



SMI Student Info Sheet

Who Are We?

The Summer Medical Institute trains health professions students to put their faith into practice. Our goal is to challenge and equip a generation of healthcare professionals to utilize their God-given skills as a vehicle for expressing the life of Jesus Christ through compassionate and excellent medical care.

The SMI began in 1992 when 35 students, primarily from the Medical College of Georgia, went to Philadelphia to invest their summer growing in their faith in Christ while serving the medical and spiritual needs of the North Philadelphia community. Working in partnership with local churches and Esperanza Health Center, a Christian health clinic, the SMI addressed many medical and spiritual needs. After nine summers in North Philadelphia, SMI moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 2001. This South Texas SMI involves a multi-faceted approach to training including community-based health education and outreach campaigns in the TX/MX border communities.

What do we Do?

Activities

Above all else, the SMI is a leadership institute, providing life-changing training and experiences to its participants. Through workshops led by visiting faculty, discipleship groups, bible study, and personal application, students develop a deeper understanding of biblical medicine while growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with their peers.

Under the leadership of the Valley Baptist Family Practice Residency, the SMI offers free clinics and door-to-door canvassing to provide expanded healthcare services and follow-up for our neighbors in the TX/MX border communities.

Our health care interventions focus on hypertension and diabetes screenings and other preventive healthcare interventions such as eye clinics. Integrated into our health survey are questions assessing people's spiritual needs. These often lead to opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SMI participants live and eat together at a multi-purpose facility in Harlingen. Visiting SMI faculty and staff also live on site, providing wonderful opportunities for relationships and mentoring. Each student participates in a discipleship group with three or four peers for deeper Bible study, fellowship, and prayer.

All work and no Play?? No Way!! In the midst of a busy schedule, there is time for a good basketball game at the gym, a volleyball game, sight seeing excursions, water basketball/volleyball, a 4th of July celebration, a South Padre weekend retreat and just hanging out with new friends.

What Students Need.

As part of the SMI experience, students join in the faith-building process of support raising; trusting God to raise \$2,300.00 for their ministry. These expenses go to cover the participants' housing, weekday meals, transportation, and institute materials. You will need to bring spending money (approximately \$300) for weekend meals, recreational activities and personal incidentals. For more information, please visit www.thesmi.org or contact us at the address below.