

Camp Restore Detroit

Restoring Hope

What is Camp Restore Detroit?

Camp Restore Detroit is a ministry serving in the 9th Precinct of Detroit. Our goal is to partner with our community to restore our neighborhood in Detroit. We do this by coming alongside our community in the good already happening and providing extra hands and feet. These extra hands and feet come from campers, groups of all ages, who stay on our campus at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and are partnered with our community on service projects. We know we can all work together to continue restoring the 9th Precinct to a beautiful and growing neighborhood.

Why Detroit?

Due to many years of racism, corrupt government, violence, and more Detroit is often associated with failure, despair, and destruction. The area surrounding Camp Restore Detroit is only 20% populated meaning many houses, lots, and even entire blocks are abandoned. Camp Restore Detroit is one response to this human disaster, working to restore hope to our community.

Today, Detroit is rapidly changing. Violence is at a 50-year low and continues to decrease. The economy is improving, and large investors are working in Detroit. Downtown Detroit is alive again! Most residential areas of Detroit, however, like the neighborhood surrounding Camp Restore Detroit, continue to struggle. Neighborhood leaders and organizations are using innovation, creativity, and determination to help restore all of Detroit.

Beginnings

Camp Restore was originally started in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. In 2016, Camp Restore New Orleans and the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) approached Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church asking if they would open Camp Restore Detroit. Mt. Calvary accepted the challenge and began Camp Restore Detroit in February 2017.

Since then, Camp Restore Detroit has hosted groups of all ages and sizes, housing and feeding them at Mt. Calvary, and partnering groups with community leaders on service projects. Camp Restore Detroit has built invaluable relationships with community leaders and other organizations in our community. We know that by working together we can restore hope to our community in Detroit!

WHAT'S HERE?

2 - OUR MODEL

2 - WHAT WE DO

3 - OUR CAMPUS

3 - GET INVOLVED

STAY CONNECTED!

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Camp Restore Detroit



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Our Model

Camp Restore Detroit follows an asset-based community development model. This means we do not go to our community and tell them what we think they need, but instead partner with our community on the good they are already doing. Following this model we recognize everyone has gifts and skills to share, and the relationships and partnerships we form in our community are as important as the projects we complete.

We ask God to make us humble, to give us ears that listen well, mouths to ask, "What's good here?", and eyes to see the gifts, talents, and potential waiting to bring real joy to our community! We CANNOT do this ministry without our community. We NEED our community! We are stepping out into our community and asking for help. By asking for help we recognize our need for each other and begin a partnership. If we want to restore hope as one community, each person is needed. It will no longer be "your community" and "my community" but rather "our community."

What We Do

Camp Restore Detroit serves with our community in three different areas:

- Environmental: clearing blight (overgrown plants and trash)
- Construction: assisting community members with basic construction projects on their homes
- Human Care: building relationships with our community and sharing God's love

Campers and volunteers are matched with appropriate service projects and sites. No matter what skills, interests, or limitations you have we have a service opportunity for you!

"I noticed the recent activity in the neighborhood and all that was happening around the church. It brought hope and encouragement to us to see people at work helping others and the improvements being made by those serving."

- 9th Precinct Community Member



Our Campus

Camp Restore Detroit is housed within Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. Old classrooms were renovated into dorms for campers staying overnight! Camp Restore Detroit also purchased two houses and many city lots surrounding our campus to create welcoming and beneficial spaces for our community.

- "White House": Purchased with a grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) the "White House" is being renovated into an outreach center focused on children! We hope to hold tutoring, music and art classes, and more as well as create a space for our community to hold meetings or parties.
- Redeemer House: A grant from Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Birmingham, MI allowed us to purchase a second house, this one focused on adult outreach. This space will be used for one-on-one literacy or job-readiness class with a basement workshop and an apartment upstairs for future Camp Restore Detroit staff.
- Garden of Eatin': Raised garden boxes will be available for community members to grow vegetables or flowers. We also have a small orchard of fruit trees planted in this space!
- Spring Garden Haven: In this park-like setting, community members can enjoy walking or sitting in a beautiful environment. An amphitheater provides a great space for groups to gather or for outdoor worship services.

Get Involved

Camp Restore Detroit cannot carry out our mission without campers and support such as yours. If you feel called to support or ministry please see the list below or email us at detroit@camprestore.org.

- Campers: Sending campers is one way to support Camp Restore Detroit. This is a great way to get to know our community for yourself and see in person how we are all working to restore hope to our community!
- Volunteer: Local volunteers can bring a group for the day or volunteer in another capacity. As we begin our outreach programming we will need consistent volunteers. For local volunteering opportunities please email us at detroit@camprestore.org.
- Donate: Online donations can be made [here](#). For a list of material needs please click [here](#)!
- Pray: We believe in the power of prayer and know God is working in amazing ways in Detroit. Please pray for our ministry as we work with our community to restore hope in Detroit!

Our Mission:

Demonstrating our Christian hope while working together to
restore our Detroit community

