

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The Crystal Charity Ball Awards \$1 Million Grant to Mercy Street

Landmark Investment to Launch Summer Camp and After School Enrichment Program for West Dallas Children Living in Extreme Poverty

DALLAS, TX (March 4, 2026) — Mercy Street, a West Dallas-based nonprofit serving children and families living in West Dallas, today announced the receipt of a \$1 Million grant over the next three years from The Crystal Charity Ball. Beginning in 2027, the investment will fund the establishment and expansion of a high-quality Summer Camp and After School Enrichment Program at Lakewest Multipurpose Center, providing transformative educational support to youth in one of Dallas's most under-resourced communities.



In the 75212 zip code, which encompasses much of West Dallas, more than 40 percent of children live below the poverty line. Within Dallas Housing Authority households, average annual income is just \$14,364. Many children in the area attend schools where fewer than one-third of students meet grade-level standards in reading and math. Without consistent academic support beyond the school day, these children in DHA housing face significant and compounding barriers to long-term success.

Since 2003, Mercy Street has walked alongside children and families in West Dallas, offering Christ-centered mentorship, leadership development, and athletic programming rooted in long-term relationships and trust. Over time, a critical insight emerged: mentorship alone was not enough. Children also needed structured, ongoing academic support to reinforce learning and close persistent achievement gaps.

The Crystal Charity Ball grant will enable Mercy Street to launch and grow a year-round academic enrichment initiative for K-5th grade beginning with 50 students and scaling to 300 over the next three years. The program will deliver structured learning opportunities during the summer months and after school, strengthening academic achievement, stability, and hope for West Dallas youth.

“This investment from Crystal Charity Ball is more than a grant — it is a statement of belief in the children of West Dallas. At Mercy Street, we know that when young people have consistent support, caring mentors, and real opportunities to learn and develop their faith, they thrive. This program will change trajectories and transform lives for years to come.”

— Carlton Oby, President & CEO of Mercy Street

Crystal Charity Ball is one of Dallas’s most storied philanthropic institutions, dedicated exclusively to benefiting children’s charities throughout Dallas County. Mercy Street is one of [eight nonprofits selected to receive funding](#) as part of the 2026 grant cycle.

About Crystal Charity Ball

Crystal Charity Ball is a Dallas-based philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to supporting children’s nonprofits throughout Dallas County. Since its founding, the organization has distributed millions of dollars to improve the lives of children in North Texas. Learn more at crystalcharity.org.

About Mercy Street

Founded in 2003, Mercy Street is a Christ-centered youth development organization dedicated to transforming inner-city communities through the power of mentorship, leadership development, and sports. With its signature mentoring program and dynamic Mercy Street Sports division, the organization encourages and empowers youth and families while cultivating the next generation of community leaders. By seamlessly integrating Christian values, athletic engagement, and leadership training, Mercy Street fosters positive change in the communities it serves. Learn more at mercystreetdallas.org.

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