



El Refugio Fundación, A.C.

RFC: RFU 091208 GG1

Hola Amigos!

We are excited that you will be coming to join us at El Refugio Fundación in Baja California! We have an opportunity to share God's love with others together. On the following pages you will find information to help you prepare, and answers to frequently asked questions that you may also have as you plan to come.

There is a lot of preparation that goes into a mission trip: fundraising, training, planning ministry activities such as VBS or testimonies, and most of all, preparing our hearts to come and serve. As you plan, pray, and seek God's will in your own lives and for the people that you will meet on this mission trip. We know that on our previous mission trips we expected to bless others as we served, but in turn God also worked on our hearts and we were humbled and blessed. Through seeking God's will, our family has expanded to include girls of all ages!

Over the planning process we will have opportunity to discuss and plan, exploring some of the gifts and skills of your team members and specifics such as a schedule, ministry sites and details for your team. Come with prepared hearts and skills, ready to be flexible and ready to serve.

Thank you for your willingness to share your time, gifts, and resources in order to serve in Mexico. Please feel free to call or email at any time with any questions you may have. As you prepare your heart and step out in faith, may you grow in Christ sharing His love in all areas of your life!

Looking forward to serving together with you!

In His Grip,

Randy and Sandra Huebert

Co-founders/Directors

El Refugio Fundación

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About El Refugio Fundación, A.C.

The Mission of El Refugio Fundación

El Refugio Fundación, A.C. is located in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. We exist to **share God's love** and **hope** through action; providing resources and opportunities for children, teens, families and churches to grow in Christ.

We partner with local churches in ministry by providing bibles or food to needy communities, or helping with vacation bible schools or evening services. We also participate in visitation ministries such as a senior home for abandoned seniors, migrant camps, drug rehabilitation center, battered women shelter, etc. We facilitate short term mission teams in various ministries including house builds, construction projects benefitting the community, and ministry outreaches in many different settings. Teams may have the opportunity to help at the Girls Home with ongoing maintenance projects, as well as pouring into the girls' lives while they are serving with us. When there are school breaks, the girls appreciate the opportunity to work alongside and serve with you.

Our Goal

Our goal is to work through the local community leaders to affect change in their areas. We highly recommend the book [Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions](#) by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert as you prepare your team for your mission trip, as well as [Foreign to Familiar](#) by Sarah A. Lanier. We want this to be a great experience for your group as well as the ministries you serve in!

Casa Esther

Our primary ministry is Casa Esther; a girls' safe house in a family setting located on the premise of El Refugio, for teens and pre-teens who have been rescued from situations of violence, abuse, neglect, and/or prostitution/trafficking.

At Casa Esther our desire is to **provide a safe, supportive, and loving environment** where abandoned and at-risk children and teens are given the opportunity to get an education, receive counseling to resolve the pain they have suffered, learn invaluable life skills, and receive biblical training to help each individual grow and develop towards their full potential physically, emotionally, educationally, and spiritually. We want them to become upstanding citizens who love God and can affect change in their communities!

"Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth." - 1 John 3:18



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Ten Commandments for Mission Trip Participants

1. You shall not forget that you represent your home country and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
2. You shall not expect that things will be the same as they are at home, for you have left your home to find different things.
3. You shall not take minor things too seriously. Accepting things as they are paves the way for a good mission trip.
4. You shall not judge all [Mexicans] by the one person with whom you have had trouble.
5. You shall not let other group members get on your nerves. You raised money and set aside this time. So, enjoy yourself.
6. You shall not be overly worried. The person who worries has no pleasures. Few things people worry about are ever fatal.
7. Remember your passport (or other identification document) so that you know where it is at all times. A person without documents is a person without a country.
8. Blessed is the person who says "thank you" in any language. Verbal gratefulness is worth more than tips.
9. When in Mexico (Rome), do as the Mexicans (Romans) do. If in difficulty, use common sense and your native friendliness.
10. Remember, you are a guest in Mexico. He who treats his host with respect shall be treated as an honored guest.

Okay, so these aren't the 10 commandments given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. However, the principles enunciated here are foundational to success in short-term cross-cultural experiences. So, violating these 10 commandments (even if Moses didn't get them) can spoil your short-term experience and even tarnish your attempts to witness for Christ. And most of all, remember to be FLEXIBLE!



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Accommodations (2026)

Pricing includes accommodations, beds, 3 meals per day, campfires, clean drinking water, showers, flush toilets, and limited phone and internet service to US and Canada.

Weekly Rates (6-7 days, 5-6 nights) **

Arrival day includes supper at 6 pm

Departure day includes breakfast.

Adults & Teens	\$390 USD/adult
Children, ages 7-12	\$295 USD/child
Toddlers, ages 0-6	Free

Discounts Available:

Family rate (4+ immediate family) 10% off accommodation per family unit

More than 7 days (6 nights) **

You are welcome to stay more than 7 days. Please add the following for each additional night:

Adults and Teens	\$56 USD/person/day
Children, ages 7-12	\$42 USD/person/day
Toddlers, ages 0-6	Free
Family rate (4+ immediate family)	10% off total per family

Daily Rates**

Adults and Teens	\$69 USD/person/day
Children, ages 7-12	\$55 USD/person/day
Toddlers, ages 0-6	Free
Family rate (4+ immediate family)	10% off total per family

**If the above pricing is a hardship for any individual and he or she feels called to come, please contact us to make special arrangements.

Bedding

Option 1: Your team may decide to bring your own bedding or sleeping bag. We will provide a fitted sheet and pillow.

Option 2: Buy two blankets that you may take back with you as a souvenir or donate to the ministry to allow us to bless families/individuals in need. (\$30 USD for 2 blankets that may be in different styles) We will provide sheets and a pillow.

Towels

Each team member will need to bring a towel/washcloth/toiletries.



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Transportation

Flying:

For anyone needing to fly, the best way is to fly in to San Diego and either have prearranged for us to pick you up or rent a vehicle that has a rental policy to drive into Mexico. Ensenada is two hours from the border. Mexico requires Mexico-specific insurance policies. Please plan on leaving Ensenada 5-7 hours before you need to be at the airport (two to three hours ahead of your flight). Many groups choose to leave the day prior and stay in San Diego overnight.

Borrowing a Ministry Vehicle:

If you want to help bless the home, El Refugio has two passenger vans available to borrow for a donation during your time with us! These funds help us to maintain our vehicles so they are safe for driving the girls around. Mexican roads are very hard on vehicles. Prices include a driver to safely help you over the border both directions, as well as insurance in Mexico and the USA. Prices do not include gas or tolls. You are responsible to fill the van at the end of your stay with us, as well as for the \$500 USD deductible in case of collision/theft, and any tickets you incur. ***Please do not plan your departure from Mexico on a Sunday if you are borrowing a ministry vehicle. Drivers must be 21 years or older.***

15 passenger van plus Mexico & USA insurance (6-7 days) - \$1200 USD donation

12 passenger van plus Mexico & USA insurance (6-7 days) - \$1000 USD donation

Half van (up to 6 people) plus Mexico & USA insurance (6-7 days) - \$600 USD donation

Extra days (beyond 7) - \$95 USD/day donation

Less than 7 days- \$180 USD/day donation

Tolls for return & final fill in San Diego: \$90 USD

Renting a Vehicle:

Or as a group, you may need to rent vehicles. It is extremely important to make certain that the place where you are renting supplies Mexican insurance on their vehicles, and if you are not from the USA, that you have insurance to cover your time in the States. **(By law, you must have separate Mexican insurance).**

Escort

Sometimes groups request an escort to relieve some of the stress of crossing the border into Mexico, help with transporting luggage, tourist visas, etc. We would meet you at the airport, hotel, or other location in San Diego and escort you in and out of Mexico. If your group would like assistance in this area, we would be glad to do so. ***We do not provide escort services to leave Mexico on Sunday except in emergencies.*** \$375 USD includes our gas both directions and 12 toll booths.



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Visas and Passports

You do need a valid passport for the entirety of your trip in Mexico.

You also need to purchase a visa upon arrival to the Mexican border. As it is required by law, we ask individuals to obtain a tourist visa. This is to ensure that the Mexican government legally recognizes your presence here in case of emergency, thereby requiring them to aid.

If you are in Mexico for 7 days or less, the visa is granted free of charge! If you are in Mexico more than 7 days (including day of arrival and departure), the cost is 861 pesos*, approximately \$45 USD*. *Please note:* The cost of the visa may change at any time. The paid visa is good for multiple entries over the following 6 months. At this time, your passport can expire within those six months*, however your visa would become invalid upon the passport expiration date.

You can fill out the paperwork for your visa online prior to arrival, however, lately it seems to be better to just do it in person at the border. **Your passport will need to be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the time of your trip to complete the paperwork online.**

<https://www.inm.gob.mx/fmme/publico/en/solicitud.html>



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Home Building Ministry

The homes built with El Refugio are 16' X 20' and are built on a cement slab. The slab is poured prior to your team's arrival in Mexico. It is wood construction and includes shingles, siding, 4 windows, basic wiring, sheet rock, tape & mud, texture, and paint inside and out with one exterior door. Usually there are 2 small bedrooms and a small kitchen/living room area. These homes are an amazing blessing to the families who receive them. We usually work through local pastors who choose the families. This enables the church to reach out and encourage the people.

Pricing Guarantee:

Due to extreme price fluctuations in construction materials in the current economic environment, we are not able to guarantee the cost of construction projects beyond 45 days prior to your arrival. The price increases are unfortunately out of our control. We will only pass on actual increase incurred by the ministry in the purchase of building materials, and will communicate with you about any price changes. Your cost will be locked in 45 days before your arrival, when you send the final balance for the materials.

Basic Build: 16 X 20

Foundation & Down-Payment on Lumber	\$2000 USD
Basic House Package (lumber etc.)	\$6875 USD
TOTAL	\$8875 USD

Basic Build: 16x28

Foundation & Down-Payment on Lumber	\$2000 USD
Basic House Package (lumber etc.)	\$8900 USD
TOTAL	\$10,900 USD

Required Deposit: **Once we have the deposit for the foundation of \$2000 USD we require 30 to 60 days to secure a family for your house build. This deposit is nonrefundable as we pour the slab before you come. **

Foundation Preparation: In some cases, it will be necessary to rent a backhoe or bring in dirt to level out a property. This costs an additional \$100-240 USD.

ADD ONS/OPTIONS:

You can choose extras to add to your family's home should you desire to do so. Once we have the family selected we will also know which options would be most suitable for your family. These are optional and are listed below. These costs will be added to the basic house cost. We highly recommend the loft and insulation for improving their quality of life!

Loft (Highly Recommended!) +\$675 USD

You may wish to consider adding a loft to the house. This will give approximately 40% more space for a "kids' loft". By dropping the ceiling joists over the bedrooms by a foot and raising the pitch of the ceiling we can create an 8'x16' loft for the kids. A staircase, floor, extra electrical is included as well as a 2'x3' window is included for ventilation and light.

Insulation (Highly Recommended!) + \$460-575USD

4x8 sheets of 1" Styrofoam insulation will be placed in the gable ends and the ceiling.

We recommend considering this option as it does keep the house consistently cooler in summer and more importantly, warmer in the winter months.

Custom Paint +\$165 USD

Paint (usually grey) is included in the basic house cost; however, you can allow the family to choose their interior and exterior paint colors. This can make it feel even more special!



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Baño (Outhouse) + \$390 USD

Many families do not have a bathroom and are in need of one. We will not know if your family needs one until they are selected.

Electrical Hookup +\$175-250 USD

Take the next step and connect the house to the meter box! Costs cover wiring and tubing.

Electrical Meter Ask for pricing

Get the power post with the meter so the family can connect to the electrical system if/when their neighborhood has access.

Laundry and Wash Center +\$225 USD

Provide a cement wash board and sink area for the family to be able to do their personal cleaning outside. Includes a sturdy wooden stand.

Solar Kit Ask for pricing

Allow the family to have electricity at a low cost. This includes a solar panel, wiring, 12-watt light bulbs, a battery, inverter, shelf and brackets, and installation. The majority of places that we build in do not have power or power is too expensive for the family to hook up.

Porch 8' x 16' to 8' x 20' Ask for pricing

By extending the roofline the porch is a tremendous asset giving shade while doing laundry or cooking, etc.

Security Bars on Windows Ask for pricing

Putting security bars on the windows adds some extra safety and peace of mind for the family you build for.

Beds

Twin bunkbed (includes 2 second-hand mattresses) +\$390 USD

Full/twin bunkbed (includes full and single second-hand mattresses) +\$485 USD

Twin platform bed (includes second-hand mattress) +\$290 USD

Full platform bed (includes second-hand mattress) + \$335 USD

Twin mattress only (good for the loft area) + \$120 USD

Are there other ways to bless our family for whom we are building?

Yes! Each family may have different needs, but here are some ideas:

- Curtains and rods. You may wish to sew the curtains to size. Please see the following page regarding curtain sizes.
- Blankets, sheet sets, basic clothing, food hampers, propane stove, solar lights, solar flashlights, school supplies

If you would like to bless your family in any of these ways, please contact us and we can discuss the specifics about your family.

Deposits for the house build are required in advance.

Deposit 1: For the foundation the deposit is due *as soon as possible* but at least a minimum of two months before your house build. When we receive this deposit a family will be picked to be blessed with a home. Please note that we will be unable to refund this deposit.

Deposit 2: The materials for the house build are purchased before you arrive. Please send in this amount *at least 45 days before you arrive*. *Refunds for this may be given on a house build up to 30 days before your arrival*. This cost is subject to the condition and guarantee listed above, but will be locked in upon the date the second deposit is sent.



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Curtain Measurements

When building a home for a family it is a nice finishing touch to purchase or sew curtains.

Before sewing, please consider:

***Rods:** Consider the type of rods and the thickness of the rod you will be using before you start to sew. It is usually best to buy rods that screw in just above the top of the trim or you can use wooden dowels and make wooden holders. Rods should be brought with you or can be purchased in the USA.

***Fabric thickness:** Choose to use a thicker fabric as they will be used as privacy curtains.

***Number of panels:** Consider if you will have 1 or 2 panels per window. If you make 2 panels, they will be able to easily tie back their curtain to let in the light.

*You may also wish to sew **tiebacks**. (Optional, but not necessary.)

* **Size of pocket:** Please sew extra space for the rod. For example, if the rod is 1" diameter, then make sure and sew the pocket with at least 1 ½" space.

Windows (Regular house: 4 windows in a 16x20 house. Loft house: 5 windows)

Measurements of the window and curtain sizes:

- 2' W x 3' H: Bedroom, curtain coverage minimum 30" x 42"
- 2' W x 3' H: Bedroom, curtain coverage minimum 30" x 42"
- 2' W x 3' H: Kitchen/Living area room, curtain coverage minimum 30" x 42"
- 4' W x 3' H: Kitchen/Living room area, curtain coverage minimum 54" x 42"
- 3' W x 2' H: Loft (only needed if you are building a loft), curtain coverage minimum 42" x 30"

Interior Doors (2 interior doors)

Regular house WITHOUT loft 36" wide and 75" long OR **Loft house:** 36" wide, 70" long

The houses do not have doors to the bedrooms. Instead, they use curtains. Because of the dust and foot traffic it works best to have the bottom of the curtains above the floor by several inches.

These curtains are also hung with curtain rods. Again, **make sure the fabric used is thick**, for they will need to be privacy curtains.

Curtain Rods

Remember to bring or buy heavy, sturdy curtain rods for the windows and doors! You will need:

Regular House: 4 windows, plus 2 doors OR **Loft House:** 5 windows, plus 2 doors



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Other Ideas to Bless your Family at the House Build Dedication

You do not need to do anything for the family as you already are blessing them with a home. However, if you would like to include some extras, we have included a few ideas. You may collect these items before you come, purchase some in the US or look in Mexico at the second-hand stores or other stores.

Please check with us for specifics for your family and the most pressing needs for them.

****Household Items:***

Dishes and cutlery, pots and pans, tea towels, pot scrubbers, etc/
Bedding such as fitted sheets, blankets, pillows
Pictures or verses for their wall

****Personal items:***

Toiletries for the family
Clothing for the family members
Bible and/or devotional book

****Items for the children:***

School supplies
Toys, or stuffed animals for the children
Age-appropriate craft supplies

****Basic tools for the parents:***

Many do not even have a screwdriver! A small collection of basic tools is always appreciated.

****Food hamper***

****Laundry Center***

Cement scrubbing board and sink.

****Furniture***

Shelving units, dresser, or table and chairs, etc.



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Outreach Programs & Opportunities

We believe in serving in our actions and in truth. The following list are some of the ways that you may be able to serve together! House build teams may add ministry projects depending on the number of team members and their schedule.

Feeding Program Your group will prepare and cook a meal for our weekly feeding program, where you can provide food for children who often don't have enough at home. Feed their bellies and their souls as you share a Bible story and do a craft with them! *Approximately \$130-180 USD*

Migrant Camp Ministry & Aid Package Your group will provide food, toiletries, and other necessities in food hampers to be handed out to families with few resources. You will be able to share a Bible story, and play sports and games with the children. Pack a soccer ball and crayons! You will also most likely have the opportunity to support their community by buying handmade bracelets and necklaces from the women in the area. *Approximately \$480 USD*

Drug Rehab Ministry We have a working relationship with several drug rehabilitation centers, allowing groups to share the love of God with men, women, and their children. Come pour into their lives with testimonies and God's Word, and share a snack or a meal! *Three half-days of ministry: approximately \$190-275 USD, dependent on number of people. One evening ministry: approximately \$95 USD.*

Vacation Bible School, Sports Camp, and/or English Camp Work with a local church to spread God's Word in their community! Your group brings the curriculum of your choice to share with the children for 3-4 half days. Teens in the area can participate in sports (please bring equipment), and you can share your testimonies and the Word of God with them. We will provide a snack for you to serve everyone, as well as a meal on your last day together. *Cost variable, approximately \$195/week for 30 kids or under, additional costs depending on number of children*

Medical Ministry Special arrangements can be made to set up a clinic in one of the villages. If you have medical personnel in your team we can work together with one of the local churches to provide much needed services. *Cost Variable*

Youth Drop in Center Run in one of the poorer communities, this youth drop-in gives local teens an opportunity to hang out in a safe place. Play youth games and do a Bible study with them, and provide a BBQ or pizza night! *Approximately \$125-250 USD*

Maintenance and/or Small Construction Project Pack your work clothes! Your group can do painting, repairs or renovation on a church, maintenance at El Refugio, pour a cement slab for a house, or meet another need that has to be fulfilled in the community! *Approximately \$1,200-3,500+ USD, dependent on size of project*

Large Construction Project Contact us for details *Variable depending on project*

Homeless Ministry Go downtown early in the morning to hand out a small meal and share the Word of God with those who may have lost hope. Plan for 40-80 people. *Approximately \$250-350 USD*



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Casa Abuelos Lift the spirits of the elderly who have been abandoned by their families due to lack of resources. Bring a meal, share your story and an activity, and warm their hearts! *Approximately \$225 USD*

Casa Esther The girls at our children's home love to spend time with team members. Located on the premises of El Refugio, you can pour in to their lives while you're here by playing sports with them, teaching Bible studies, going for walks, sitting around the campfire, doing crafts, and working alongside them in their daily routines.

Interpreter for Ministry Sites: Up to 4 hours \$25 USD/day, 4+ hours \$40 USD/day for a skilled interpreter.

At times we need to hire an interpreter from outside of the ministry.

If one of our girls from Casa Esther is used as an interpreter on a ministry site, we ask they be paid an honorarium as follows. This allows them to gain work experience with a marketable skill, and learn how to handle money. We ask that funds be given to the office so that they can be passed on at an appropriate time.

At the base, campfire, or devotions for 1 hour or less: optional donation

Up to 2 hours: \$12 USD

Up to 4 hours: \$25 USD

4+ hours per day: \$30 USD



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Extras!

Not enough for you? Here's some more options for you to consider!
Bless the girls from Casa Esther and your group with any of the following:

Pizza Party Hold a fun night for the girls in Casa Esther to interact with them, play games, and encourage them in their faith! Includes pizza for everyone, soda pop, and salad. *\$100-200 USD dependent on number of people*

Ice Cream Sundae Night Enjoy ice cream with the Casa Esther girls at El Refugio! Includes all the toppings. What could be sweeter? *\$75-125 USD depending on number of people*

Cheeseburger BBQ Have a BBQ with the Casa Esther girls here at El Refugio. Includes cheeseburgers with all the trimmings, fries, and soda for everyone. *\$7 USD per person including girls*

Chinese Food Buffet or restaurant Take the girls to enjoy the best Chinese food this side of the border!
\$14 USD/person (approximately)

Restaurants There are many different options available including Brazilian steakhouse, Korean BBQ, Restaurants specializing in seafood.
Prices vary.

Taco Lunch or Supper There are many taco stands in our area (After all, you are in Mexico). Beef, pork or fish. You may go on your own or consider treating the girls.
\$10 USD/person (approximately)

Hot Springs BBQ Take your group and the Casa Esther girls to enjoy an afternoon at the hot springs and have a BBQ! Includes admission, nachos, Italian sausages, juice, and dessert. Not available July, August, or Easter.
\$19 USD per person including girls www.ranchosancarlosensenada.com

Las Canadas BBQ Make a splash at the waterpark and enjoy a delicious BBQ! There's lots to do, including paddleboats, pools, volleyball, a wave pool, and more. A zip line and hanging bridge course as well as horseback riding are available for an extra fee paid at the park.* Available seasonally, June-September weather permitting.
\$29 USD per person including girls www.lascanadas.com/en/Home.php
**Your group can participate in the course or in horseback riding without inviting the girls from Casa Esther, but if you wish to invite any of them, we ask that all be invited.*

Trampoline Park Get your jump on! Take the girls to bounce around at Flyers, a local trampoline park with lots of different activities. Prices variable depending on day and number of participants.
<https://www.facebook.com/flyersensenada>

Bowling Enjoy an evening out with the girls and throw a few strikes! Snacks and food available on site for an extra cost. *\$10 USD/person/hour (approximately) <http://www.bahibowlingbar.com/instalaciones/>*

Teach a Skill Good at baking? Sewing? Woodcraft? Whatever you're good at, you can take the opportunity to teach the girls! Create a small project for them to work on with you. *Cost of materials*



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Extras (continued) Pg 2

Beach Time Go swimming in the ocean, collect sea shells, make sand castles, and try surfing and boogie boarding! *Boogie boards \$5/each, surf boards \$10/each. Teams are responsible for repairs/replacements if they are broken or lost.*

Pool Time Enjoy splashing in the pool on base! Funds go toward the cost of maintenance.
First time: \$5 per person Subsequent days: \$3 per person

La Bufadora About a 30 minute drive from the base. You can see the second largest of 3 marine geysers in the world! There are more than 100 shops along the street where you can wander and buy your souvenirs, leading up to the blowhole. Be prepared to get splashed! www.bajabound.com/destinations/ensenada/labufadora.php



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Registration Process

The following are the initial steps and process to register your team:

1 - Contact us All bookings will initially begin with our office.

This initial contact will help us gather the necessary information to start your file and reservation. Please email our office at info@therefugemx.com. If you cannot send an email, contact us at the office using the numbers below to begin your registration process.

2 - Deposit All bookings are tentative until we have received your non-refundable \$500 USD deposit. In order to ensure your desired dates for ministry, we ask you send in your deposit six months prior to your trip, or, if the trip is less than 6 months out, ASAP.

3 - Confirmation You will be contacted by our office staff with confirmation of your reservation and information. They will send you our due dates and other forms.

4 - Payments It is important that you stay on top of the payment due-dates for your team. This will help both of our teams be prepared for the upcoming projects. Please inform us through email (info@therefugemx.com) when you are ready to send in your payments.

5 - Ministry Specific Planning Prior to your team's arrival, we will be in communication with you to discuss your team's ministry details. It is at this point you will be discussing things like: male/female breakdown, who the pastor/community/family will be that you will minister with, special requests, camp programming, and the like. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions!

6 - Final Details In the last few weeks before your trip, we will check to make sure we have all the details covered. The office will prepare a final balance showing you're the funds you have sent. The ministry sites will also be in contact to confirm any last minute details.

7 - Post Trip Recap. Once your trip is completed, we will process any final numbers or changes. The office will send you a final balance sheet.

All proceeds, if any, go towards the operation of our children's safe home/orphanage, Casa Esther.
The proceeds help us to buy food and other necessities for the girls.
All costs are quoted in US dollars.



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FAQ

What is the preferred dress code for El Refugio/Casa Esther and the local ministries?

There's two extremes in Mexico, between the ultra-conservative and the more modern, so a lot will depend on where your group goes to serve.

Ministry Sites: It is more culturally appropriate in some areas for the ladies to wear skirts to the knee or longer to the feeding program and to church services. We suggest leggings underneath, especially if they are playing with children or the skirts are sheer. Until you know what area you will be serving in, plan on bringing at least two skirts to wear/rewear as necessary. Men will also possibly need pants, not shorts, for any church services. We should know what is appropriate in advance and be able to pass that information on to you.

Shorts (if appropriate for the area) must be to thumb length or longer. If anyone decides to wear leggings to any ministry site, we ask that they wear a shirt or dress long enough to cover their backside. We also ask that everyone wear shirts with sleeves to the ministry sites (short sleeves is fine), and a tank top underneath if appropriate. Men and women should bring clothes without holes or obvious stains for ministry sites and church services.

Construction Sites: If you are doing construction, **closed toe shoes are a requirement**, no exceptions. We recommend you wear jeans, not shorts, as well. Muscle shirts and tank tops are prohibited. Your clothes will be stained, so bring something to wear that is old or unwanted!

Beach: Tank tops are fine for both genders. We ask that that men do not wear speedos and ladies wear a modest bathing suit, or cover with a t-shirt. Men may wear muscle shirts at the beach only.

Base: Around the base, we ask that you dress modestly. Please refrain from wearing "short-shorts", spaghetti strap/camisoles alone, or muscle shirts.

Required Documents

You will need a passport to visit Mexico. Check your passport for the expiry date! Make certain it is valid for when you come. **We will need a copy in a minimum of 3 weeks in advance with your registration paperwork, to comply with laws regulating children's homes.**

Tourist Visa: We require everyone apply for a tourist visa before arrival at the border of Mexico. This is to ensure that the Mexican government legally recognizes your presence here in case of emergency, thereby requiring them to aid. 7 days or less are free! It is easiest to fill out the paperwork beforehand online and bring a printed copy with your passport. Visas for 8+ days cost approximately \$36 USD, and are good for 6 months. Further information will be sent out closer to your date of arrival. *Prices are subject to change by the Mexican government and the international exchange rate.*

Spending money

Most places in Ensenada have places to exchange money or accept American cash, so it is okay to plan to bring US money. The team will most likely wish to bring money to buy some food in the airport, or for the taco stands! We most likely will stop at a fast food restaurant before we cross into Mexico. Smaller bills are best to have on hand.



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FAQ (continued)

Health

You will need some form of travel health insurance.

If you are getting immunizations to visit Mexico, tetanus and Hepatitis A & B vaccines are generally recommended, Please check with your local public health or doctor to check on updated recommendations.

Please have an emergency plan on file with the group leader in case you need to be hospitalized or medically transported.

Food Allergies

If a participant has food allergies, **please make us aware on the individual registration forms!** While we will do our best to accommodate what we can, **you need to bring food that is safe for you to consume** to supplement what we are able to provide. It is not always possible to buy specialty items in Mexico, ***including gluten free items.***

Weather

It does get chilly here in the evenings, and it can be quite windy at El Refugio! Plan to bring warm clothing to sleep in and a jacket for the evenings, even in the summer. Mid-day can be quite warm. As with the majority of Mexican houses, the base does not have heat or A/C. Pack your suitcase accordingly! Layering your clothing works well.

Gifts

Please do not bring gifts or money for the girls in Casa Esther without consulting El Refugio leadership. This includes donations of

clothing, toiletries, etc. If you plan to leave clothing behind, please notify us before your departure from El Refugio so we can direct it to the girls or ministry areas that have the greatest need.



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El REFUGIO Group Registration Form

Name of organization _____

Date of Arrival at El Refugio _____ Date of Departure from El Refugio _____

Leader Name: _____ Phone # (____) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

.....
Name of Church/ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ Providence/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Pastor _____

.....
Schedule of Deposits

Team registration: \$500 US per group due with registration form (1 check/online donation only please). Please make contact us via email (info@therefugemx.com) for directions.

This deposit is non-refundable. Once the registration deposit is received, dates are locked.

Individual registration forms also need to be completed before arrival. It is the responsibility of the group leader to gather and check each registration form and forward to El Refugio scanning. **Because of government regulations regarding children’s homes, copies of group members’ passports must be delivered to El Refugio at least 15 days prior to your trip!**

Signature of Team Leader

Date

Please email all registration forms and passport copies to our office at info@therefugemx.com



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EL REFUGIO Registration Form Page 1 of 2

Please print clearly

Group Name or Leader: _____ Dates at El Refugio: _____

Name _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Please circle one: Male/Female

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (_____) _____

Parents Names _____ Work Phone (_____) _____

(if under 18)

Parents Address _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Emergency Contact Phone (_____) _____

MEDICAL *All individuals must have out of country travel insurance*

Health Insurance Company _____

Phone (_____) _____ Policy # _____

Name of insured _____

Family Doctor _____ Phone (_____) _____

Date of last tetanus shot (must be current) _____

Check with your public health center for any other concerns or vaccinations they recommend.

If you have had any medical problems, special medications, **food allergies**, or allergies to medications, please note them below.
(Please use back if more space is required)

If you have special dietary needs, please note them above! We will do our best to accommodate minor allergies and gluten-free diets, however, you are responsible for your own health and we are unable to accommodate extensive issues. Please plan accordingly and contact us if necessary! Special foods, including gluten-free, are very difficult to find in Mexico.

Note: If you are bringing a prescription into the US or Mexico you will need to have the prescription label on the medicine that you are carrying.

Could you serve as an interpreter? Yes No

Please list skills that you would be willing to use to help in the ministry while you are here (sewing, construction, crafts, cooking, hairdressing, computer skills etc.)

Do you have the proper documentation/passport to travel in and out of US and Mexico? Yes No



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Please print clearly

Name of team member _____

(Page 2 of 2)

LIABILITY, PHOTO, and VIDEO RELEASE

I/we, _____, hereby release **EL REFUGIO FUNDACIÓN A.C.**, its officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, and directors Randy and Sandra Huebert from any and all liability whatsoever arising out of any injury, damage, or loss which may be sustained by the applicant named on this form during their participation with **EL REFUGIO FUNDACIÓN A.C.**, including travel in vehicles owned or used by El Refugio Fundación, A.C. or Randy and Sandra Huebert to and from San Diego, to and from ministry sites, and/or construction sites and all other activities.

In the event of an injury or illness, I/we hereby give **EL REFUGIO FUNDACIÓN A.C.** directors, staff and/or volunteers permission to secure necessary medical treatment, and I/we relieve **EL REFUGIO FUNDACIÓN A.C.** of any and all liability in such an event. I/we assume total cost for all medical and emergency costs incurred during the trip. I/we understand that I/we are responsible for obtaining proper medical and travel insurance.

I/we, _____, also authorize **EL REFUGIO FUNDACIÓN A.C.**, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and volunteers the right and permission to use, reproduce and/ or publish, without compensation, photographs and/or video taken that may pertain to myself or in the case of a minor, my child _____.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

If team member is under 18 years:

Parent's Name (please print) _____

Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____ Date _____