Enrolling as a volunteer

All volunteers must ...

- Attend a Volunteer Orientation - either at main office or with a MWMW Program Director
- Fill out and submit all necessary paperwork (Forms: Application, Background Check, Waiver, Confidentiality, Electronic-Media Use)
- Pay $7 for background check
- Be referred by Volunteer Program staff, and/or approved by a MWMW Program Director

Contact Information

1315 N. 15th St., Waco, TX 76707
(254) 753-4900
www.missionwaco.org
volunteers@missionwaco.org
History

Our organization grew from a decision a few families made to move into an impoverished and crime filled neighborhood of North Waco, among them was Jimmy and Janet Dorrell. As they collaborated together, listened to the needs of their neighbors, began taking a stand with their neighbors against issues of social injustice, built a basketball court, developed “King’s Clubs’ for children from lower-income families, facilitated Bible studies, planned occasional neighborhood special events, took groups to Haiti, Mexico, and India, and developed a Poverty Simulation for helping the middle-class better understand poverty and how to appropriately help. Eventually, in 1992, an initiative was started called Mission Waco (becoming Mission Waco, Mission World in 2012). Jimmy and Janet became the leaders of this new organization. John Calaway became our Executive Director in 2018. Go to http://missionwaco.org/history-of-mission-waco-mission-world/ to learn more.

Theology

Mission Waco, Mission World, Inc. (MWMW) affirms and aligns with the mainstream Christian community of faith. The Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed are good statements to get to the foundation of our beliefs. We endorse the Bible as Holy Scriptures, a divinely inspired and authoritative source to guide our actions and planning; calling us to live out justice, reconciliation, and redemption. Our faith is in the exclusivity of Jesus Christ; we take very seriously his life and teachings, particularly his solidarity with marginalized, impoverished, suffering people. Our hope is in Christ’s accomplished work through his death on the cross and resurrection. We affirm the free gift of salvation through Christ, and that following him is more than just words—there is a cost and a lifestyle that shows validity of salvation. We believe the Holy Spirit continues to work in our world through the community of God’s people, and nurturing communities of faith (churches) can best provide the thrusts of evangelism, discipleship, spiritual accountability and relationships by which disciples grow in their walk with God. From the command of Jesus, we also believe that it is the responsibility of the church to love their neighbor and their neighborhood, so we exist to be an instrument of the church (referred to often as “parachurch” or “pro-church” ministry), equipped to help improve the conditions causing suffering for our neighbors and help restore our neighborhood and the world to fuller experiences of peace with God.

Who we are

MWMW is an interdenominational Christian faith based nonprofit 501(c)(3). We are a collective of programs and community development projects striving to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through expressions of love and service aimed at (1.) empowering the poor and marginalized with holistic, relationship based programs, (2.) educating and mobilizing others to become more compassionate towards the poor, and (3.) seeking ways to overcome the systemic issues of social injustice which oppress the poor and marginalized. We are committed to the restoration of multiple neighborhoods in Waco. We provide children’s programs, youth programs, a drug & alcohol recovery program, emergency homeless shelter, a health clinic, housing programs, grocery store, job training, poverty simulations, urban agriculture and aquaponics project, and much more. We have also committed to community development initiatives in areas of Haiti, India, and Mexico. We collaborate with the Christian Community Development Association and are active members of the Texas Christian Community Development Network.
Volunteers

Volunteers are the “heart” of MWMW. To sustain our work and achieve our goals, our organization functions at its best by the active participation of volunteers. MWMW integrates volunteers at all levels and in a variety of ways within all our programs and activities. All MWMW staff is encouraged and expected to utilize volunteers in meaningful and productive ways.

Guidelines and Recommendations

**General ...**

- Don’t overcommit right away. We encourage you to take some time getting familiar with program and program staff.
- If you do not connect with the program director, or have concerns volunteering in your designated program, please let the Volunteer Program staff know before you stop volunteering at MWMW. There may be other opportunities in other areas of MWMW more suited for you.
- Avoid any situations that put you at risk of danger.
- We expect our volunteers to uphold high moral integrity.
- As an interdenominational ministry, non-central doctrinal issues which typically divide the Christian church are to be only discussed as “personal opinions” and not the view of MWMW.
- As a volunteer, you are a representative of MWMW to our participants, neighbors, and community. Therefore, you shall dress appropriately and modestly for the conditions and performance of your duties, not wearing clothing that draws attention to yourself or such that creates confrontation (such as political, controversial, etc.). Some program sites areas have further guidelines.
- As appropriate, you will have access to our property and materials to fulfill your duties. Please help us ensure that you have been given proper training for operating any of our equipment. Property and materials shall be used only when directly required for the volunteer task; including our vehicles.
- Any activities or actions that include sexual abuse, harassment, or corporal punishment are not allowed by staff, volunteers, or participants toward any other staff, volunteers, or participants. All suspected activity should be immediately reported to program director or other management staff.
- Prior to any action or statement that may significantly affect or obligate MWMW, seek consultation and approval from appropriate staff. These actions may include, but are not limited to, public statements to the press, lobbying efforts with other organizations, collaborations or joint initiatives, creating fundraisers, or any agreements involving contractual or other financial obligations.

**Relating to our program participants ...**

- When volunteering with those whom we serve ...  
  - Respectfully refer to them as ‘participants’, not clients (except at our clinic); best to call them by their names.  
  - Don’t give out money. Encourage the participant to contact staff if there are needs.  
  - Do not invite anyone to your personal residence without prior discussion with the MWMW program director,  
  - Do not give rides to participants (unless approved by MWMW).
- If you are aware of any involvement in illegal or unethical activity by a participant, volunteer, or staff member, you should immediately report that to program director or other management staff.
- You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all personal and privileged information to which you are exposed while serving with and/or near our participants. This also includes information about staff, other volunteers, neighbors, or any other person involved in the overall business of MWMW.
- Notify MWMW program staff of any injuries incurred. Volunteers and participants are responsible for their own medical care and expenses. Please become familiar with where the first aid kit(s) in case they are needed.
- Regarding evangelism, our organization practices a relationship and friendship based approach, not what has been commonly referred to as “hyper-evangelism” - track driven, and/or one time alter call, “witnessing” events.

**Relating to areas with minors ...**

- Any child under age 18 in a MW program who shows obvious signs of child abuse or neglect or mentions such to the volunteer should be reported to the Child Protective Services. Also immediately inform program director. If unsure, involve program director or MWMW social services staff.
- Practice “the rule of 3” - there should always be at least three people present in any situation, with at least one of those being an adult.
Our hopes for you …

- Try to get as familiar as possible with all MWMW resources and programs, particularly our services provided through the Meyer Center, as well as other resources in Waco; the more aware you are, the more equipped you are to help us serve our community.
- Volunteering may be seasonal for you, but we hope your time with us is transformational and motivates you to a lifetime of volunteering.
- We ask you to consider not just coming to give your time and energy, but remaining open to the gains of learning from our participants and staff.
- We hope that you will contribute to helping us help the "unchurched" overcome barriers that separate them from a personal relationship with God by providing caring relationships that show Christ-like compassion.
- We encourage you to pray frequently for yourself, the participants and staff you are serving, and further impact.
- The global population living in extreme poverty (living on less than $1.90 a day, or about $694 a year) has fallen below 750 million for the first time since the World Bank began collecting global statistics in 1990, a decline of more than 1 billion people in the past 25 years” (Wall Street Journal). Let’s work together to see this number dwindle into the thousands!

Questions and Answers …

What do I do when someone is asking for money?

Try to start with learning "who they are" or "where they are." Always give good eye contact, listen, ask for their name, and try to reflect back your concern for their situation (avoid interrogating, preaching, or criticizing). We encourage you to reach out to our staff and others who have many long-term relationships in the community to see what resources are available, and also to consider ways to empower and preserve the dignity of the person expressing a need.

Look here to be familiar with other resources available in Waco!

- Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG), https://hotcog.org/, or call 211.
- Prosper Waco, https://prosperwaco.org/
- Act Locally, https://www.actlocallywaco.org/

What do you understand to be a holistic approach?

MWMW’s goal is to reach the whole person with the whole Gospel of Christ. Therefore, we are concerned with the many facets and issues facing our community; including our broken relationship with God, ourselves, others, and creation. It is with all of these relationships we seek restoration, reconciliation, and redemption.

Can I volunteer in multiple volunteer areas?

Absolutely! You are welcome to notify our Volunteer Program staff of several places you are interested in.

Can I donate to programs in specific ways?

Of course, and please do! Donations to our “general operating” costs are always needed, and you are welcome to designate a donation to any program area. And you are welcome to talk with any of our program directors about ways to donate apart from just giving money.
More ways to connect and support us

Come eat at our Café and shop at our Fair Trade Market, 1321 N. 15th St. We were voted one of the best breakfast spots in Waco, and have fair trade certified products from all over the world.

Visit our Renewable Energy and Agricultural Project and see our aquaponics system, join our composting program, hear more about sustainable practices, purchase home gardening supplies, and more.

MWMW bought the old "Martha Jane's" liquor store just over two years ago to rid the final negative icon of our neighborhood. It is now a family owned Mexican ice-cream and popsicle business. Go get a homemade popsicle and support the new 'Colcord Center', 1500 Colcord Ave.

Help sustain our grocery store by shopping there and prevent our neighbors from living in a food desert. Get an Oasis Card and get $3 added to your card for every $25 spent. 1505 N. 15th St.

Shop at our women’s clothing resale store, 1817 Franklin Ave., and directly support our men’s drug and alcohol recovery program — The Manna House.

Come to a play. Go to http://www.jubileetheatre-waco.org/ and look at upcoming theater shows performed by children and youth in our programs and neighborhood. 1319 N. 15th St.

“We want to create an environment where we listen and learn from our friends in poverty so we can provide resource and love like God does.” (John Calaway, MWMW’s Executive Director).

“We make a living by what we get. You make a life by what you give.” (Winston Churchill)
Join us in praying for our staff, volunteers, participants, neighbors, our impact, and God’s continued care over the entire world.

If you want to learn more about why we do what we do, there are a number of different ways to connect with us. You can participate in activities like the Poverty Simulation, Exposure trips, “The Other Side of Waco Tour”, overnight service-learning experiences, and more. Go to http://missionwaco.org/get-involved/ for more info.

Consider not just donating your time and energy, but fueling our impact financially. Donate either online, or through our Flourish account—every time you swipe your credit and/or debit card, Flourish rounds up to give that change to MWMW.

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve…. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

“Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

- St. Teresa of Avila