



Grand Rapids, MI

The Area

Spending a week in Grand Rapids will remind you of why Michigan is called the Great Lake State. The city sits on the Grand River and is only 25 miles east of Lake Michigan. Grand Rapids offers a big city feeling with the warmth of a small town.

Even though it's easy to see the beauty of Grand Rapids, the city did not survive the nation's recession untouched. Living in one of the cities hit hardest by the economic problems, the people of Grand Rapids have struggled through failed industries and unemployment.

Your group might have the opportunity to serve with one of our partners that exists to serve the hungry and homeless in Grand Rapids. With help from volunteers like you, this organization can provide more than 200 people beds every night, more than 500 hot meals per day, almost 800,000 pounds of donated food to their food programs, and much more.

Our Partners and Projects

Our Local Coordinator in Grand Rapids maintains connections year-round with the organizations we serve so our service and relationships are sustainable. You may meet them during your week as they pop in and out.

You will be volunteering with a variety of organizations throughout the Grand Rapids area, including assisting with home repair projects, serving at an assisted living facility, building relationships with kids through crafts and games, volunteering at a therapeutic horse center, or helping the hungry and homeless through food and material donations.

The Lodging

A Week of Hope can hold up to 100 participants and we house them all typically at a local church. Our staff transforms the facility into a home away from home—there will be a separate boy's hall and girl's hall, a space for meals, adequate bathrooms and showers, and a space for the programs.

Fun Stuff

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.

