



## **Boston Mission Trip - St. Joseph Church April 13-18, 2018**

High school students and mature eighth graders at St. Joseph Church in Charlton are invited to attend a service trip with the Center for Student Missions April 13-18, 2018. We have decided to work with them at their Boston location. Massachusetts is the third most disparate state in terms of income inequality in the nation, and in Boston there are about 7,600 homeless people in the city, half of whom are families. We will be working with the urban poor in different ministries, which will vary based on what is available that week through the Center for Student Missions.

Typical types of ministries that might be engaged by the Center for Student Missions include:

**Star Light Ministries Opportunity Resource Center:** Starlight Ministries, which operates out of the Emmanuel Gospel Center (EGC), seeks to minister to the urban poor through ongoing relation connection and friendship. One of the ways they do this is through their weekly Opportunity Resource Center, a drop-in where men and women are able to come and get basic clothing items, toiletries, and haircuts. They are also able to connect with a staff member or volunteer and receive prayer. CSM groups assist the other volunteers in speaking with those in need, finding the requested items for them from the storeroom, and praying with them.

**Boston Rescue Mission:** serves the homeless population of Boston in a variety of different ways. They offer an overnight shelter, a soup kitchen, and a unique community of caring and accountability so that every individual they serve can achieve some level of self-sufficiency. CSM groups help in the kitchen and interact with residents at meal times.

More information can be found on the Center for Student Missions website or by viewing their promotional videos at <http://www.csm.org/dvd.php>.

Each day, all three meals are included, dinner always takes place at a local ethnic restaurant representative of the neighborhood in which we will be working. There will be daily Mass offered by Father Donato and time for reflection.

The cost for the trip is \$340. To reduce the cost of the trip please see Fr. Donato for opportunities to earn money from our Life Teen Bank. Please speak to Father Donato about any financial needs or concerns related to the trip.

Those interested in applying for one of our **10 spots** need to fill out the application form and submit it to Fr. Donato. This is **NOT** first come first serve, as priority will be given to students who have not yet been on a service trip with the parish. Please have application forms in by **Sunday, January 14, 2018**. At that time, remaining spots will open for those who have been on the trip previously and to teens from other parishes who have expressed interest.

Please contact Father Donato at [donato.infante@gmail.com](mailto:donato.infante@gmail.com) or 508-248-7862 x5 with any questions you may have.

## **Endorsements from our own teens who have gone before:**

Lizzy: I originally went on the mission trip to Boston because I wanted to help people, not entirely for the religious reasons it was intended for. I have always struggled with being involved in my own faith, but I can honestly say the Boston trip has changed that forever. During that week I was miles out of my comfort zone, yet I don't think I have ever felt more at home. This trip taught me that you can talk to God, even if it's through someone who speaks no English, and even if you don't say a word. I am truly grateful for the people I had the privilege of meeting and for having received so much more than I gave.

Ben: The Boston Mission trip was not only fun and enjoyable but also educational. It pushes you out of your comfort zone and into the life of a homeless citizen of Boston, in a way I never thought possible. You truly get to meet the homeless and learn their stories, and it's not always what it may seem. I highly recommend this mission trip, it will show you how fortunate and blessed you are and can show you many ways you can help those who are in need.

Laura: The trip that we took to Boston in April of 2017 has changed my life. I will never forget anything that happened that week because the whole experience impacted my life in such a positive way that anyone would be thankful for. Seeing all of the people we encountered broke my heart. Some more than others. It is truly heartbreaking to see normal people like yourself struggle because they are less fortunate than you are. When you connected with some of them, they are very very nice people. People that deserve more. Bottom line, the trip changed my aspects on a lot of things and I will never forget it.



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**Please type or print clearly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle **ALL** the trips you have been on in the past with the parish:

Steubenville East Youth Conference	Haiti Mission
Camp Sunshine Mission Trip	Boston Mission Trip
March for Life	Card Board City
Steubenville Ohio Mission Trip	

Please type or write 4-5 sentences answering the question: "Why do you want to come on this mission Trip?"

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_