

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

# 1:ONE

CHICAGO URBAN MINISTRY

## ONE SHRINKING DISTANCE

**LA VILLITA, CHICAGO** - God planted a vision in Rogaciana's heart: perhaps her new "village" in Chicago could help her home village in Mexico. From this vision bloomed a new ministry of the ITeams La Villita team, *Commission Mexico: Coming Home with the Gospel*.

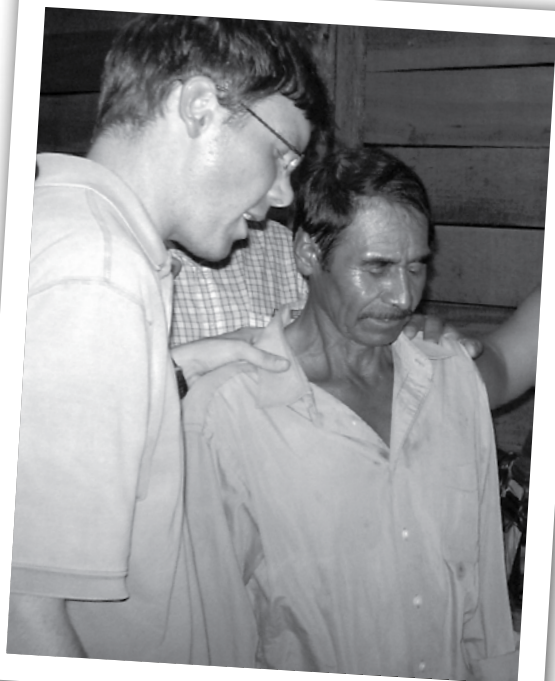
Based in La Villita (Little Village), Chicago, this urban ministry team partners with a local church to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of Jesus to Latino immigrants living in Chicago. Several members of the local congregation maintain connections with family in Mexico. Through these relationships, an outreach was born which bridges two cultures and thousands of miles.

In October 2007, a seven-member *Commission Mexico* team traveled from Chicago to the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Guerrero, where the team encouraged over 20 people to accept the message of God's love. While it may take a non-Mexican missionary many years to build sufficient trust and language skills to enter the homes in these communities, members of the *Commission Mexico* team were welcomed with open doors and warm hospitality.

Team leader Chris Ophus recalls, "The most thrilling night of the trip was seeing 13 relatives of the Villanueva family respond in faith as they watched the video testimony of God's work in the lives of their loved ones in Chicago!"



Chicago hosts a population of nearly 3 million people spread throughout a multitude of distinct neighborhoods.



Members of the ITeams La Villita team traveled to Mexico to share the hope and love of Jesus with the families of immigrants to Chicago.

### One Enduring Love

Can a 16 year-old girl heal emotionally and spiritually after the murders of two elder siblings?

A joyful and peaceful teen named Maria has proven that God CAN make this possible. Maria's brother suffered a fatal gunshot wound five years ago, and her sister was brutally murdered in the summer of 2007. Many people facing similar circumstances would respond with bitterness toward God - but not Maria. Despite her pain, Maria's desire to learn about Jesus and draw close to God has only intensified. Maria has continued to attend church and meet regularly with an ITeams missionary in Chicago, and in December 2007, she was baptized!

-Alexandra

**INTERNATIONAL TEAMS URBAN MINISTRY  
PARTNERS WITH INDIGENOUS, INNER  
CITY CHURCHES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL,  
DISCIPLE BELIEVERS, AND COOPERATE IN  
THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.**

## INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GO [CHICAGO]

- » **Summer interns** are invited to serve with the children's programs in La Villita and North Lawndale (5 weeks)
- » Long-term openings exist for an **administrator** and a **children's program coordinator** in La Villita
- » Long-term positions are available for **youth outreach workers** to help with educational, sports, and discipleship programs in North Lawndale

For more opportunities to GO,  
visit [iteams.org/go](http://iteams.org/go) or call 800.323.0428

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

- » **\$35 per week** will provide food for a weekly feeding outreach to 50 immigrant and homeless men in La Villita
- » **\$250** will offer the opportunity for one boy or girl to attend summer day camp in North Lawndale
- » **\$5,000** will fund the start-up and equipment costs for a new computer lab in North Lawndale
- » **Ministry of ITeams USA** - A gift to the ministry of International Teams USA will provide resources to support meaningful and progressive ministries like those in the communities of La Villita and North Lawndale, Chicago



You can now GIVE online at  
[iteams.org/give](http://iteams.org/give)

*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

## ONE LEADS ANOTHER

### NORTH LAWDALE,

**CHICAGO** - "Teenagers are leaders already, whether they know it yet or not," explains Shannon Ries of the ITeams urban ministry team in North Lawndale. This team's Teen Club program teaches teens that they are role models and that their influence—either helpful or harmful—inspires the younger ones around them.



The Teen Club program equips teens to become responsible leaders of the youth who look up to them.

When teens demonstrate that church is important to them, others notice. Others also notice when teens choose a positive alternative to drugs, gangs, and premarital sex. Through each bible study, air hockey competition, and bowling excursion, the Teen Club cultivates this type of discipleship, fellowship, and leadership.

Tiara and Eisha, sisters aged 17 and 15, attend Teen Club often and serve as junior leaders at day camp during the summer. They act as a shining light not only to the young girls in their community, but also to someone very special to them: their 13 year-old brother, Marquette. When he arrives at church alongside his sisters, God is glorified.

