

Fall 2018

# JVC Magazine

NEWS FOR FORMER, CURRENT, AND FUTURE JESUIT VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS



## WELCOMING TOM CHABOLLA

A new leader takes the helm of JVC this November

// JVC makes key changes across its formation and support programs



// Former Jesuit Volunteers answer the call to work for justice

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## JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

**COVER**

JVC Nicaragua exploring the roof of Basilica de la Asunción in Leon. Pictured left to right is Glendys Orellana (2016-18), Rachel Schwarz (2017-19), Paola Joaquin Rosso (2017-19), and Luvy Martinez, a friend and coworker. Photograph taken by a passerby.

**PUBLICATION NOTES**

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## Message from Leadership

Dear friends,

There's something exciting happening at the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. From the hiring of a new president to revamped formation and support structures, JVC is an organization asking the right questions, making strategic choices, and building a stable and sustainable future.

Inside this magazine, you'll find stories of Jesuit Volunteers attending JVC's first-ever integrated orientation and immersing themselves in their cities and fields of service. You'll hear from former volunteers striving to create a more just a hopeful world through public service, religious vocation, and the law. And you'll read about some exciting new initiatives that have made JVC a more effective steward of our shared mission and values.

JVC's board, staff, and alumni have been key to the organization's success this year. Building on the strong foundation set by former board chair Lisa Grattan and former president Tim Shriver, JVC has welcomed a new leadership team and board executive team that believe fiercely in the organization's mission and have the expertise to ensure JVC's long-term success. A skilled, dedicated staff and an impassioned group of former Jesuit Volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring our core values into every aspect of the JV experience, from recruitment to service and formation.

And all of the hard work shows: 90% of Jesuit Volunteers finish their term of service and 95% of partner agencies reapply for Jesuit Volunteers after their first year. As a result, tens of thousands of poor and marginalized persons across 6 countries receive more individualized services and greater accompaniment from talented, young leaders.

Thank you for everything you've done to build and grow JVC into one of the premier organizations for those seeking to serve on the front lines of social justice. We are so grateful for this community and honored by your faith in us.

Gratefully,



Mike Reddy (Los Angeles 2009-10)  
*Interim President*



Aspiring to create a more **JUST and hopeful world**,  
the Jesuit Volunteer Corps engages *passionate young people*  
**in vital SERVICE** within poor communities,  
fostering the growth of leaders committed to **FAITH IN ACTION**.



## **Meet Tom Chabolla, JVC's New President**

JVC is proud to welcome Tom at the helm of the organization starting November 1

Tom Chabolla has a long history and connection with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps that reaches back to the late 1980s. In addition to having friends and family as FJVs and JVC staff, Tom served as a chaplain at Loyola Marymount University, where he recruited students to join JVC. Tom has also served as a spiritual director to JVs during retreats and, with his wife Carolyn, volunteered as a support person for the JVC community in Santa Monica. Throughout these experiences, Tom has seen how JVC and its core values have transformed the lives of current and former volunteers.

Tom brings to JVC over 30 years of leadership experience with large organizations at the forefront of social change. "The consistent thread woven throughout my career has been working within organizations committed to advancing social and economic justice," says Tom. "That focus and passion was fed through my formation as a Jesuit Novice in California, deepened through my studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and put into action through my various roles working on issues including immigration reform, access to affordable housing, and workers' rights, among others."

Most recently, Tom worked as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President at NeighborWorks America, where he managed teams of more than 200 people, coordinated relationship management for 250 affiliated organizations, and oversaw annual grant making of more than \$200 million — a role that prepared him well to manage JVC, where Tom will work with 200 agencies that operate in 38 cities and six countries, recruiting volunteers from dozens of colleges and universities.

In his role at NeighborWorks America, Tom also led the organization's race, diversity and inclusion work for staff from both NeighborWorks and its network of community development organizations.

"My experience at NeighborWorks leading our diversity and inclusion work was one of the most challenging learning experiences of my career; it taught me lessons that I will continue to carry with me," says Tom. "I saw both how difficult and rewarding it is to engage a diverse staff in discussions about race. It also pushed me to reflect on my own life narrative as a Mexican-American in the U.S. and how that identity has shaped who I am and what I do."

Prior to joining NeighborWorks, Tom served as Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff at SEIU, one of the most powerful labor unions in the country, where he deepened his commitment to helping workers organize as a means of improving their lives and that of their families and communities.

Tom also brings extensive experience serving within the Catholic Church. At the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (1998 to 2002), he served as Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, among other roles. He later joined the national office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in Washington, D.C., where he gained additional experience resourcing communities organizing for social change.

**“The opportunity to work for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, in many ways, brings me full circle to where I began my career...working in a faith-based organization where I can share my appreciation of social justice and Jesuit spirituality as a lens through which to view our lives and the world around us.”**



“One of the most transformative experiences of my life was the opportunity to go through the Spiritual Exercises while in the Jesuit novitiate,” says Tom. “The Spiritual Exercises served to anchor me in my core values that I’ve sought to live out through the organizations in which I have served.”

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps is confident that Tom will embody and live its mission: to engage passionate young people to promote social justice by providing vital services to communities in need and fostering the growth of leaders committed to faith in action through a framework of Catholic, Ignatian values.

“The opportunity to work for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, in many ways, brings me full circle to where I began my career,” says Tom. “It brings me back to working in a faith-based organization where I can my share my appreciation of social justice and Jesuit spirituality as a lens through which to view our lives and the world around us. I look forward to building a relationship with the entire JVC community to ensure that JVC becomes an even stronger organization that engages a larger and more diverse group of volunteers in experiences that can be transformative.” ★

Tom and Carolyn, his wife of 33 years, now live in Silver Spring, Maryland. They have two children: Sarah, who lives in Iowa City, Iowa; and Emma, who attends Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania.

JVC is not simply an organization that *places volunteers*. It is a **movement**, a congregation, AND A WAY OF ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD **that feels INCREASINGLY RARE.**



## **One Orientation: Bringing Corps Members Together**

Fostering community from the start helps build 'One JVC'

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JVC'S HISTORY**, the organization welcomed all incoming Jesuit Volunteers (whether serving in Micronesia or Maine) to an integrated orientation at the start of the 2018 program year.

With the help of some incredible speakers (and a commissioning mass led by Homeboy Industries' Fr. Greg Boyle), incoming volunteers received an in-depth introduction to JVC's values and Ignatian roots, training in self-care and other tools necessary to performing vital service, and opportunities for reflection among others with similar placements, affinities, and identities.

Following the success of orientation, we are continuing to explore ways in which we can better foster One JVC: an organization that seamlessly, consistently, and professionally trains and supports its volunteers, agencies, and the communities they serve.



## WHY HOST A SINGLE ORIENTATION?



One Orientation empowers JVC to offer high-quality, consistent formation and training for all JVs, fully preparing our volunteers to perform vital service regardless of location, target population, or type of work. It also allows JVs to build community and collaborate with the full cohort of volunteers, across the regional and domestic-international divide, fostering solidarity, learning, and mutual understanding among a larger and more diverse pool of young leaders.

Additionally, JVC can now attract speakers and facilitators from across the nation to share knowledge, expertise, and reflection with every incoming volunteer. The new format also provides opportunities for both large and small group reflection, as well as spaces for volunteers with similar placements, affinities, and identities.



**ABOVE**  
Volunteers explore JVC's four values.

**RIGHT**  
Orientation ice breakers introduce Jesuit Volunteers to one another.





**TOP**  
In an effort to promote greater equity within the organization, JVC offers free menstrual products to JVs and staff through a partnership with Aunt Flow, reducing the need for our menstruating volunteers to spend 20% or more of their monthly stipends on these essential products.

**CENTER AND BOTTOM**  
Opening prayer at Orientation channels JV house patrons and their work for justice.

## WHAT ARE... ...AFFINITY GROUP SPACES?

JVC recognizes that volunteers with marginalized and underrepresented identities may need an intentional space to further process and hold conversations related to social justice, race, gender, and sexuality. All volunteers who identify as people of color and/or LGBTQ+ individuals are invited to join staff-facilitated affinity groups during orientation and future retreats. JVC continues to offer this intentional space to volunteers via a virtual platform on a monthly basis throughout the JV experience.

## ...APOSTOLATE GROUP SPACES?

Jesuit Volunteers perform vital service in 16 core fields, accompanying poor and marginalized communities as they seek critical services, pastoral ministry, and quality education. JVC has created ongoing spaces for volunteers in each of these fields to support and learn from each other throughout their terms of service. Through collaboration and open discussion over the challenges and blessings of working in their fields, JVs are better positioned to provide high quality and responsive support to the communities who rely on them. ★



CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH SERVICES



HEALTH CARE  
AND SERVICES



LEGAL SERVICES



DEVELOPMENTAL/  
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



EMPLOYMENT



SHELTER AND  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



WOMEN'S ISSUES



MINISTRY



HOUSING AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES



COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION



HUNGER



HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT



IMMIGRATION/  
REFUGEE SERVICES



ADDICTION  
RECOVERY



ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP



# In-City Coordinators Provide Unprecedented Support to Volunteers

*Recognizing the benefits of local support for our volunteers, Jesuit Volunteer Corps welcomes 29 In-City Coordinators to support the formation and service of our volunteers at the local level for the 2018 program year. ICCs are part-time, JVC staff located in each city of service, familiar with that city's culture and social service environment, experienced in working with young adults, and capable of providing skilled support. Through this and other resources, JVC is committed to providing its volunteers with the tools they need to perform vital service and grow as leaders.*



**MONICA HANNA (Houston 2012-13)**

**IN-CITY COORDINATOR | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA (WEST)**

“ My JVC experience was both challenging and formative, and if it wasn't for the support system that I had, it would have been very difficult for me to finish the program. My goal as the In-City Coordinator will be to build community and support the current JVs, support their agencies, and facilitate a positive experience for all stakeholders.”



**ANTHONY BAKER (Washington, D.C. 1977-78)**

**IN-CITY COORDINATOR | ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

“ I believe strongly in JVC's work, both in its effect within local communities and, as my experience as an FJV proves, on individuals who are called to the mission. I am drawn to the idea of meeting young people at key moments in their own lives and seeing what God has for them in all of this.”



**STEVEN ELLIS (Harlem 2007-08; Portland, Maine 2008-09)**

**IN-CITY COORDINATOR | PORTLAND, MAINE**

“ The spirituality I grew into 10 years ago still serves as a reminder of the Ignatian-focused, service-oriented relationship I have with God. JVC's values have affected and shaped me — the way I work and participate in my community, and how I see the world. JVC changed my life.” ★





## LOCAL ORIENTATION: HOW IT WORKS

Once Jesuit Volunteers arrive to their city of service, their local formation team arranges a “Local O” that begins with an official welcome and a warm meal. In addition to learning about their city’s amenities, Jesuit Volunteers gain a foundational understanding of how they, as a community, will collectively address issues of injustice across all facets of their volunteer experience.

We followed along with our Cleveland JVs during their local orientation to Ohio’s North Coast.



## THE CLEVELANDERS

Meet the new JVs who are living and working for justice in Cleveland this year



-----  
**Carl Powell, Jr.**

GLOBAL CLEVELAND

Through this experience, I hope to evolve into a more selfless and vulnerable individual. I also hope to gain a better understanding of social justice and confront my own privilege.

-----  
**Julia Misslin**

UCP OF GREATER CLEVELAND

I am hoping to grow in passion, faith, and in relationships.

-----  
**Lilly Bengston**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

I'm excited to learn more about the myriad resources that a domestic violence shelter is able to offer to both the women and children who spend time there.

-----  
**Ciara Costanzo**

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES HIGH SCHOOL

I am hoping to be transformed by the unknown, that I can let go of expectation and open my heart and mind to the new people and experiences that await me.

-----  
**Sean McKinney**

YOUTH CHALLENGE

I am looking forward to living simply in community, as well as to growing in my understanding of what are necessities and what are not.

-----  
**Matthew Scott**

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE

I am excited by the idea of helping to create a loving environment of people motivated by service.

-----  
**Caroline McDermott**

SAINT IGNATIUS SCHOOL

I am really looking forward to deepening my understanding of spirituality, and excited to put my faith into action, continuing to strengthen my relationship with God and with others. JVC has created an opportunity for me to serve others in a way I have dreamed of.

## WELCOME HOME

The first moments of life in Cleveland for new JVs consist of a crew of loving neighbors and FJVs who greet and share a joyful meal around the table where generations of JVs have gathered. Following the First Supper, Local Formation Team members converse with the JVs about the history of the table, the house, and the community. More friends stop by after supper for a firepit and fun in ICC Paula's backyard (right next door!).



## PUBLIC SQUARE

A first visit to the center of Cleveland finds the JVs on Public Square, a space that was originally paced off by Moses Cleaveland when he arrived to Ohio's north coast. While an "a" was later dropped from his name, he's credited with founding the city. Public Square serves as a gathering place for activists and rallies that oftentimes align with the social justice themes of the JVs' year.



# Local O

## HIGHLIGHTS

# from Cleveland



## SPORTS ARENAS

While downtown, the JVs are also dispatched to find the three homes of Cleveland's professional sports teams: Progressive Field (MLB), Quicken Loans Arena (NBA), and Cleveland Stadium (NFL). These places play a significant role in the lives and conversations of Clevelanders, including funding, transportation, local economic development, use of taxes, racial equity, and social access that affect the lives of people served by JVs and with whom they live in extended community.



## LIBRARIES

Public libraries — with access to free books, movies, music, and services — are an asset to JVs as they commit to simple living. More than that, these public institutions provide vast resources to people across every demographic: individuals without homes seek warmth and coolness; outdoor reading gardens provide a gathering space for old men to play chess and young children to look on; non-English speaking immigrants find assistance; jobless people find career counseling; incarcerated, housebound, and disenfranchised people connect to education and support. Libraries are among the truest of equitable community resources, which is a new perspective for most incoming JVs.

### CUDELL RECREATION CENTER

Publicly-funded rec centers can be found in many of Cleveland's neighborhoods, so a first-week activity includes the JVs heading to Cudell Recreation Center to sign up for free ID passes. Cudell is significant in that it was the location where Tamir Rice was killed by police. The blemished relationship between the Cleveland Police Department and broader community touches the lives of nearly everyone the JVs encounter during their year of service.



### CHURCHES

Cleveland is a land of many churches, as immigrant populations arrived across centuries and settled in enclaves. While there are Catholic parishes in great numbers, JVs live in a religiously pluralistic place where spirituality and religion can be explored and experienced in a multitude of diverse settings.

### CAPITOL THEATER

A short walk from Merriman House, the historic Capitol Theatre is an anchoring organization in a newly developed area on the near west side. Its core premise is that the arts can serve as a neighborhood's social, cultural, and economic driver. Locally-owned, the movie theater features special screenings and independent films throughout the year that benefit local nonprofits and many of the clients at JV placements.



### TACO NIGHT

A fun way to gather around a table is to ask a bunch of people to meet at a local spot offering Taco Tuesday. On their first Tuesday in town, JVs meet up with new friends and neighbors for an affordable night.

### WALKING TOUR

ICCs take JVs on a textured tour of the neighborhood, introducing the characters and locations that now populate their lives. It's a practical and emotional journey — being welcomed into gardens, meeting neighbors and dogs, bumping into FJVs, connecting with the stones cut by immigrants to build churches, meeting refugees who work in the largest urban farm in the country, being gifted baked goods from a multigenerational ethnic bakery, singing *Happy Birthday* to a friend of Dorothy Day (no, really!) on her porch, standing in the historic place where the Underground Railroad ran, and breathing in the wonder of the famous West Side Market.

### RTA

In a year of simplicity and solidarity with the poor, JVs are encouraged to use public transportation as much as possible for their daily travels. During Local Orientation, a Cleveland-area FJV shares the joys and practices of using RTA (Regional Transit Authority) with the JVs.



### ST. PAT'S

Founded by Irish immigrants and long-pastored by Jesuits until just after Vatican II, St. Patrick's Church is the neighborhood parish — home for JV communities across generations, and to many FJVs who reside in Cleveland. The JVs are introduced, welcomed, and blessed by the faith community at an outdoor mass.

## In the Field

### Camila Biaggi

city

Tacna, Peru

term of service

2017-19

partner agency

Instituto Educativo Miguel Pro



## Mes de Misión in the Mountains

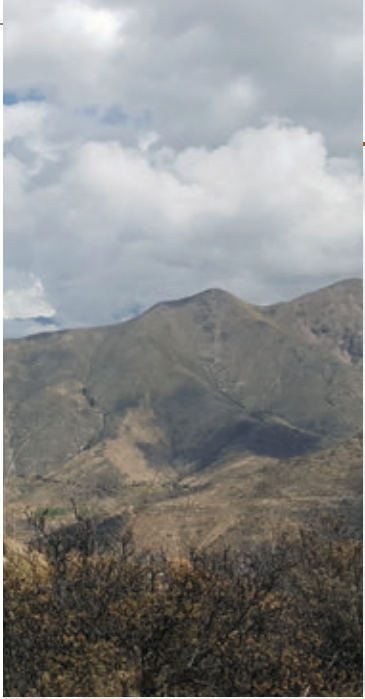
A grueling month-long mission trip shapes a newly arrived JV

**EVERY YEAR A GROUP OF ABOUT THIRTY TEENS** heads into the mountains on a mission month during their summer vacation. They live together, prepare food together, and work side by side for the month of January in Talabaya, an isolated town of 70 people located in the sierras of southern Peru. This year, a professor in his fifties guides the thirty-some teenagers and two very newly arrived Jesuit Volunteers to continue the tradition of this powerfully immersive experience.

Founded by Father Fred Green, S.J., Miguel Pro is one of a number of schools in Tacna, Peru, that send their students on a mission trip each year. The school believes strongly in its Jesuit origin and values, emphasizing service and accompaniment in all its projects and activities. Mes de Misión (Mission Month) gives students a taste of what it means to live as “mujeres y hombres para los demás”, or men and women for others. This program is entirely optional yet almost the entire class of third-year secondary students are up here in the mountains with us: working on farms at high altitude under the hot sun for long hours, away from their families for the first time, and learning what it means to live in community.

As one of the two JVs facilitating the experience, I watch friendships blossom as participants learn more about each other than they have in their 10 years of schooling together. The students grow closer as they develop skills like cooking over an open fire, working with dangerous farm tools, and facing new responsibilities of leadership and community. I sense how deeply many of these students believe in the message of the mission and the importance of service to others. Even in hours of rest, the students are looking for ways to help the members of the community, whether it is carrying firewood to their respective houses or playing games with the children of the town.

I often hear older generations complaining about the lack of work ethic in today's youth: how little drive they have or the lack of respect they have for their elders. After Mes de Misión, I believe it is not quality of character that is lacking in today's teenagers, but quality of guidance. We have forgotten to accompany our teens, to stand by and be witnesses to their struggle. We often fail to be there when they look back and ask: “Does this make sense?”. At the end of my time in Mes de Misión, I am left with the question: If the pinnacle of a child's development is their teenage years, why are we not more present?

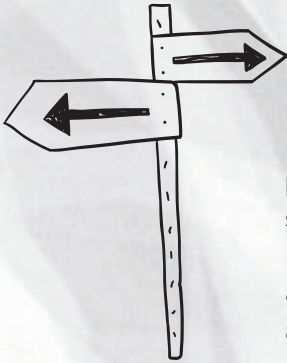


JVs Camila and Faith conquer the mountains of Peru's southern sierra.

I have learned many things during this month in the mountains as a Jesuit Volunteer. Some lessons are important, some unlikely to be used again (starting a fire with old coals and eucalyptus leaves, for example). There are moments in my month of Mes de Misión that shape me deeply, where I have neither a response nor lesson prepared. I simply need to hold a crying teen in my arms as they process being away from their family for the first time in their lives. Sometimes I even just need to listen without any judgement in my heart as teens unpack their own insecurities to me.

A previous volunteer has described Mes de Misión as "the hardest month of my life." It is certainly a grueling, often humiliating, all-encompassing excursion. But I find it to be one of the most profound months of my life. As a Jesuit Volunteer I take a lot of the values of my own mission for granted. I live consistently in shared community, engaging with my neighborhood and the city of Tacna through accompaniment and service. Much of my values are lived out simply because my home and workspace are set up this way. But there, in the mountains of Talabaya, I see what it is for my students to experience these concepts of accompaniment and service for the very first time.

**"Up in the mountains, pulling out weeds and cactus spines, my bachelor's degree and all of the skills I had picked up in college fall to the wayside."**



In some ways, Mes de Misión is a concentrated version of what it means to serve as a volunteer in a program with a focus on faith in action. A program like this places you in a completely new setting, stripping away all the skills and education that you thought carried you forward and made you a "successful" adult. Up in the mountains, pulling out weeds and cactus spines, my bachelor's degree and all of the skills I had picked up in college fall to the wayside. At the end of the day, exhausted and much in need of a shower, the only thing left for me or my fourteen-year-old students is the strength we have in our soul and the passion we feel in serving others. ★

### OUR FIVE ESSENTIALS

My compañera Faith and I took advantage of a cold afternoon to write a list of things we found essential to surviving our month:

1. When things are a little too hard to bear, grab some Oreos and go for a walk.
2. The best tool to overcome cultural and generational gaps: a pack of Uno cards.
3. When all else fails, charades can be an excellent form of communication.
4. Don't underestimate the healing power of delirious laughter.
5. Let yourself be surprised by the untouched potential of your students.



## Agency Feature

### Project Return

Nashville, Tennessee

JVC IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH PROJECT RETURN, an organization on the front lines of social justice in Nashville, Tennessee. Project Return provides resources and services to people returning to their communities after incarceration, giving them the tools they need to gain employment and rebuild their lives. Pairing job training with wraparound services and housing supports, Project Return coaches its clients throughout the entire employment process, from job search and acquisition to advancement and retention.



Former Jesuit Volunteer Gabe McCarthy helps Erik Cheeks find a suit for an upcoming job interview.

**“JVs are an immense help. It takes energy and drive, intellectual giftedness, positivity, and the ability to believe fervently in a cause, to be an effective part of the Project Return effort.”**

**ALLIE MIKELS,  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT PROJECT RETURN**

Their mission has never been more important. Tennessee’s rate of incarceration far exceeds the U.S. average and is over six times that of the United Kingdom. Tennessee’s criminal justice system disproportionately affects its African American communities: while just 17 percent of the population, African Americans represent over 44 percent of the state’s incarcerated population.

In 2017 Project Return provided services to 969 people starting new lives after incarceration. Associate Director Allie Mikels describes the urgency of their work: “In the South generally and Tennessee specifically, incarceration and correctional supervision continues to be a growth industry. The people we serve face nearly insurmountable odds. In the face of all of that, Project Return is serving more people than ever before, and building deeper, lengthier, and more service-rich relationships than ever before. We are also building our social enterprise capacity as a major strategy for growth, sustainability, and effectiveness.”

Jesuit Volunteers are key to their success. “We face the challenges of growing wisely, and increasing our resources commensurate with our growth, while of course maintaining our cultural standards of excellence along the way. JVs are an immense help in this regard. It takes energy and drive, intellectual giftedness, positivity, and the ability to believe fervently in a cause, to be an effective part of the Project Return effort.”

Our current Jesuit Volunteer, Melanie O’Connor, is a part of the service delivery team at Project Return, where she works one-on-one with the men and women who are starting their lives over at Project Return. ★



Melanie O’Connor





Project Return was founded in 1979 by two visionary Nashville ministers who realized the overwhelming obstacles that people face when leaving prison and returning to the community.

Project Return's vision is for individuals to experience a full and free life after incarceration, and **THE PROGRAM WORKS.**

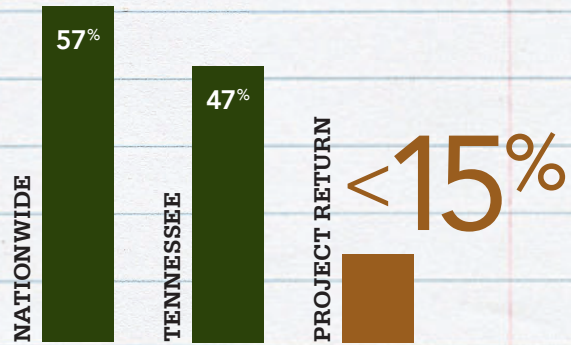
### 2017 STATISTICS



84%

#### Employment Rate

325 out of 388 Project Return participants have found employment.



#### Recidivism Rate

Project Return's client recidivism rate is consistently less than 15%.

\$3.3 million

#### Taxpayer Savings

Funds utilized by Project Return represent money *not spent on incarceration*. Imprisonment in Tennessee comes with an annual price tag of approximately \$27,000 per person. Weighing this cost with recidivism rates, Project Return saves significant taxpayer dollars.

## JVC Pilots an Updated Formation Program

*The Jesuit Volunteer Corps' formation program offers training for leadership in accompaniment, solidarity, and reconciliation. It is grounded in a year or more of service with and learning from those who are poor and vulnerable in the context of "a constant interplay between experience, reflection, decision, and action, in line with the Jesuit ideal of being 'contemplative in action.'" (General Congregation 32)*

*In consult with Jesuit and lay experts in Ignatian spirituality, JVC is developing and piloting an updated formation curriculum that invites volunteers to embrace the four JVC values. Over four retreats and ongoing formation opportunities, JVC provides the tools and frameworks for FJVs to choose, in an informed and thoughtful way, whether and how to engage in and practice the following dispositions and habits.*



### ✚ IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

- Perceive the work of God in all creation, in personal and professional relationships, and in the "signs of the times" (Jesuits: "finding God in all things")
- Practice methods of personal reflection in daily life (e.g., the Examen) individually and in groups, becoming comfortable with silence
- Engage in regular spiritual and theological reflection on personal life, work, and contemporary issues using spiritual texts (including Scripture) and other resources
- Discern and discuss the challenges of living faithful and just lives in family, community, individually, or with a spiritual director
- Pursue vocations through deep attention to prayer, personal gifts, interior movements, relationships, and the common good
- Maintain a spiritual life in companionship after JVC



### SIMPLE LIVING 🍞

- Manifest a personal awareness of the need to maintain balance and perspective in the presence of the forces of consumerism, busyness, ambition, and materialism in everyday life and career
- More deeply understand the lives and resource constraints of our sisters and brothers whom we seek to accompany and serve
- Evaluate the human and ecological consequences of one's choices and follow practices which minimize harm to our "common home" and promote the well-being of all

“We want to offer the volunteers a formation program that prepares them to better accompany the poor and vulnerable, during their year of service and beyond.”

GLORIA MCDOWELL, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS



 SOCIAL JUSTICE



 COMMUNITY

- Recognize and evaluate the structural roots of injustice within social institutions, cultures, economic and political structures as well as the global nature of many current social problems and their impact on various human communities
- Recognize personal prejudices, stereotypes and presumptions and move to transcend them
- Apply the Jesuit practice of discernment, analysis, reflection, and action to service experiences
- Advocate for social justice issues
- Apply Catholic social justice principles in social analysis
- Participate in community building (church, social justice organizations, neighborhood, etc.)
- Practice methods of active listening, consensus-building and conflict resolution
- Practice humility, self-reflection, and self-awareness, along with a willingness to be vulnerable, open to feedback, and committed to personal growth
- Develop mutual relationships across lines of difference (e.g., socioeconomic background, cultural tradition, national origin, religious preferences, racial/ethnic background, sexual orientation, ability level) and joyfully put the needs of others above one's own
- Adhere to the Ignatian presupposition to assume good will, or, as Ignatius says, “to be more ready to put a good interpretation on another's statement than to condemn it as false” (Spiritual Exercises, Annotation 22) ★

## Lisa Grattan Steps Down from the JVC Board

JVC thanks Lisa for over six years of dedicated service as board chair



**LEFT**  
Lisa's JV house in San Jose.

**MIDDLE**  
Lisa and her community-mates, Donna, Kathy, Patricia, and Mark.

**RIGHT**  
Lisa as JVC board chair.

Lisa Grattan has supported JVC in some form ever since her JV service in San Jose from 1986 to 1987, where she brought her passion, loyalty, and hard work ethic to bear as a case worker and an advocate for mentally ill adults. She lives the JVC mission, aspiring to create a more just and hopeful world through vital service within poor communities and through faith in action. Her strong convictions, quick wit, and sense of humor allowed her to make lasting connections with the people she served as a JV.

"We laughed a lot in our San Jose house," says Trisha Onofrio, who volunteered as a JV alongside Lisa. "Even through the tough times, Lisa could get us laughing. She enjoys getting to know people, seeking depth in relationships and asking questions and listening intently. She was perfect for her job with JVC."

Lisa and Trisha lived in a ranch-style house on 17th Street in the Luna Park neighborhood of San Jose. Co-habiting with fellow volunteers Kathy Hardy, Donna Murphy, and Mark Fulone, their cozy home had a front yard and a fireplace. Lisa was beloved by her community-mates, and she pushed them to think harder and deeper about social justice.

"Lisa's volunteer year extended into her many years of board membership and leadership where she had two major accomplishments, among others," says Fred Kammer, SJ, Vice-Chair of the Board of JVC. "First, she kept the eyes of board and staff on two 'lifeblood' issues — recruiting volunteers and developing essential financial resources. Second, Lisa was key in recruiting wonderful board members, especially former volunteers who bring their own volunteer experiences to our work as a board."

The Vocational Learning and Treatment Center (VLTC) in San Jose, where Lisa served, had a relationship with Catholic Charities and provided job coaching and support for the mentally ill

adults who qualified for the program. A fierce and loyal friend with a legendary sense of fun and adventure, Lisa took many road trips around California with her housemates during their year of service.

Driven by a desire to do something meaningful after graduating from Holy Cross, volunteer service and the opportunity to have a position with significant responsibility at a young age appealed to her — and her year of service forever changed the trajectory of her life.

“Lisa truly embodies how the JVC experience can impact a person when one dares to change,” says John Mullman, who first approached Lisa to ask her to join the JVC Board, which she did in 2012. “She has faithfully served and embraced the mission and values of JVC. She incorporates the concepts of community and spirituality in all aspects of her life, from her involvement in service organizations to raising her four children and to making time frequently for spiritual reflection. She is and will continue to be deeply dedicated to the organization and to social justice work in years to come.”

Lisa is known for the straightforward approach she brings to the four values: spirituality, simple lifestyle, community, and social justice. Her grounded, thoughtful positivity and focus on what matters most in life serves as a guiding beacon to her family.

“Lisa has always been an incredibly helpful mentor and guide,” says Mike Reddy, Interim President and Director of Communications at JVC. “She has an unmatched passion for justice and for advocating for people that face daily struggles. The tremendous amount of work she put in to build a foundation at JVC has allowed us to grow and change as an organization — we are on the right path because of her.” ★

## MEET JVC'S NEW BOARD OFFICERS



### **Joan Hogan Gillman, Chair**

*The board and I are deeply committed to the mission, values, sustainability and impact of JVC. We welcome our new President, Tom Chabolla, and thank the staff, volunteers, FJVs, agencies, donors, and members of the Jesuit community who guide us in our work.*



### **Fr. Michael McFarland, Treasurer**

*The JVC board is responsible for JVC's two-fold mission, rooted in the mission of the Society of Jesus. It serves the poor through providing talented, devoted, and skilled volunteers to its many agencies; and it helps form women and men for a lifetime of solidarity with those in need, grounded in a spirituality of reverence, self-knowledge, and discernment.*



### **Fr. Fred Krammer, Vice Chair**

*Every member of this board has had their life positively affected by JVC, whether through their own service or the service of friends and family. As a board, we ensure that JVC continues to change lives by promoting the Jesuit tradition of “men and women for and with others.”*



### **John Carron, Secretary**

*Serving on JVC's board allows me to give back to an organization that has given me so much. My time as a volunteer in St. Louis shaped me spiritually, personally, and professionally, and I am honored to use my experience since then to shape and support JVC's mission.*



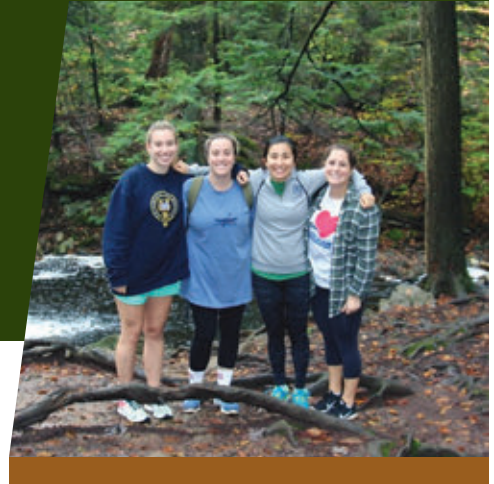
**AUGUST 27**

The local Scranton community welcomed Jesuit Volunteers with a pizza party. Clockwise from bottom: Denise Anatasio, Johnathan Yung, Theresa Puhr, Ellie Kawa, Dennis Mundt, and Molly Fuchs



**OCTOBER 8**

Attending a talk at the University of Scranton given by Fr. Jim Martin.



**OCTOBER 14**

The women of Guadalupe House hiking at Ricketts Glen State Park.



## JVC Invests in a Close-Knit Community

**LOCATED IN THE LACKAWANNA RIVER VALLEY IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,** Scranton is a city known for both industrial decline and vibrant renewal. Once a thriving industrial hub boasting the largest steel plant in the United States and the nation’s first continuously operated electrified streetcar system, the city eventually suffered from a diminishing coal industry and the loss of manufacturing jobs to the South and abroad.

The Scranton community, however, invested in the revitalization and growth of their beloved city. By creating a lively, walkable downtown with world-class cultural institutions, restaurants, and nightlife, the city began attracting young professionals interested in joining a close-knit and growing community. And the city has been growing: recent census data shows population growth of two percent in recent years.

Despite its recent renewal, however, Scranton still faces significant challenges. The majority of students in Scranton’s school district are classified as low income, and the poverty rate of the Scranton metro area’s Black residents is one of the highest in the country.

FJV Cathy Seymour (Belize 1990-92) and Patricia Vaccaro at the University of Scranton first recognized the need and opportunity for Jesuit Volunteers in a city like Scranton. With a tight-knit community with the grit and determination to tackle its greatest challenges, Scranton was an obvious place in which young volunteers could provide vital service and learn to be leaders committed to justice. Under Cathy’s and Patricia’s leadership, JVC established Casa Guadalupe in 2011 to serve poor and marginalized communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Their work paid off. Each year, the Scranton JV community provides essential capacity to the region’s nonprofits, serving an average of 28,000 individuals and families with significant need. And JVC’s agency partners have come to rely on the talent and commitment of Jesuit Volunteers.

Dennis Mundt, formervolunteer at St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen, says Scranton “is a city filled with organizations that rely on JVs in order to fulfill their mission. At St. Francis, the JV is the manager of the food pantry, which has over 2,800 families in its system. Without having a full-time JV in this position, it would be impossible for those families to get the food they need.”

Meghan Loftus, the President and CEO of partner agency Friends of the Poor, agrees: “Our JVs have been absolute rock stars and key to our success. Without JVC, we simply could not serve the number of people who come to us in need each day.”



**NOVEMBER 5**

Celebrating mass as a community.

**FEBRUARY 10**

FJV Teddy came over to teach house members how to brew their own beer. Taking advantage of the free refrigeration, Molly joined him outside.

**“Over the years, the community has come together to build structures that help the most marginalized people in the area. The agencies often partner together to shape their services to the needs of individuals. And as Jesuit Volunteers, we certainly add to these partnerships.”**

Theresa Puhr (Scranton 2017-18)

One such JV is Molly Fuchs (Scranton 2017-18). As a caseworker at United Neighborhood Centers, Molly has been critical to ensuring important programs and services remain available amid tight budgets and significant need.

“I have been able to increase organizational capacity by implementing programs and taking on clients that have become too much for our social workers’ caseloads,” says Molly. “Having a JV allows my placement site to reach a larger population and in turn help make our communities healthier.”

And it’s certainly not just Scranton that benefits from JVC’s investment in the community. Year over year, volunteers rate Scranton as one of the best JV cities of service due to the strong presence of FJVs, the welcoming local community, and the comprehensive social services environment.

As JV Jonathan Young describes, “The greater Scranton community and FJVs we’ve met have all welcomed and graced us with immense hospitality and have truly made where we live a home.”

His community-mate Theresa Puhr adds, “Over the years, the community has come together to build structures

that help the most marginalized people in the area. The agencies often partner together to shape their services to the needs of individuals. And as Jesuit Volunteers, we certainly add to these partnerships.”

As Campus Minister for Social Justice at the University of Scranton and In-City Coordinator for the Scranton JV community, Cathy Seymour is critical to building those partnerships. With her help, almost 300 alumni of the university have performed vital service around the world through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

University of Scranton’s Interim President Rev. Herbert B. Keller, SJ, believes the opportunity JVC provides is critical to forming alumni into young leaders:

“Jesuit education is intended to be transformational at its core. At The University of Scranton we want our graduates to be “men and women for and with others” so that they can then go out and change the world for the better. Service experiences offered by JVC and other organizations play an important role in this process. We are truly blessed to have so many of our graduates express this genuine care for others through their commitment to long-term service at JVC.” ★

## Scranton Native Brings JVC's Values Back to His Hometown

After helping Mother Teresa open an AIDS clinic nearly three decades ago, Pennsylvania lawyer Pat Brier starts an Esperanza immigration clinic in Scranton

**PATRICK BRIER CONTINUES TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION AND VALUES OF THE JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS** as a leader committed to justice within his native Scranton.

As a volunteer with the newly-formed Jesuit Volunteer Corps East, Brier served alongside Jesuit priest Horace McKenna accompanying persons experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C.

"We worked out of the basement of the Saint Aloysius Church on North Capitol Street at an organization called The Line. Every day, a large group of people who were homeless would line up outside of our doors, and we would give them whatever we had."

**Patrick Brier**

city  
Washington D.C.

term of service  
1979-80

partner agency  
The Line



Brier poses in front of Saint Aloysius with Father McKenna and colleagues.

"We worked out of the basement of the St. Aloysius Church...at an organization called The Line. Every day, a large group of people who were homeless would line up outside of our doors, and we would give them whatever we had."





After attending law school at Catholic University, Brier returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania to work for justice in his home community, representing clients that included Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity.

"The Missionaries of Charity were working diligently to get a Pediatric AIDS home opened in Philadelphia, despite a number of delays and pushback. We were able to complete the project successfully and get the AIDS home opened."

**...Brier, now a healthcare lawyer, started an Esperanza immigration clinic in Scranton to support DACA recipients and others who require assistance...**

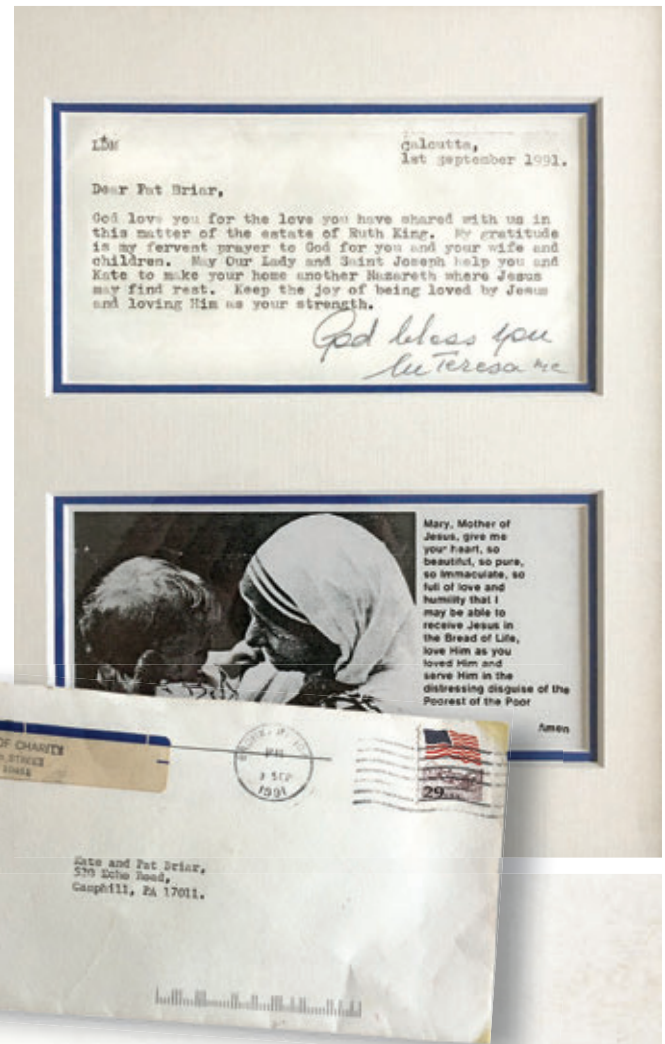
In 2017, Brier, now a healthcare lawyer, started an Esperanza immigration clinic in Scranton to support DACA recipients and others who require assistance navigating the immigration process.

"There is such a large need here, especially among this group that has been terrified by recent events. We are now hoping to expand the clinic and add additional services for this vastly underserved population."

Brier and his wife Kate have raised five children in Scranton, two of whom have gone on to become Jesuit Volunteers themselves. He thanks JVC for inspiring him to build care for the poor and marginalized into his personal and professional life.

"JVC was a cathartic experience because it was the first time where my eyes were really opened to all the opportunities for remaining involved in social ministry." ★

Mother Teresa's thank you letter to Brier.



JVC continues to place volunteers at the Father McKenna Center, a social service agency serving men struggling with homelessness and very low-income families in Ward 6 of Washington D.C.

## Former Jesuit Volunteers Seek Justice Through Public Service

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps is committed to creating leaders committed to faith in action. We sat down with two such leaders — Callie Kozlak and Danny O'Connor — to learn about their path to running for higher office.

*CALLIE KOZLAK (RALEIGH 2004-05) is running for school board in the District of Columbia.*

“ My JVC experience inspired a career rooted in public service and social justice, and showed me the value of community. I am grateful for the community where I live, and am running for public office to ensure we bring out the best of our community, bring diverse voices to the table, and make it a community where kids and families from all different backgrounds can thrive.



I think every young person should commit to a year of service in order to gain clarity on the role they want to play in the world as a professional and citizen; to broaden their understanding of institutional racism; and to gain valuable empathy skills that will serve them well in both their professional and personal lives. I believe it is important for JVs to understand the historical inequities in public education and how education is inter-related to other issues, including housing, criminal justice, workforce development, transportation, environmental justice, and health care.

**“I believe it is important for JVs to understand...how education is inter-related to other issues, including housing, criminal justice, workforce development, transportation, environmental justice, and health care.”**

I served as a Jesuit Volunteer in Raleigh, North Carolina, coordinating immigration cases and volunteer outreach at Legal Aid. JVC was hands down the best life decision I have made because it inspired my career and provided me a wonderful community of friends and mentors. I would not be where I am today if it was not for my experience with JVC.

In this whole process of running for office, I realize how important it is to be myself, stay authentic, and connect with people on a human level. Running for office, however, requires making oneself vulnerable and open to criticism and rejection. Thankfully, we have a vibrant community of FJVs in D.C. I am continually in awe of the generosity of this group of people: they remind me that the wellbeing of individuals and society depends on the generosity and commitment of others to love, stay engaged, and give back.



**DANNY'S ADVICE FOR THOSE CONSIDERING JVC**

**Do it.** JVC is probably one of the greatest decisions I've ever made. It'll be a hard year, but it's so worth it. To walk with the poor, to live amongst the poor, to be in solidarity with the poor will totally change your perspective and the way you think about the world.

*DANNY O'CONNOR (NEW YORK CITY 2009-10) is the Democratic candidate to represent Ohio's 12th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

“ We need folks who believe in a kinder country that treats everyone with dignity and respect. I'm in a position to run for office and advocate for people who are poor and working really hard to get ahead without anyone on their side.

I've always been someone who believes in service and that we can all work together to make a better world. For me, JVC was the perfect fit because I'm a big believer in Catholic Social Teaching, social justice, and advocating for the poor and voiceless. An established, successful program like JVC just fits that mold.

My placement site, Part of the Solution (POTS) in the Bronx, is one of the greatest places in the world. I was at the legal clinic there, helping out with intake and assisting persons experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, evictions, and everything you can imagine. It's a type of place where people are treated with dignity and respect. It epitomizes everything that's good about the world.

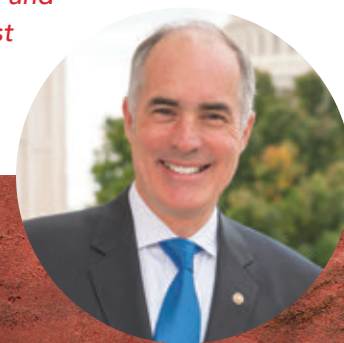
**“As a JV, I saw the law can be impactful on individuals, on families, and folks who don't have a voice. There's power in the law and in our justice system when we have people who fight to make sure that folks have their rights protected.”**

As a JV, I saw the law can be impactful on individuals, families, and folks who don't have a voice. There's power in the law and in our justice system when we have people who fight to make sure that folks have their rights protected. And by participating in the larger Bronx community during my year, I realized that as a community we can do more than we can as individuals.

I'm a big believer that we're all created in the image of God, and that we're all deserving of dignity and respect and opportunity. And every single person regardless of their zip code should have the opportunity to live out their dreams and have economic opportunity. If we don't have folks who are committed to fighting for that in our political system, more people will fall behind. ★



**BOB CASEY, JR. (PHILADELPHIA 1982-83)** knows quite a bit about the challenges and graces of elected office. As the U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Casey has spent the last 12 years on the front lines of social justice, advocating for policies that benefit poor and marginalized persons across Pennsylvania and the United States.



## Senator Bob Casey

**Age:**  
58

**Hometown:**  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

**Family:**  
With wife, Teresa, has four daughters:  
Elyse, Caroline, Julia, and Marena

**JVC placement:**  
Gesu School, Philadelphia

**Alma maters:**

- College of the Holy Cross (BA)
- Catholic University of America (JD)

**First elected office:**  
Pennsylvania State Auditor General  
(1997-2005)

**Year elected to Senate:**  
2006

**Senate committees:**

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Committee on Finance
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- Special Committee on Aging

“ As a JV, I taught fifth grade and coached basketball at the Gesu School in North Philadelphia. It was a challenging year: I learned the basics of teaching on the job and learned a lot about myself in the process. Teaching is difficult even when you’re focused on it as a career, and even more so when you feel like you’re unprepared and you have to learn as you go. After that year, I felt I could do just about anything.

While the experience was a challenge, I learned so much from my students and from the struggles of their families. Now, when I’m working on defending Medicaid or another program that helps people in low-income communities, they are not abstract policy matters. They are more real because of my experience in JVC, working with families who struggled to make ends meet. It also helped me understand the trauma many communities confront and overcome alongside economic challenges in declining neighborhoods.

My daughter, Julia, recently finished her year as a Jesuit Volunteer. Obviously for a parent, it is inspiring and a source of great validation when your child chooses a similar experience to your own. She took on a tough assignment, and I’m grateful she was willing to commit part of her life to service. We’re blessed to share that experience. ★



80%

of Jesuit Volunteers credit an FJV  
or JVC supporter  
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## On the Front Lines of Immigration Reform

Shannon Johnson Guerisoli and Stephanie Lubert tell us how their experiences as JVs led them to work for justice among one of the most marginalized communities in America.



**Shannon Johnson Guerisoli**  
(Phoenix 2009-10)

I served as a Jesuit Volunteer in the Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program in Phoenix, during a time of growing hostility and criminalization of the immigrant community. Being involved in community efforts to protect the immigrant and undocumented community in Arizona as a JV forever shaped my career. After receiving my JD, I returned to Arizona to represent some of the thousands of adults, fearing harm and death in their countries of origin, held in immigration detention in Arizona every day.

JVC's values continue to provide an integral guide for me to navigate the tumultuous waters of immigration detention and asylum law. I am motivated to address the

lack of dignity for the lives of migrants, particularly my clients who are seeking asylum: one of our biggest fights, for example, is against a decision to take away asylum protections for women who are fleeing their home countries because of gender-based violence.

**“During my year as a Jesuit Volunteer, I learned that silence is complicity.”**

During my year as a Jesuit Volunteer, I learned that silence is complicity. I have to continually challenge myself and engage in these issues, instead of turning away when it becomes too challenging. Social justice requires that non-directly impacted people continue to embrace and immerse themselves in social injustices, even when it is easy and possible to disengage. My JV year forced me to confront my role in injustice, and my work as an immigration lawyer is one way in which I try to immerse myself and engage on a daily basis.



**Stephanie Lubert**  
(Houston 2008-09)

I am currently an attorney with HIAS Pennsylvania where I represent unaccompanied Central American children fleeing unimaginable violence in their home countries. I landed on this career path largely because of JVC. It was through my time as a JV at the St. Frances Cabrini Center in Houston that I first witnessed the injustices of our broken immigration system and how lawyers could be warriors for social justice.

My JV house patron, Rutilio Grande, SJ, famously said, "The Gospel has to grow little feet." I learned from JVC that spirituality and social justice go hand in hand: I see my work not simply as a job, but rather as my faith in action.

And as current events make the fight for immigrant justice an uphill battle, it's this faith-centered approach to my work that sustains me. While winning a case is amazing, I measure my professional success on my ability to show compassion, treat clients with dignity, and empower clients to share their stories. My goal as an advocate is to make my clients feel human and not like just a statistic. Regardless of the legal outcome, I feel my day has been a success when a child leaves my office knowing that their story matters and that they are not alone in this fight. ★

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JV HOUSE NAMES

Every JV community house is named after a person who has been influential in the local community or effected change for poor and marginalized communities well represented in that area. Following the example of their houses' namesakes — from Wangari Maathai in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to Rosa Parks in Detroit — each JV community seeks to carry out the legacy of activists and leaders who came before them.

### CURRENT JVS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES...



**Siobhan Loughran**  
Promise Arizona  
(Tucson)

"I want to become more confident in speaking out against injustices: I feel that I have the awareness and compassion, but I am missing the vocalization. I want to grow spiritually and to understand the role that faith can play in a life spent working for others."

SIOBHAN LOUGHRAN (PHOENIX 2018-19)



**Brianne Banno**  
YMCA International Services  
(Houston)



**David Vascones**  
Battered Immigrant Project  
at Legal Aid of North Carolina  
(Raleigh)



**James Henderson**  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
(Chicago)

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## Vocational Journeys

# Answering the Call to Religious Life Through JVC

**Michael Tedone, SJ**

**city**

Chuuk, Micronesia

**term of service**

2009-11


**partner agency**

Xavier High School

WHILE DISCERNING A CALL TO THE JESUITS IN COLLEGE, I had a deep sense that I needed something else before entering the novitiate. It was my desire for community that led me to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. The transformative experience of JVC at Xavier High School in Chuuk laid an incredible foundation for my understanding of what simplicity, community, social justice, and spirituality looks like in my life, as an FJV and as a Jesuit.

During my tenure in Chuuk, there were two JV communities and Peace Corps volunteers spread throughout the other islands of the lagoon and outer islands. Together we all formed a bond that we couldn't have found another way. They continue to teach me the importance of openness and honesty

in community and a committed sharing of self that is true to any vocation. It was through community that I also got to meet many of the Jesuits at work on the islands — their different examples of love for Micronesians and all the people of God was inspirational and changed my perspective on what a religious community looks like.



**"I don't think I could be a Jesuit if it weren't for my JVC experience. Through JVC I began to hear more deeply the call to live a life of simplicity, justice, community, and faith, which allowed me to finally say 'yes' to my call."**

I don't think I could be a Jesuit if it weren't for my JVC experience. Or at the very least, my outlook on what it means to be a Jesuit would be incredibly different. Like many FJVs, I have found myself constantly looking back at the values and pillars of my time of service, guideposts for who and how I want to be in the world, Church, and community. It all goes back to those initial desires of community. Through JVC I began to hear more deeply the call to live a life of simplicity, justice, community, and faith, which allowed me to finally say "yes" to my call. ★





Former Jesuit Volunteers reunite years after vital service in Micronesia.



**Sr. Maria Peaches Dela Paz, OSF**  
**term of service** 2010-12 | **city** Chuuk, Micronesia

“JVC was the major stepping stone on my vocational journey to sisterhood. As a JV at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia, my experiences were impactful, faith-driven, and transformative. Through JVC, I learned what it was like to live in an intentional community that wanted to share in my faith and had a clear desire to work for justice. Obviously, JVC changes people. For me, I came back on fire with the desire to work for social justice in some capacity. I’m continuing my journey of deepening an understanding of who I am: woman of faith with a devout love of God, and I have JVC to thank for that.”



**Patrick Fisher**  
**term of service** 2017-18 | **city** Baltimore, Maryland

“My time with JVC this year has confirmed my vocation to become a Jesuit in important ways. The common theme amongst my experience of JVC’s four values is a radical call to vulnerability. I will never forget the way my relationship with Tony, a homeless man I’ve known throughout my year, changed when for the first time I asked him to pray for me, naming to him the particularities of my struggles. Or when my community-mates have shared that the deepest effect I had on them was when I shared not what I know but my own hurts and wounds. It is in this spirit and hope that I look forward to entering novitiate this fall. My prayer is that my life as a Jesuit and a priest may be one of Christ on the cross: choosing to remain in all the discomfort of loving enough to keep my wounds right open.”

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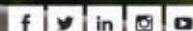
“At JST I was deeply formed by living in lay intentional community. In community I integrated my experience of ministering at San Quentin State Prison with my coursework through transformative conversations.”

Andrew Shahamiri

M.Div. '18, Former Jesuit Volunteer, '12-'13 & '13-'14

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# FJV NEWS

## Arrivals //

**Meg Hannigan Dominguez (Los Angeles 2009-10; Washington D.C. 2010-11)** and her husband welcomed daughter Evangeline Louise on May 12, 2018. Evangeline is the niece and goddaughter of **Lily Hannigan (New Orleans 2011-12)**, and is excited to apply for JVC in 2040. Meg lives in Washington D.C., where she is a clinical social worker for individuals experiencing homelessness. 🔄 C

**Monica (Thom) Konschnik (New Orleans 2006-07; JVC staff 2007-10)** and her husband welcomed daughter Lucy Joy on April 24, 2018. Lucy joins big sister Anna.

**Josh and Megan Grode Wolters (Managua, Nicaragua 2006-08, 2008-10)** welcomed their second child, Milo David, on June 6, 2018. 🔄 E

**Kerri Heusler (Mobile 2003-04)** and her husband are proud to announce that Erin Marie welcomed her little sister, Ashlynn Clara, on May 29, 2018.

**Juliette Lahey (Phoenix 2009-10)** and **Jack Lahey (Los Angeles 2009-10)** welcomed baby John Harold on June 1, 2018, in Los Angeles.

**Johnny Walker (Newark 2004-05)** and **Kierstin Quinsland (Washington D.C. 2008-10)** welcomed a baby girl, Maisie, in April 2018.

**Lauren Francis (New Orleans 2008-09)** and her husband welcomed daughter Annabelle Marie on January 31, 2018. She joins big brother William. 🔄 H

**Robin Hotard Roche (Houston 2008-09)** and Edward Roche (a coworker at Robin's JV agency) welcomed a baby girl, Nina Rose Roche, in 2017.

**Cassie Echer Williams (New Orleans 2007-08)** and Nate Williams welcomed a baby boy, Zander Mathis, into the world on September 24, 2017. 🔄 Q

## Commitments //

Casa Dorothy Kazel housemates (**Los Angeles 2014-15**) **Morganne Stevens, Sara Haines, Laura Wagner, Dominique Troy, Chris Morden, Jackie Imonode** and **Matt Straface** all gathered in Puyallup, Washington, to celebrate the marriage of their JV roommate, **Annarose O'Brien Wilson**, to Andy Jowett. 🔄 A

**Kevin Ward (Boston 2015-16)** and **Megan Newman (Scranton 2015-16)** united in marriage on January 20, 2016, in Seattle, Washington, at St. Luke's Parish. Many FJVs were present to celebrate. 🔄 B

**Megan Gaskin (Sacramento 2015-16)** was proposed to on March 29, 2018, at the New York Mets Opening Day at Citi Field. Now engaged to Kenny Bowe, the couple plans to marry on Leap Day 2020 (February 29, 2020). 🔄 F

**Ellen Walsh (Houston 2012-13)** and **Cooper McCullough (Houston 2012-13)** celebrated their marriage on August 5, 2017, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, surrounded by many generations of FJVs.

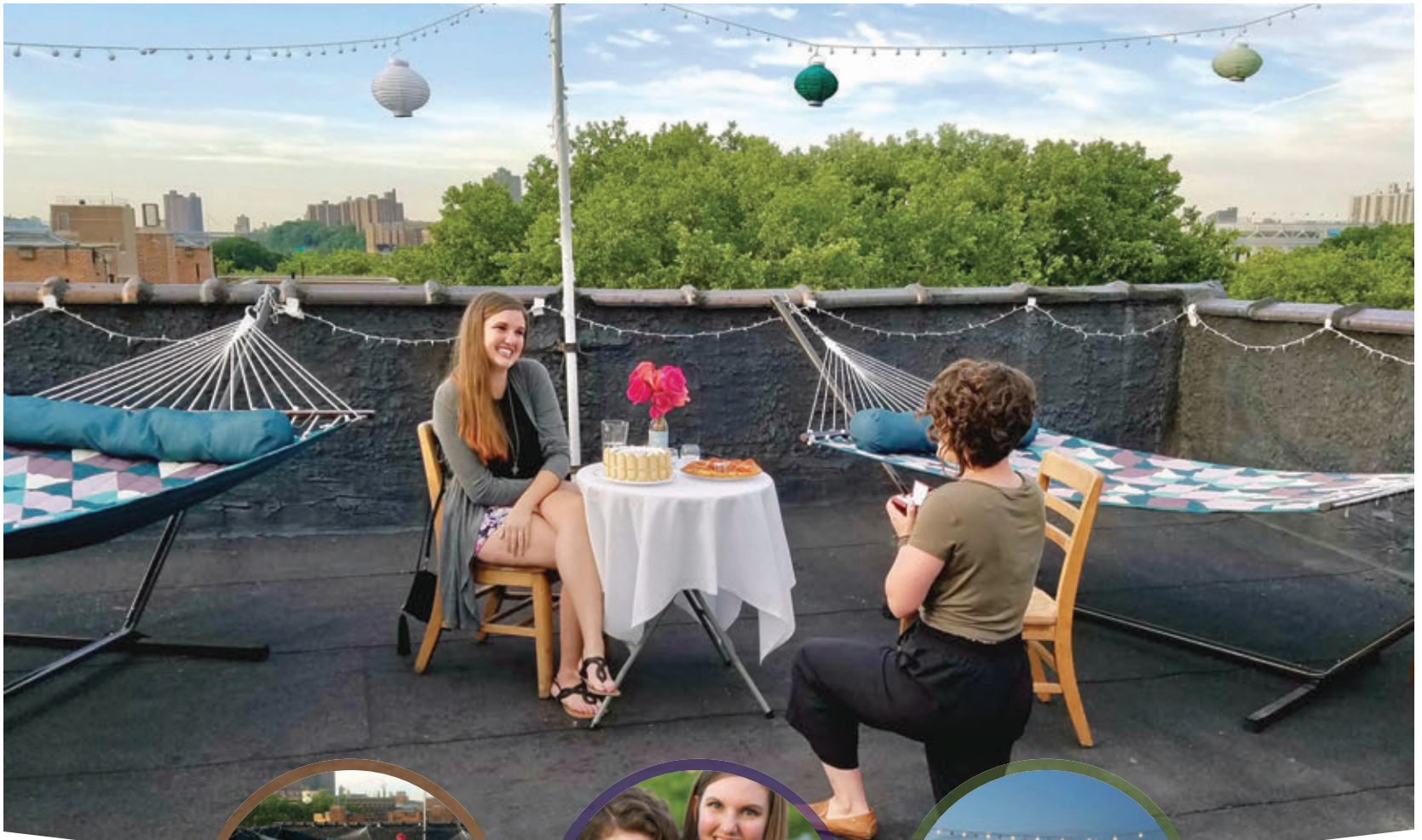
**Julianne Tylko (Chicago 2010-11)** and **Michael Lavelle (Boston 2009-11)** were married on May 26, 2018, in Boston. The couple met at a FJV potluck back in 2012. Julianne and Michael are thankful to JVC for bringing them together. Their wedding was an intentional event blessed by the presence of many of their FJV friends. 🔄 J

**Mackenzie Irvin (Los Angeles 2015-16)**, Harleen Singh and Mary Haffner celebrated and witnessed the love of #HappilyEverHaffner accompanied by an Ita Ford passage for the Maid of Honor Toast. Casa Ita Ford lives on! 🔄 K

**Dominica Bianconi (Harlem 2015-16)** surprised her partner, **Ashley Ledet (Harlem 2014-15)**, by proposing on the rooftop of the Ella Baker House, a JV community located in Harlem, New York.

## Reunions //

**FJVs of Boston, Massachusetts**, took advantage of the emerging summer evenings to enjoy a happy hour in City Hall Plaza's beer garden. 🔄 D



## A JVC Love Story: Once Upon a Rooftop

BY ASHLEY LEDET (HARLEM 2014-15)

On August 15, 2014, I had my first experience on the Harlem rooftop as my JVC community enjoyed our first dinner together. A little over a year later, on August 22, 2015, I was cracking jokes over pizza and ladyfinger cake with the new JV community. My housemates kept joking that one of those Jesuit Volunteers would someday become my girlfriend.



Almost three years later, on June 16, 2018, I found myself smiling through tears over the same pizza and cake as that same girl asked me to be her wife. In front of our friends and family on that very same rooftop where it all began, I said yes! ★



## Work and Life //



**Rhonda Miska (Nicaragua 2002-04)** is a canonical novice with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and is currently based in St Louis, Missouri. She published a chapter in the book *A Pope Francis Lexicon* (Liturgical Press) which came out in February 2018.

**KG Koch, Marc Alibrandi, Jimmy Canning and Olivia Landry (Tucson 2015-16)** all gathered in Boston to celebrate KG and Marc's graduation from Boston University and Boston College, respectively.



**Kathleen White (Washington D.C. 2014-15)** is currently a George J. Mitchell Scholar studying for a MA in Sociology with a focus on Prison Reform at the University College Cork in Ireland. In September, she will relocate to Dublin to begin an internship with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.  

**Bridget Barry (Scranton 2015-16)** is leaving the JVC Baltimore office where she's consistently provided cheese, reality TV knowledge and candles. She's moving back to Kansas City for graduate school (at Rockhurst—she can't escape the Jesuit institutions!) and is working on her 200-hour yoga teacher training.

**Zenobia Curtis (Sacramento 2013-14)** is moving to Haiti in August as a full time missionary teaching fifth grade through an organization called Teach Beyond. If you'd like to be a part of her support time both prayerfully and financially, please visit [TeachBeyond.org](http://TeachBeyond.org).



**Molly Kendall (Newark 2017-18)** will follow her JVC term as Montessori teacher at Washington Market School.  

**Bridget Drumm (North Carolina 2015-16)** graduated with her MSW from University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice with a specialization in criminal justice as a result of her JV placement. She is currently working as a resource home manager for foster care families in Philadelphia.

**Patrick Eickman (Brooklyn 2017-18)** will be obtaining his Masters in Medieval History at Marquette University.  

**Katarina Frickleton (Harlem 2017-18)** will be attending Johns Hopkins School of Nursing to pursue a Masters of Science in Nursing.

**Karen and Michael Duggan (Brooklyn 1982-84)** are proud of their daughter, Sara, who is volunteering with JVC in Newark at the LINK Charter School. Listening to her and her roommates talk about community nights, eating leftovers and working together to change people's lives brings back many positive memories.

**Joan Wilson (Detroit 2016-17)** and **Colleen Lee (Hartford 2006-07)** are colleagues in the Division of Student Affairs at Spring Hill College. Recently, they served as altar servers together at the college's Veneration of the Cross service during Good Friday.  

**Samantha Lin (Chicago 2014-15)** was a delegate to the Pre-Synodal Meeting on Young People, Faith and Discernment in Rome. She, along with over 300 other young delegates (all under the age of 29) from around the world, drafted a document to be presented to the bishops gathering in October 2018 for the Bishops Synod.

**Phillip McCarthy (Philadelphia 2017-18)** accepted a job with the Legal Aid Society of D.C.

**Eamon McGoldrick (Brooklyn 2017-18)** is moving to Esperanza, Dominican Republic, as a Princeton in Latin America (PiLA) Fellow to work for Yspaniola, a non-profit working with community members to build autonomous educational capacity in Batey Libertad.

**Adriana Moreno (Santiago 2010-12)** left her job with the Midwest Jesuits in October 2017 and is now the Manager of Donor and Volunteer Relations at the Union League Boys and Girls Clubs.

**Anissa Zimmerman (Harlem 2017-18)** will be attending Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, in August 2018.  

**Carolina Dominguez (Belize City 2013-15), Patrick Decker (Punta Gorda 2013-15), Hannah Jones (Belize City 2014-16)** and **Andy Froelich (Punta Gorda 2014-16)** are all attending Loyola University Chicago. Carolina and Hannah will be obtaining their Masters in Social Work, Patrick will be obtaining his PhD in Social Work, and Andy will be obtaining his JD in Law.

**Tom and Kara (Twin Cities 1996-97)** have been living in Boston, Massachusetts, for the past 17 years. Kara is a pediatrician and Tom is a teacher.

Following her year of service, **Karen Snowden (Cleveland 2017-18)** will be attending the University of Washington in Seattle to pursue a Masters in Social Work.

**Joan Triplett Noyes (Cornelius, Oregon 1973-74)** is marking 20 years as a Natural Family Planning Instructor. Joan was inspired to love the teachings of *Humanae Vitae* and to devote her life and marriage to its call by her mentor in the JVC, Arnold Beezer S.J.

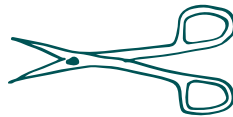
**Maria Barba (Chicago 2017-18)** will be starting graduate school at UCLA this fall. Maria's completing the two-year Teacher Education Program to get a Masters in Education and a teaching credential in Secondary Social Science. 🔄

**Jacob Sweeney (North Carolina 2017-18)** will be serving with CityYear in San Antonio, Texas, next year.

**Christopher Hoey (Cleveland 2017-18)** will be serving as a Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellow at the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, helping to research and coordinate programs to reduce recidivism. 🔄 P

## A Friend in the Barber Shop

BY MATT SUZOR (BALTIMORE 2017-18)



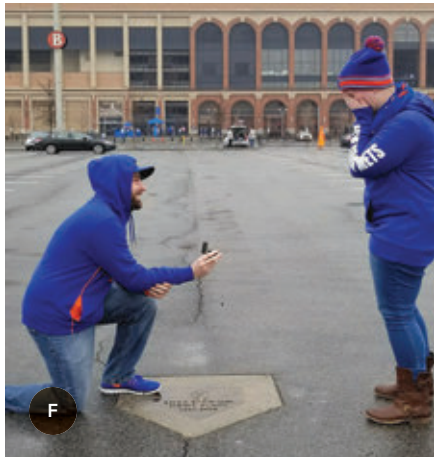
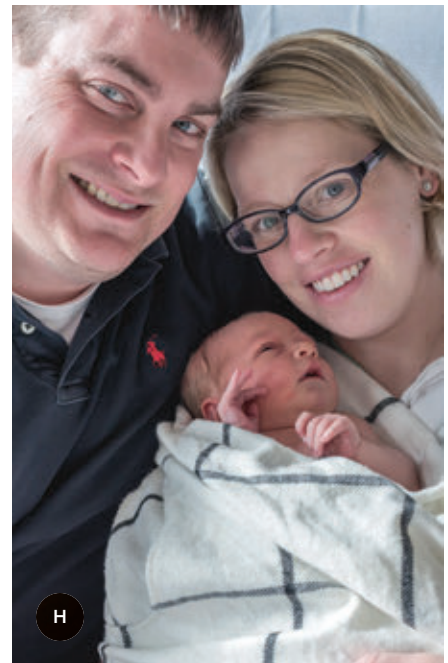
Early on in my JV year, I went to Old Market Barbers, a great spot with a real old-timey feel to it. One of the questions that my barber Frank asked me was work related, so I began telling him that I'm doing a year of service and serving the homeless at a non-profit. The barber right next to us quickly stopped with his customer and asked if I was doing JVC. Surprised, I responded affirmatively, and John Stevens introduced himself to me.

He indicated that he did two years of JVC in California and then worked for JVC for a few years after that. John then insisted he would cover my haircut with Frank and he'd cut my hair for free for the rest of the year. Despite my best attempts to at least tip him, John's been true to his word cutting my hair free of charge since. While the haircuts have certainly been the best I've ever gotten, it's been the conversations with John that have made my monthly trips to Old Market Barbers so great. John has had truly helpful advice on how to make my JVC year a meaningful one, and has never hesitated to fully open up about his two years in California. Our chats have also transcended beyond JVC — I've had the pleasure of hearing about his wife and three children (the most recent was born just a couple months ago!).

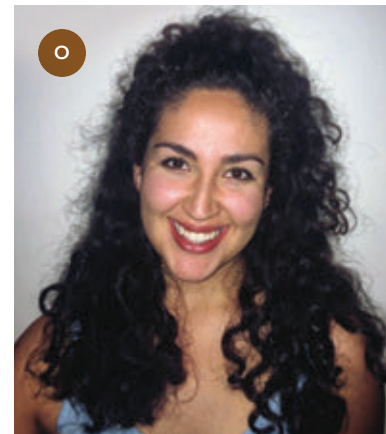
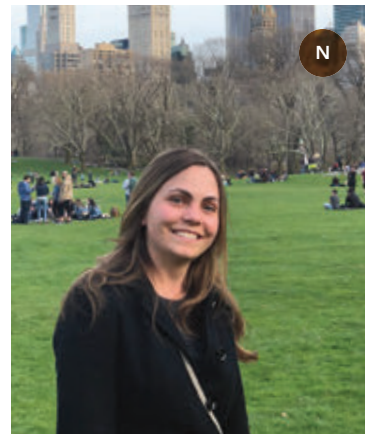
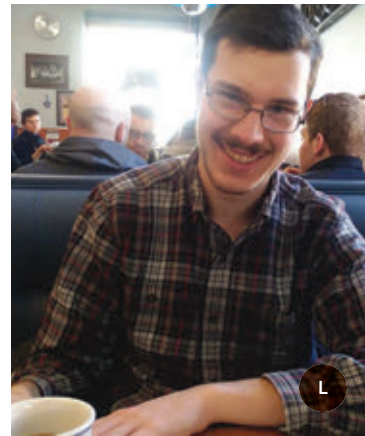
I've been incredibly lucky to have John as a barber and as a friend this year, and given that I'm likely to end up in D.C. next year, I'm certainly going to continue my trips to Old Market Barbers. However, I have a feeling once I'm off my JV stipend, I should probably start paying. ★



Old Market Barbers is a staple of men's grooming in Baltimore.







## In Memoriam //

### Tuesday Bob

BY ANDREW BIEDLINGMAIER (SACRAMENTO 2013-14)

Bob Pinkerton was a volunteer of nearly 30 years and member of the board of directors at JVC agency partner Loaves and Fishes in Sacramento, California. Bob volunteered at Loaves and Fishes at Friendship Park, an outdoor service center and day shelter for homeless men and women. I enjoyed getting to know Bob during my year as a Jesuit Volunteer there. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a calm demeanor that made him a staple of the Loaves and Fishes family.

In fact, Bob was more commonly known as Tuesday Bob, as he had a tradition of dedicating every Tuesday to volunteering at Friendship Park. Over the years, he had gotten to know numerous Jesuit Volunteers and was immensely generous with the members of Casa Ignatius. Tuesday Bob was a lover of movies, good food and travel. He was a veteran of Vietnam and a long-time employee of the State of California.

On April 16, 2018, we lost Bob after a brief battle with cancer. He will be immensely missed at Loaves and Fishes and among the Sacramento JVC community.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Bob will remember him for his dedication to serving the poor, and the humor and humility that he brought to Loaves and Fishes every Tuesday. ★



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## The Last Word

# A Longstanding Dedication to the Mission of JVC

*BETH PAWUK (Houston 1998-99) is a Program Manager in the JVC Detroit office where she manages the Central region and the AmeriCorps and Additional Year Volunteer programs.*

**How did you first find out about JVC?** It was while I was in college. I ran into a former JV who was doing some recruiting for JVC Midwest and it was sort of a happenstance meeting. She told me all about the program and I thought, yes, this is exactly what I'm looking for! And I applied to be a volunteer.

**What did you find most challenging about being a Jesuit Volunteer?** The community aspect was really challenging. Anytime you deal with human beings, there are unique challenges because of all the different perspectives and backgrounds, and I learned a lot about myself — the good and the bad. Learned a lot about living with other human beings in general.



**“It’s definitely a point of pride that [JVC has] become the gold standard for volunteer organizations.”**

**You’ve been with JVC for over 10 years. What’s the best thing to happen since you started?** It’s always hard to answer superlatives. I think in general, seeing the volunteers grow, change, and transform by the end of the year. Seeing volunteers at DisOrientation as compared to where they were at Orientation, and noticing how much their perspectives, their horizons have been opened, how much their hearts have been broken, how much they’ve grown, how much they love. It’s amazing. It’s really great to see that.

It’s definitely a point of pride that we have become, our organization — JVC as a whole — the gold standard for volunteer organizations. My hope is that we continue to lead the way in providing good formation and food for thought. And programming that really helps to shape future leaders.

**What do you wish other people knew about the organization?** I think one of the biggest things is that this is not a year off or a gap year. I know that that term often gets thrown around. And it’s like, ‘oh well, before I move on to the rest of my life — I’ll do this.’ But no, this year is not just a filler year. This is a year really of being on. Maybe more so than any other point in your life. Of really being aware and intentional about everything you do. And of pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone. That would be my biggest thing — it’s not taking time off. It’s not a year off. It’s really a year where you’re completely on.

**What do you think will change about JVC or its Jesuit Volunteers over the next five years?** My hope is that there will be a lot of dialogue and discussion on how to be ethical, compassionate leaders. And how to disagree without being divisive and to be able to work through disagreements without making the person you disagree with a villain.

Hopefully, and five years is not enough — but hopefully JVC will be maybe one step, or one half of a step closer in the work for racial justice and diversity. Certainly we will not be there in five years, but hopefully there will be some things that are slowly moving us along and making us aware of our pitfalls and strengths as well. ★



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