



## **Local nonprofit hosts 280 “VolunTourists” from 10 states this week**

For immediate release

June 19, 2017

New Hanover County, North Carolina

Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) is set to have its biggest week in agency history as 280 high school students and their adult chaperones converge on the Wilmington area today to complete repairs for low-income homeowners. WARM’s alternative spring break and summer mission team programs have been growing steadily the past few years as the entrepreneurial nonprofit seeks to capitalize on its coastal location.

“When I started at WARM in 2009, we were excited to complete a record 60 rebuilds that year,” said JC Lyle (formerly Skane), WARM’s executive director, “Because of these incredible youth, we will do 60 rebuilds in one week!”

WARM’s goal is to keep low-income homeowners in their homes by making safety and accessibility improvements, weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades, and exterior repairs that extend the life of the home.

The volunteers arrived over the weekend and are staying at Ashley High School. They will repair floors, build ramps, steps and landings, repair and paint siding, install grab bars and toilets, and complete other repairs for elderly, disabled, and low-income families in New Hanover County. They will take Wednesday afternoon off to go to the beach, earning the label “VolunTourist.”

This week’s volunteers are organized by WARM’s partner, Group Mission Trips, a Colorado-based company that organizes youth mission trips all over the world. Funding for building materials was provided by the City of Wilmington, proceeds from WARM’s Raise the Roof Gala & Auction on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Group Mission Trips.

Youth and adults represent churches of various denominations from 10 states: Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Local volunteers are also involved, delivering materials, donating or loaning ladders, and taking photos. Executives at New Hanover Regional Medical Center are buying and delivering lunch for the volunteers working on the home of one of their employees.

**Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc.**  
5054 Wrightsville Avenue Wilmington NC 28403  
[warmnc.org](http://warmnc.org) 910.399.7563 [info@warmnc.org](mailto:info@warmnc.org)

*Small Miracles, Safer Homes*



WARM will host “VolunTourists” all summer long. The agency’s services are conducted year round with the help of local individual volunteers and teams from civic clubs, businesses, and churches.

In 2014, WARM’s impressive growth caught the attention of the Greater Wilmington Business Journal and UNCW’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship who selected WARM for a Coastal Entrepreneur Award, Nonprofit Category.

In 2016, WARM served 155 households in three counties: Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender. The agency is on pace to beat that number for 2017.

For more information about this project or WARM’s mission, please call WARM’s office at 910.399.7563 or visit [www.warmnc.org](http://www.warmnc.org)

For more information about Group Mission Trips, please visit [groupmissiontrips.com](http://groupmissiontrips.com)

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For questions regarding this press release, contact WARM’s executive director, JC Lyle (formerly Skane) at 910.540.5326 or [JC@warmnc.org](mailto:JC@warmnc.org)

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