

## About the trip

Our youth and adults will be serving in many different ways during our week in Benton Harbor. We'll break into smaller work groups during the day. These groups will spend two days working with children in a VBS program. The other two days, they might be sorting goods at a donation center, working on a house, or helping at a ministry for the elderly or homeless. All of these ministry opportunities are arranged for and supervised by Youthworks!

YouthWorks is a multi-denominational ministry that provides mission trip opportunities to churches and youth programs. They focus on providing a safe environment for youth to experience the joys of serving the Lord and ministering to those in need. Youthworks has four full-time staff members, in addition to our leaders, that will direct our youth during the week. YouthWorks is concerned with safety at all times. There are appropriate boundaries at the mission site, and they ask participants to travel in groups of at least 3 at all times, including one adult. The staff live in the community throughout the summer, communicating with local residents and building relationships so that they can be informed of possible safety concerns. All YouthWorks staff members are First Aid and CPR trained and know where the nearest hospital is located, in case of an emergency. More information about YouthWorks can be found at their website: [www.YouthWorks.com](http://www.YouthWorks.com)

## Where are we staying?

We will be staying at the Salvation Army building in Benton Harbor. This is a multi-story, mostly air-conditioned building with shower facilities. It has a church, a cafeteria, gymnasium, and many rooms for our use. We'll be sleeping on the floor, so bring a camping pad or small air mattress (no larger than twin-sized). The girls will be sleeping in the gymnasium and the boys will be in two large Sunday school classrooms.

## What to wear/bring

YouthWorks requires a more conservative dress code than many of our youth are used to. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are not permitted. Please refrain from clothing that might show midriffs or undergarments. Students are required to wear shorts mid-thigh or longer. This may be an inconvenience, especially for girls, but it is a fair requirement, given the type of work we will be doing during the week. Another requirement is the wearing of closed-toe shoes at the worksite and in the kitchen. This is entirely a safety concern. Finally, as always, we ask that girls please not pack two-piece bathing suits. If you don't have a one-piece swimsuit, you will be asked to wear a t-shirt over your bathing suit. I have enclosed the clothing policy in this packet and I hope that you'll take a moment to review this with your son or daughter. In addition, curling irons, blow dryers, CD players, walkmans, electronic games, and **cell phones** are not necessary for this trip and we ask students not to bring them. The students will have opportunities to use payphones, if they so desire, throughout the week. Adults will have cell phones for emergencies.

## Other trip details

Please plan to join us Saturday evening (6/28) for a special commissioning service at 7pm. Because of our early departure Sunday morning, we're offering a special opportunity for worship, communion, and prayer. The service will use contemporary liturgy and songs that we often enjoy at TNT.

On Sunday, we will meet at the church at 7:15am. The vans will be in the back of the parking lot where you should drop off your luggage. We are planning to depart Ruthfred by 8:00am. The drive to Benton Harbor is around 7 hours driving time. A prompt departure, along with a stop for lunch and two rest stops, will put us at our destination at approximately 5pm. We will call the phone chain upon arrival, which will be distributed at the time of departure. Please pack a sack lunch for the trip out and bring \$7 for lunch on the return trip. We are planning to drive back to Ruthfred on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> without delay and hope to arrive by 6:00pm. We will call through the phone chain when we are 45 minutes away from the church. If there is an emergency, I will have my cell phone on at all times: (412) 841-9891. Also, in an emergency, you can contact YouthWorks directly at 1-800-968-8504 and ask for the Benton Harbor site.