

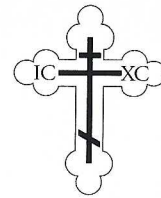


Orthodox Youth Mission Team

2025 Summer Mission Trip

Appalachia Service Project

June 28 - July 6, 2025



Dear *Bishop Benedict, Fr. John, + Diocese of New England,*

I am writing today with an opportunity to join me in an exciting ministry: the Orthodox Youth Mission Team (OYMT). As a member of OYMT, I will be part of a clergy-led, pan-Orthodox Christian team of high school students and adult leaders, who put our Faith to work by participating in summer mission trips. Here are some facts about our team:

- This year, our Connecticut and New York-based team will be joined by satellite teams from Vermont, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and New Mexico—over 60 youth and adults total!
- We will be serving families in Appalachia through the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) (www.ASPHome.org) for the twelfth time this year, doing home repairs with the goal of making homes “warmer, safer and drier.” In Appalachia, one in every four residents live below the federal poverty level. On a daily basis, families are forced to make tough choices between food, medical care and clothing. Home repairs often end up at the bottom of the list.
- Our local team and satellite teams come together for one week in the summer and live together in Orthodox Christian community, building relationships and sharing the love of Christ with others.
- We are currently participating in monthly trainings in our home states, and with each other via Zoom, to prepare for the mission trip. We are learning about the people we will serve, the carpentry and construction skills we’ll need, and how to answer the call to serve Christ as his Body, the Church.

How can you help? Our mission work expenses are approximately \$30,000 this year. I am asking you to become a “shareholder” in our team and invest in this Orthodox youth ministry. What does being a shareholder look like?

- Donors purchase mock stock in OYMT from a team member for \$10 per share.
- As a shareholder, you’ll receive updates about our mission work throughout the year and while we are on the trip, including our annual newsletter. You can also visit the “Shareholder Hub” on our website.
- Shareholders are invited to special thank you presentations in the Fall, where team members share photos and reflections from the summer mission trip.

Where does your donation go? Your stock shares will pay a triple dividend! Your generosity will:

1. Help us help those in need by covering the costs of training, transportation, accommodations, and necessary items for the homeowners we will serve.
2. Make this mission opportunity available to all Orthodox high school students, regardless of their family’s financial situation, by providing need-based scholarships.
3. Ignite a zeal for mission in our parishes and our youth and, through the Grace of the Holy Spirit, inspire us to better know, love and serve Christ—the beginning of lifelong vocations as future leaders of our Church.

Ready to invest? My goal is to sell at least 50 shares of stock this year. If you’d like to support me, please complete the enclosed form and mail it to me or OYMT with a check for \$10.00 per share made payable to **St. John the Baptist Church**. You can also buy your stock online by visiting www.oymt.info, clicking Donate, and writing the information requested on our stock form in the comments. We would welcome matching corporate or community donations/grants to help fund our work.

To make the most impact on this summer’s trip, it would be ideal if we could receive your investment by **May 1, 2025**. OYMT is church-sponsored, which means that all donations are tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for investing in me and supporting the Orthodox Youth Mission Team!

In Christ, *Sofia + Hannah Cole, Chris + Cassie Reznic, and Elias Locke*
— Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT

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Please Pray for us and our team!