



# Grand Rapids, MI

## The Area

After the Great Recession in 2008, Grand Rapids has struggled with racial and economic inclusion. There is a shortage of affordable housing, and in comparison to the other areas in town, there is a lack of investment in the lower income neighborhoods.

Week of Hope participants have the opportunity to work with a few neighborhood associations and organizations that are providing resources and focused on reaching these people.

## Projects

During the summer we volunteer with over 20 local organizations. Some of our partners include:

- Neighborhood Association – You will help revitalize this community with a variety of projects that help senior and low-income residents. Projects could include landscaping, painting, cleaning, and even fixing housing code violations.
- Kids Day Camp – This ministry provides a safe place for children to play, build friendships, and be cared for during the summer. You will build relationships with kids in the community by playing games, making crafts, and going on afternoon off-site field trips together.
- Homeless Ministry – This partner reaches out to the hungry, homeless, and hurting of the greater Grand Rapids area. You will be helping with food program as well as other projects throughout the facility.

## Our Local Partner

Our Local Coordinator in Grand Rapids maintains connections year-round with the organizations we serve, creating sustainable service and relationships.

## Lodging Information

You will stay in a local facility with \*partial air-conditioning, so you may want to bring a fan. Indoor showers are provided.

*\*Subject to change.*

## Area Activities

There is a mall in Grandville, River Town Crossings, that includes a movie theater and lots of dining options. Grandville is about 15 minutes from Grand Rapids, which is about 40 minutes away from Lake Michigan.

Also located about an hour and a half away is Michigan's Adventure amusement and water park. Oval Beach is known as one of America's top beaches. The beaches are also surrounded by white sand dunes; check out the family owned and operated Saugatuck Dune Rides.

If you would rather stay a bit closer to Grand Rapids, check out The Mitten Brewing Company which is said to have the best specialty pizza around. It is a vintage baseball-themed microbrewery/pizzeria with a focus on community involvement and charitable giving. It is also located in one of the city's Victorian masterpieces that they renovated and restored to its former glory.

