

CORAZON'S MEXICO HOUSE BUILD PROJECT

Faith UMC

Saturday, June 28, 2014

Faith UMC is having a House Build in Tijuana, Mexico on Saturday, June 28th. We'll be partnering with [Corazon, Inc.](#), an internationally recognized leader in community development in Tijuana and Tecate, Mexico. They have been building homes for the poor for over 30 years. The cost of the house is around \$8,000 which has been paid for by a grant from the Mexican government.

The house is a simple 16'x20' building that is built in one day. We'll have experienced supervisors and volunteers so construction skills aren't necessary, just a willing heart. There will be a wide variety of jobs ranging from taking pictures and passing out water to painting and hammering. [Corazon's website](#) will give you more detail information on what they do and about their build-a-house-in-a-day projects.

We'll be carpooling down to Tijuana, Mexico to the worksite. Most of us will leave Friday evening to San Diego and stay at the La Quinta Inn. Others will go early Saturday morning and meet us in San Diego at 6am. Corazon's personnel will lead us across the border to the worksite. Volunteers need to register on the Corazon's volunteer [Sign up webpage](#) and review the [Volunteer Handout](#).

Work should start around 8:00am and we'll break for lunch which is provided by the family. We'll bring some sandwiches to supplement but please try their food. It's their one way of showing their appreciation and we need to acknowledge their kindness with kindness. You may want to bring snacks to eat during the day. We'll provide water. Usually the construction and clean up is completed by 4pm, give or take an hour. We'll have a short ceremony and present the keys to the new house to the excited family.

After the build, we'll have dinner in Chula Vista. The cost is around \$10 - \$15. Dinner will be a time of nourishment, reflection, fellowship and thanksgiving. Usually it will take between 2 - 3 hours to cross the border. Normally we'll be back at Faith around 11:00pm.

One of the main concerns of potential volunteers is the perceived violence in Tijuana. According to Corazon and other similar organizations that operate in Baja California, there have been no reported incidents of violence on volunteers since the surge started in 2007. Our own Roger and Maxine Butcher who have been volunteering weekly for over a decade for Corazon in Tijuana agree. Faith UMC has been sponsoring builds for five years with many families taking their children. For more information, go to [Security](#).

Key Things to Remember:

- **Bring your passport**, camera, a hat, gloves, hammer, sunscreen, closed-toe shoes, medications, etc.
- **Wear and act appropriately**: wear comfortable, layered clothes. It will be cold in morning and warmer during the day. Remember that we're guests in another country and we should respect their customs, values and lifestyles.
- **Ask questions**: even our experienced volunteers are still asking questions to learn.
- **Think safety first**: it's easy to get hurt or hurt someone if you're not paying attention; things like falling hammers, moving lumber, tripping over objects or hitting an object.
- **Stay hydrated**: drink water early and often.
- **Work at your own pace**: select tasks according to your physical abilities and rest when you're tired. Go ahead and take a nap, we're not in a race.
- **Stop & smell the roses**: too often we get caught up in the work and forget about the experience. Talk with people even if you don't speak their language; encourage and compliment everyone; enjoy yourself and make it enjoyable for all (including your kids).
- **Say a prayer** of praise, gratitude and thanksgiving. Most volunteers agree that they receive so much more than they give.