the Lord wants to use us in his restorative vision for our city.”

—Kale Uzzle

St. Louis Ministry Center Community Partnerships

Send Relief's St. Louis Ministry Center's highest priority right now is learning the needs and assets of its immediate neighborhood and connecting with local leaders, including city officials.

In their first year of operation, they are working to develop ministries and host mission teams in the neighborhood.

The St. Louis Ministry Center leans heavily on its partners and local churches as they work to build their internal ministry strategy.

“Our incoming teams will be crucial for us in learning the community and how we can best use our resources to bless the neighborhood,” Kale Uzzle, the St. Louis Ministry Center director, explains.

At the end of 2022, the St. Louis Ministry Center has recently partnered with the fire department to provide a housing option for anyone displaced by a snowstorm.

In the Spring and Summer of 2023, Ministry Center staff began working with city officials to identify homeowners in need of landscaping and minor home repair projects to provide housing stability. Mission teams have been crucial in blessing the lives of neighbors in the community and building bridges to local municipal and non-profit leaders.

The St. Louis Ministry Center has also worked closely with Send Network St. Louis, the North American Mission Board's local church-planting arm, to send teams to do outreach and hands-on projects with church planters in the area.

“Our ministry center is brand-new to Ferguson. It has been a humbling process to realize how little we know about what the city needs or the solutions to the immense problems and opportunities facing the community.” Kale Uzzle says. “We feel so encouraged by the hospitality and kindness of the city leaders and the local ministry community — many of whom have worked in Ferguson for generations. We are taking the next year to listen and learn and figure out how to best find a seat at the table where we can work alongside other ministries that have come before us. It has been challenging but ultimately rewarding to begin this learning process.”

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History of the St. Louis Ministry Center

The Send Relief St. Louis Ministry Center began when the local association — the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association — started working toward constructing a mission team housing space before the pandemic halted the project.

In the summer of 2021, after hearing about Send Relief Ministry Centers at the SBC Annual Convention, the director met with staff from Send Relief to talk about making St. Louis one of the Send Relief Ministry Center sites.

Near the historic downtown area, the community around the St. Louis Ministry Center has seen some revitalization in the past 10 years as several new businesses and developments have started, and the city is eager to see them grow and expand. There are restaurants and grocery stores within walking distance and a large city park nearby.

The St. Louis Ministry Center has partnered closely with Oasis International, the leading Christian refugee resettlement agency in St. Louis, to create opportunities for teams to

interact with and care for the thousands of refugees that have made St. Louis their home.

Many have arrived in the past five years, including several Afghan and Ukrainian families. They have had teams deliver furniture to new arrivals, provide childcare for moms learning English, and host large events for refugee families to interact with American families, often for the first time.





St. Louis Ministry Center

Future Ministry Plans

- Strengthen Communities
- Food Distribution
- Stable and Affordable Housing
- Increase Church Partnerships

Vision

The vision of the St. Louis Ministry Center is to inspire and equip churches and missionaries to lead gospel-centered compassion ministries all over the country. They want others to see how the Lord uses the Center and sense the Holy Spirit, inviting them to say yes to these needs and opportunities back home.

“We want to see lives and neighborhoods transformed by the gospel starting in St. Louis but expanding outward as teams return home to ‘go and do likewise.’” Kale Uzzle

They want to see Jesus use the St. Louis Ministry Center and its partners. They want to end the affordable housing crisis in St. Louis and put emergency shelters out of commission because every person in St. Louis has a warm place to lay their head at night.



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](#)





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