

## Mission Grant Story • February 2020

### GOD'S GRACE AND RESTORING HOPE Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families Camp Restore Detroit — \$100,000

Camp Restore New Orleans has been a beacon in the city of New Orleans for many years, providing hope, restoration, and care to the people affected by hurricane Katrina. The devastation caused by that hurricane is very similar to what is seen when driving through some of the streets of Detroit today. It's clear there has also been a disaster there — an economic disaster — with ruins similar to that of New Orleans. Detroit residents call it “a hurricane without water.” Families live in areas where adjacent yards, sidewalks, and building foundations sometimes can't be seen due to the overgrowth of weeds and debris. With low population numbers and declining real estate values, it is difficult for the city to provide services that many of us take for granted. Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) was created as a ministry of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, an LCMS church located in the middle of the disaster-ridden Ninth Precinct.

In May 2017, the first “campers” (volunteers) began arriving. They partnered with local community leaders to restore hope to this area, while being fed and housed at Mt. Calvary. The volunteers have cleared hundreds of lots, boarded up countless houses, and served at nursing homes,

food banks, and sport centers as they worked with local leaders. Watching God work through these people has been powerful. An uplifting, cooperative relationship has been established among Camp Restore personnel, Mt. Calvary members, and people in the community. With the encouragement of the city of Detroit, CRD purchased, at a minimal cost, lots adjacent to the church which included two abandoned houses. Camp Restore Detroit has requested funds to help renovate these houses into Christ-centered community outreach centers and community gardens, where lives of children and families can be changed.

This mission grant will provide funds to transform these abandoned houses in the community into places where families, children, and other adults can enjoy hearing the Gospel in a safe setting, while engaging in personal growth activities that bring joy, creativity, education, and hope back into their lives.

***Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3).***

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