Mission Statement
Urban Servant Corps is a faith-based, intentional community of full-time volunteers who seek to live simply while serving and accompanying those most in need through non-profit partner agencies in the heart of Denver.

Vision Statement
Acting for peace with justice, advocating for and with the oppressed, and sharing our abundance as we respond to Christ’s call to love.
Dear Friends,

In a world that can sometimes feel heavy and overwhelming, it is so encouraging to stop and reflect on the inspirational service provided to the Denver community by Urban Servant Corps (USC) Volunteers nearly every day of the year. In this last year, we were honored to serve at three new sites—SAME Café, Ronald McDonald House, and Family Promise. Our volunteers came to us from across the country—from California to New York—and brought with them a variety of life experiences to share with their housemates and placement sites. They walked with those experiencing homelessness, fed the hungry, tutored young learners, and encouraged job seekers. Two alumni served as USC office interns during the year, continuing their service “behind the scenes.” Each volunteer and intern brought a sense of hope and optimism to their work and to our community this year.

And now we have more than 30 years and 800,000 hours of inspirational service on which to reflect. We were truly honored to celebrate the legacy and impact of the Urban Servant Corps with current and former volunteers, community partners, church families, and friends during our 30th Anniversary activities. A four-day celebration kicked off with a successful Fall Festival fundraiser and included an open house at Ogden and an alumni reunion at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. We are grateful for the time we had together to celebrate our past and to dream about what the future holds.

We encourage you to spend some time looking through this report to see a more complete picture of the impressive work of USC over this year—work that would not be possible without YOU and your continued offers of prayer and faithful financial contributions. We want you to know that we appreciate your generous support, and we remain committed to responsible stewardship of your gifts, which sustain the organization and the people it serves.

While we have so much to be proud of from the last 30 years, it does not compete with the hope and excitement we have for the future and the new possibilities that lie before us. It is more than enough, even in those days when we may feel heavy and overwhelmed, to keep us steadily moving forward, “acting for peace with justice, advocating for and with the oppressed, and sharing our abundance as we respond to Christ’s call to love,” as the USC vision calls us to do.

With deep gratitude,
Amber Palmeri & Pastor Michael TeKrony
USC Board of Directors Co-Chairs

Urban Servant Corps Impact

In 2017-2018, Urban Servant Corps hosted 12 volunteers from several states (from California to New York) and ranging in age from 21-77! This year alone, USC volunteers offered 24,960 hours of volunteer service to the Denver community. At a rate of $15/hour, this amounts to $374,400 in support of Denver non-profit organizations serving those who are most in need. More importantly, USC volunteers offered a year of service and accompaniment with those who are most in need in the Denver community while living in intentional community.

Where are they now? We are proud of the “ripple effect” that this year of service offers! About half of the 2017-2018 USC crew continued on in a service or advocacy role in other states, three enrolled in seminary or graduate school and three others were hired on at their services sites. Wherever they landed in August, we know that they are making meaningful contributions to their communities...and always have a “home” in Denver with the faithful USC community!

Since 1987, Urban Servant Corps’ full-time volunteers have contributed upwards of 800,000 hours of service at more than 75 non-profit organizations in central Denver.

Support Urban Servant Corps!
Community Shares of Colorado:
Work place giving –
www.cshares.com

Amazon Smile:
Donates 0.5% of the price of
your Amazon purchase to USC—
www.smile.amazon.com

Recurring Donation:
www.uscervicematters.org/support

Thrivent Choice Dollars:
As a member, you can
designate funds to USC –
www.thrivent.com
Krista Kilgus, Executive Director

Krista celebrates 9 years of serving as the Executive Director of Urban Servant Corps this year! She continues to be inspired by the impact that volunteers have on the Denver non-profit organizations during their year of service and beyond! She is particularly grateful this year for the USC community (particularly, co-worker Sarah!) who offered extra support and care for the organization while she was away on maternity leave this summer, welcoming Arthur William to their family.

Sarah Adam Kirberg, Community Life Manager

Sarah entered her third year of serving as the Community Life Manager. She finds energy in sharing about Urban Servant Corps in a variety of communities – recruiting on college campuses, attending ELCA events or chatting with a new-to-USC friend over dinner. You may also notice she has an additional last name – she did indeed marry her beloved, Adam, this summer!

Alumni Stories

Mary Kay Brannan is a lifelong Sister of Loretto who has lived and served throughout the country. While USC volunteers are typically in their 20s, it is extra special when age diversity enters into a community, as is the case of Mary Kay!

At 76, I was facing retirement and wanted to do something I had never done before. I decided to volunteer for USC. I was very fortunate to have my service site be Family Promise, which provides shelter for homeless families. Their mission is “Ending Homelessness One Family at a Time. For many years I worked with families who lived in poverty or at its edge but never with homeless families. Here I learned why homelessness exists. I worked on the prevention aspect of homelessness by helping people with rental assistance. Today there are more homeless children than adults in our cities. I am so grateful to USC and Family Promise for helping change my stereotype of homelessness.

Ben Stevens is from Rochester, Minn., and majored in Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. He is now studying non-profit communications at Marquette University through Trinity Fellows Program.

Here’s what a typical scene at the cafe might look like: I’m in the kitchen peeling and slicing cucumbers with a young woman who’s trying to stretch her paycheck, while a retired couple who volunteers every week is washing dishes. In the dining room, an elderly woman who was in Denver for cancer treatments just finished her meal and is preparing rolls of silverware, while a man who has been sleeping in city parks is watering the potted plants before he orders his meal. Stop in for lunch on any day, and you’ll soon observe that there is any number of things besides money that people can contribute to our community - and that’s why we’re called “So All May Eat.” I love SAME Cafe because of the respect for people’s dignity. The cafe is a comfortable and communal space where all people are welcome to eat and relax, no matter their income, occupation, life situation. Our patrons feel a sense of pride because they have contributed something valuable to earn their meal and not a handout. Most importantly, they know they are part of a community of diverse people who are all committed to the greater good.


2017-2018 Revenue
Total Revenue $238,966

2017-2018 Expenses
Total Expenses $236,161

2017-2018 USC Board Members

Pastor Michael Tekrony, Chair
Larry Hone, Vice-Chair
Alex McHardy, Secretary
Nathan Blom, Treasurer

Amber Palmeri
Linda Marshall
Rachel Pidgeon
Matt Wallington
Jesse Loper
USC Volunteers served 40 hours per week at these Non-Profit Partner Agencies

**The Gathering Place**
A daytime drop-in center that serves women, their children, and transgendered individuals who are experiencing poverty and/or homelessness.

Cortney - provided care for children who visited the Family Area, while their parents were offered resources.

**URBAN PEAK**
A drop-in center and overnight shelter that helps homeless and at-risk youth overcome real-life challenges by providing essential services and a safe community, empowering them to become self-sufficient adults.

Katie and Rachel - mentored youth who had left or been kicked out of their homes.

**earthlinks**
A work program for people who are homeless and low-income to learn skills and create Earth-friendly products that sustain people and the planet.

Emilee - worked with participants who earned income by creating Earth-friendly products and learned new gardening skills.

**St. Francis Center**
A daytime shelter that provides a safe place of transformation for people who are homeless.

Kyle and C - welcomed two guests a day to the daytime shelter where individuals could have a shower, receive their mail, or store their belongings.

**New Legacy Charter School**
A charter school for pregnant and parenting teens and their children with specially-tailored options to support a teen parent and his/her children.

Cheyenne - taught and coached students who are teen parents.

**women's bean project**
A social enterprise that changes women's lives by providing stepping stones for self-sufficiency.

Elisa - supported women who are chronically unemployed or have been recently released from incarceration by offering job training and life skills.

**SAME Café**
A donation-based, fair exchange restaurant that serves healthy food to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

Ben - helped to create community through healthy food access.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities**
A loving home away from home for families needing to be near their seriously ill or injured children while they are being treated at Denver area hospitals.

Amanda - offered hospitality to families whose children were seeking care.

**Energy Outreach Colorado**
Provides efficient delivery of cost-effective energy assistance, emergency repair, energy conservation and energy education for low-income households to maintain their wellbeing.

Brady - shared energy efficient resources with low-income families and offered energy saving tips.

**Family Promise**
An organization that responds to the startling statistic that families with children make up 35% of the homeless population.

Sister Mary Kay - assisted families who were at risk of becoming homeless.