



STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MINISTRIES

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS
HANDBOOK



Table of Contents:
Vision & Outreach Overview
How To Pray
Daily Schedule
Cultural Notes
Guidelines for Gift Giving
Packing List & Fundraising
Tool List

Vision

Strategic Alliance Ministries was founded by Roland and Carolyn Ashby 30+ years ago. Over the last 30 years, we have taken teams from all over the U.S. to the Mexican American border in the Colonia of Reynosa, Mexico to build Homes for the Homeless among the poorest of the poor.

“Who can be compared with the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high? He stoops to look down on heaven and on earth. He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, even the princes of his own people!” Psalm 113:5-8 (NLT)

This is our call, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to clothe the needy and give to the poor. Going on an Outreach and building a home is more than providing shelter, it is showing the love of Jesus and being a part of the great commission.

Outreach Overview

This outreach is designed for people of all ages and abilities, construction experience is not required. Each Homes for the Homeless Outreach is a 4-6 day-long construction-based outreach in the Colonia of Reynosa, Mexico. The Colonia that we work in is built on a garbage dump where many of the people work to provide for their families. Homebuilding teams must have a minimum of 8 people. Individuals wanting to attend will be added to existing groups.

How to Pray

While this is a construction-based outreach we also have the incredible opportunity to minister to, love on, pray with and encourage the families whom we build for; as well as the surrounding neighbors. Because of these incredible times of ministry, the enemy's attacks are prevalent. We encourage you to be in prayer before the trip and have a home-based team of people praying for you before, and while on this Outreach.

Our time in Reynosa is incredible but can also be spiritually and physically exhausting. Be prepared to be flexible, have a servant's heart, offer and ask for forgiveness quickly, and be ready to jump in on whatever project needs attention.



Daily Schedule

Day 1 - Travel Day

Airport pick-ups

Cross border to Reynosa, Arrive at Hotel

7:00PM Dinner, Orientation & Group Meeting

11:00PM Lights Out, Rest up for 1st Workday

Day 2-5 - Work Day Schedule

6:30-7:00AM Prayer & Devotion

7:00-7:45AM Breakfast

8:00AM Leave Hotel for Colonia Work Site

1-1:45PM Lunch @Assigned Location

5:00PM Return to Hotel – Rest, Clean Up

6:30PM Dinner

7:30PM Group Meeting

11:00PM Lights Out

Day 6 - Departures - TBA

**5 Day Trips will have combined
final day of Dedication + Travel Home*

Cultural Notes

Meals

- Eat what is prepared for you.
- Breakfast & Dinner will be prepared at the Hotel, please allow everyone to go through the line before returning for seconds.
- Remember to thank the cooks and servers.
- Be responsible to clean up your own table.

Water & Beverages

- DRINK WATER, it's important to stay hydrated
- Only consume water that is bottled and sealed or has been provided by Strategic Alliance. Water will be provided daily at the work site.

Dress Code

- Dress should be modest and appropriate for the day's activities; team leads have authority to request a change if inappropriate.
- Men must wear shirts at all times & hats must be removed during prayer

What to Pack in Your Bag for the Day

- **WATER BOTTLE**
- Toilet Paper (do NOT flush toilet paper or personal hygiene products in any toilets while in Mexico)
- Sunscreen + Chapstick
- Money & Valuables (keep money with you at all times)

Communication + Team Unity

- Greet the Mexican people with a handshake and smile
- Communicate all difficulties to your group leader
- Let your leader know where you are at ALL TIMES, boundaries will be set at each location
- The "Buddy System" is in effect, do not walk to the store or anywhere alone/without permission from your leader or parent.
- Girls/Women: Ignore remarks from the Mexican boys or men, do not make eye contact
- Mexicans know Americans as very loud people so please show a quiet and peaceable spirit
- Prefer your brother/sister in all situations

Vans

- NO CHEWING GUM in the vans
- Clean up after yourself each time leaving the van, trash bags will be provided
- Be respectful to your van driver, driving in Mexico can be challenging at times. The driver of the van also controls the stereo and music.

Guidelines for Gift Giving

Each year, after the homes are built, we bless each family with basic furnishings and food to help have a fresh start to their new home. When we meet the families and learn their specific needs, we will purchase what we believe will bless them most.

In our experience \$300-\$400 is enough to cover the items that are needed to equip the homes built and to also bless each family member. If your group brought an extra amount of money to be given there are always needs in the community that can be met. It is important to NOT give money to anyone directly. Please see Roland first for direction for extra funds. Most importantly, remember that all the money and things we provide for these families cannot replace the love and respect we bring with us. Building relationships with these families should always be our first priority as a doorway into their heart to share Jesus. The food will be eaten, the clothing worn out, but the relationships will last forever.



Packing List

ONE suitcase
Passport or Passport Card
Plastic bag for dirty clothes
Work Clothes
Work shoes/socks
Work Gloves
Hat
Sunscreen
Wet wipes/disinfectant wipes
Personal toiletries
Rubber boots/rain poncho (check the weather forecast before outreach)
Washcloths
Soap
Spending money
Bible, notebook & pen
Snacks
Safety Glasses
WATER BOTTLE (clean water will be provided at the home building site and hotel)

What NOT to pack:

Firearms, weapons or knives of any kind are **NOT** allowed on any Outreaches

Fundraising

Raising money for an outreach may not sound easy, but we serve a God who provides!
Below are some fundraising ideas that have been helpful for others in the past:

Babysitting
Bake sale
Garage Sale
Cleaning houses
Support Letters
Yardwork

Tool List

Electric power saw (Skilsaw)
Extra Circular Blade
Wrench
Measuring Tapes (16'-25')
Carpenters Pencils
Hand Saw
Hammers
Tool Belts
Safety Glasses
Framing Square and/or speed square
Small crowbar
Nail puller bar (crow's foot)
Electric (110-volt) cordless drill
110-volt three-prong or two-prong adapter
Chalk line with chalk
¼ inch (quarter inch) magnetized socket for electric drill or screw gun
100' electric cords with multiple plugs
Spirit level (2' or 4')
Pair of tin snips for metal roofing
Basic assortment of wrenches and screwdrivers
Roll of string
Paintbrushes
Paint rollers
Roller covers
One gallon plastic paint buckets
Plastic paint roller trays
Extension handle for rollers
Assortment of rags or paper towels for clean up
Saw Horses
Ladder
Windex/Paper Towels

**For any questions
email: kristiana@strategicalliance.org**

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