



Cameron, Louisiana

Address

110 School Street
Cameron, LA 70631

Telephone/E-Mail

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Directions

From 1-10 take exit 36 at Lake Charles for LA-397 toward Creole/Cameron. Turn onto Pujol Rd/State Route 397/E Ward Line Rd. Continue to follow State Route 397/E Ward Line Rd for 6.1 miles. Turn left onto LA-14 E/Gerstner Memorial Blvd and drive 5 miles. Continue onto LA-27 N for 31 miles. Continue onto Marshall St/ 27/82 for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Pa Rd 3138/School St. Cameron MDS camp will be on the right at 110 S School Street (located in the First Baptist Church.)

Location

Cameron, Louisiana, is located in Cameron Parish, which is in the southwest corner of Louisiana.

Demographics

Cameron Parish was founded in 1870. This part of Louisiana is well-known as a "Sportsman's Paradise" and attracts thousands of hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, and nature-lovers each year. This is due to the 36 miles of accessible beaches and the 1,300 square miles of some of the United States' best hunting and fishing grounds. The four wildlife refuges located in the parish are home to a wide variety of waterfowl, alligators, and other marsh animals and plants. The largest city in Cameron Parish is Cameron, where MDS is currently working. Mining, hunting/fishing, and logging are some of the most common industries in this area.

Hurricanes Rita and Ike

Hurricane Rita came onshore just west of Cameron, LA on September 24, 2005, as the fourth-most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. An estimated 80-90% of the town's buildings were destroyed. The storm hit with winds over 120 miles per hour, and the 20-foot storm surge pushed sea water up to 20 miles inland. MDS began working in Cameron in 2006. On September 13, 2008, just three years after Rita, Cameron was struck again. Hurricane Ike came onshore along the Texas coast, causing major flooding and damage in Texas and southwestern Louisiana. In Cameron, nearly everything that was built on the ground was destroyed.

MDS

The MDS site in Cameron will be set up at the First Baptist Church in Cameron. Following the destruction of their building, members of the First Baptist Church rebuilt with housing volunteers in mind. MDS volunteers will have access to the kitchen, fellowship hall, several rooms in the church for sleeping and bathroom/shower facilities. Men and women will be housed in separate rooms. MDS is repairing and rebuilding homes in partnership with Faith Share, an interdenominational group that is working as the Long Term Recovery Committee. Since 2006, over 1,200 MDS volunteers have built over 20 new homes in the Cameron area and have repaired many others.