



**Send Relief**  
Laredo





## Contact Information

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## Meeting Needs, Changing Lives

Send Relief works with churches and volunteers to meet needs and change lives in communities within the U.S. and around the world.

By offering help and hope to the most vulnerable in collaboration with missionaries, local ministries and churches, your gifts and efforts through Send Relief have a long-term impact.

With Send Relief's help, churches and partners like you, we are able to provide resources and training to be the hands and feet of Jesus to communities in crisis, refugees, human trafficking survivors, those affected by natural disasters and vulnerable children and families.



## Ministry Centers

Send Relief ministry centers deliver compassion ministry within local communities while providing mission trips and training opportunities for churches all over the country. The goal of ministry centers is twofold: serve communities well and encourage others to do the same.

All over North America, Send Relief ministry centers actively assess community needs, develop ministry strategies, deliver ministry and provide opportunities for others to go on mission.

# Community Snapshot

If you're looking for an experience that is American, Texan and Mexican all in one, Laredo has all that and more.

- It's a perfect blend of culture, language, culinary influences and ambiance only found deep in the heart of South Texas.
- Laredo is the top inland port of entry in the U.S., with more than **14,000** trucks crossing the border daily. It is one of the oldest border crossing points along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Thousands of Hispanic U.S. citizens live in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, but work and attend school on the Laredo, Texas, side due to the lower cost of living Mexico offers.
- Population: The greater Laredo population (U.S. and Mexico) is about **1.7 million**. Laredo is the 11th most populated city in the state of Texas. About **0.3% of the population** (both sides of the border) attend an evangelical church on Sunday.
- Laredo racial/ethnic groups are Hispanic (**95.5%**) followed by (White **3.2%**) and Asian (**0.5%**).
- The average household income in Laredo is **\$64,705**
- Despite good employment numbers, poverty is still a significant issue in Laredo.
- Laredo ranks sixth among the nation with the **highest food insecurity** rate.
- **40%** of residents live below the poverty level—the highest in Texas.
- There's been an increase of migrants (**over 100,000 migrants**) arriving at the border and crossing over to Laredo.
- In 2020, the City of Laredo received funding to assist in migrant operations; the city has requested further assistance for 2023 because of the **increase in refugees**. A lack of resources has often left local officials scrambling to help migrants who make it across the border.

Across from Mexico on the Rio Grande, Laredo is poised to become one of the world's most strategic land ports.

# Laredo Ministry Center Snapshot

## Ministries

### Strengthen Communities

- Equip leaders and churches to partner with schools, so the school sees the churches as a relevant and caring resource.
- Provide after-school programs and help students with homework.
- Provide school supplies and other essentials.

### Poverty

- Provide training opportunities to at-risk youth working as migrant workers.
- Provide training for youth in the areas of auto mechanics and welding. Train them and partner them with other Christians in business who can help and mentor them.

### Homelessness

- Provide meals and clothing.
- Come alongside those experiencing homelessness to understand what led them to that current state and lovingly help restore them to society.
- Provide rehab and psychological evaluation.

### Care for Refugees:

- Provide relief to their immediate needs, shelter, food, a sense of belonging and security.
- Help them get in touch with their families in the U.S. and their country of origin.
- Equip churches to direct them on a path to financial success, equip them, teach them the language and culture and connect them to a loving, caring ministry.

### Protect Families & Children

- Open ministries centered on helping foster care agencies and educating Christians about the importance of getting involved with foster families.
- Have weekly childcare programs especially for foster parents.
- Connect church members with opportunities to adopt children and families going through the foster care system.



*"The church of Jesus has been commanded to be the light. We need to work together to help our pastors, churches and ministries by praying for them, equipping them, walking alongside them, so that the people in Laredo might come to know the hope that is only found in Jesus."*

— Osvaldo Lerma

# Laredo Ministry Center Community Partnerships

**The Send Relief's Laredo Ministry Center desires to work alongside churches and partners to "meet needs and change lives" by providing opportunities to reach out to the community and city through Christ-centered compassion ministries.**

The Laredo Ministry Center would like to see a great spiritual awakening in Laredo, Texas, where the church commits to being the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting community.

"I dream of a spur of leaders coming out of our pews that adopt a kingdom-size mentality and that they become the proponents and encouragers of the nations to do likewise," Osvaldo said. "This ministry center can help receive and restore the lost and point them to the source of life, only found in Jesus.

## **Current Partners:**

- Laredo Stepping Stone Food Box Distribution
- UnBordered Ministries
- PRC Laredo
- First Baptist Church Laredo: Foster Care Families
- Primera Iglesias Bautista: Homeless Ministry
- United Baptist Church: city outreach

- Refugee/Immigrant Relief Ministry
- Grace Bible Church: Strengthening Communities
- BSM Laredo: collegiate ministry

Current ministry partners are excited about the many opportunities. The Laredo Ministry Center would like to continue to serve by establishing sustainable and reproducible ministries across the city to fulfill a specific need with excellence.



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— Osvaldo Lerma



# History of the Laredo Ministry Center

The Send Relief Laredo Ministry Center is the result of the answered prayer of local pastors and fervent believers who prayed with heavy hearts that God would provide an awakening in Laredo.

The pastors prayed for unity and revival opportunities. They wanted to get involved in ministering to their churches and communities. Their desire was for the Holy Spirit to guide them to be salt and light to a hurting world.

Churches had also prayed for those working and serving on the Texas-Mexico border and for the influx of refugees. Many churches had expressed the desire to partner with other local churches and ministries to bring holistic restoration and share the love of Christ with the refugees crossing the border.

As a result of conversations and prayer, leaders with the Texas Baptists River Ministry and Send Relief formed a partnership. The leaders of this partnership felt led to meet

the needs of the churches and communities of Laredo with the purpose of changing lives through Christ-centered compassion ministries and to build and contextualize this new ministry center.

“When we work together, the name of Christ is glorified, creating a sense of revival. When the church awakens, many come to Christ.”

— Osvaldo Lerma





## Laredo Ministry Center

### Future Ministry Plans

- Strengthen Communities
- Food Distribution
- Care for refugees
- Increase Church Partnerships

## Vision

The vision of the Laredo Ministry Center is to work alongside churches and partners to “meet needs and change lives” by providing opportunities to reach out to the community and city through compassion ministries.

The Center started conversations with churches to develop more opportunities to impact their community and to witness the excitement and willingness to participate. The center hopes to make the most of every opportunity to encourage pastors and churches to unite in a citywide evangelism effort.



# Get Involved

One of the most powerful ways to show the most vulnerable the love of Christ is by taking steps toward them. By helping churches be the hands and feet of Jesus, Send Relief supports and provides opportunities for those who desire to respond directly to these needs in lasting, meaningful ways while sharing the hope of the gospel.

## Give

Your gift provides critical, immediate help to families and communities that need it most. Give today to provide practical care and share the love of Jesus.

[Click here or scan the QR code to give](#)



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## Serve

Participate in various compassion opportunities by taking a mission trip and vision tour to a ministry center around North America. Mission trips can include apartment outreach, food pantry ministry, after-school programs, sports ministry, canvassing, prayer walking, homeless ministry, physical labor, serving at-risk families and university campus ministry. The trip also includes aspects of training and equipping so you can learn how to connect and serve the international and refugee communities in your cities.

[Click here to sign up](#)





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