

## Myranda Janet

Myranda Lenore Janet was born January 24, 1978. She grew up in Lincoln, Illinois, a little town in the middle of the cornfields with a population of about 15,000 people. Mandy is the daughter of a retired elementary school principal (which may have attributed to her “teacher’s pet” status growing up) and a contact lens specialist turned orthodontist’s assistant and big sister to a kindergarten teacher.

During her high school years she went on mission trips to build houses in Mexico with her youth group and in high school and college regularly volunteered at a homeless shelter. These experiences helped shaped Mandy’s life views and interests toward getting involved in both international and urban ministries.

Mandy attended Lincoln Christian College, graduating in 2000 with a BA in Christian Business Administration. The summer before her senior year of college she spent working with a children’s program in North Philly. She then spent a semester doing her internship in a drop-in center and men’s homeless shelter on the north side of Chicago and was later asked to return for the summer. It took in men that the other shelters in the area would kick out. Mandy led a weekly women’s group for homeless women in the area discussing life skills and women’s issues – though much of the time she was the one learning.

One of her roommates from Chicago (Kedri Metzger) worked at a refugee resettlement office at World Relief and couldn’t say enough good things about it. Mandy, only wanting to work in a city where she could do urban work on the side, applied for a position there. Knowing it was their intention to move their HQ offices to Baltimore soon thereafter, she accepted a position in the relocation office, assisting with the move to Baltimore. She spent more than four years at the HQ office of World Relief working in refugee resettlement and later becoming an International Operations Specialist under the VP of International Operations.

After she arrived in Baltimore almost five years ago, she heard about New Song Community Church and decided to check it out. She attended sporadically for a few months but left, returning a year later for good (in part because Kevon always talked to her and he was soooo cute back then!). She now attends New Song, as well as Grace Fellowship Church in Timonium. She volunteered with Sandtown Habitat for several years before being employed there full time as the Resource Development Manager and Volunteer Coordinator in April 2005. In July 2005 she moved into the neighborhood with her one-eyed Sandtown street kitten, Pirate Princess.

Mandy absolutely LOVES to travel and last year went to Italy on her own. Her position at World Relief has provided her with friends all over the world who she enjoys visiting during her travels. This summer she’s planning a trip to Latin America.