

**URBAN
SERVANT
CORPS**
2019 ANNUAL
REPORT

Intentional Community!

SERVING CHRIST THROUGH ACTION FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

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.



Urban Servant Corps is a Reconciling in Christ organization that welcomes and affirms folks in the LGBTQ community.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Urban Servant Corps is deeply rooted in our mission. I am proud of this life-giving community that strives to illumine some places in Denver that can seem very dark at times. Especially now, in a time when often the vulnerable are ignored, or even worse, used as pawns to argue a debate that will not have a winner, only slide

Spirituality!

deeper into darkness. So, Urban Servant Corps chooses to stand firm in places and ways that reflect a light that no darkness can overcome. And this light is shining, my friends and it is shining bright.

This light is shining through our partnerships with the familiar and new agencies we are blessed to journey with. We are excited about our new relationships with GrowHaus, SafeHouse Denver, Every Child Pediatrics and El Centro Humanitario. With these organizations, Urban Servant Corps is bringing the light of hope for, with, and through remarkably resilient and gifted folks in our community.

Along with these partnerships we have embarked on new relationships as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation and formed an exciting relationship with the Loretto Community. With these new connections, we are embarking on new opportunities to live out our vision.

We are also eager to share that USC has launched our new Emeritus program. We are expanding the impact of USC by inviting people who are retired to share their values of intentional community, living simply, serving and accompanying the vulnerable in Denver. We are excited to see this portion of our community grow together as we continue to seek to respond to the call to love.

Lastly, USC is excited to welcome our new Community Life Coordinator, Carolyn Sautter. Carolyn comes with a heart for our core values and skills that empowers us grow as a community for the sake of the world. Stop by and say hello and be prepared to be grateful. We also give thanks and celebrate the 10 years of service and dedication that Krista Kilgus, our Executive Director has generously provided for this community.

Thank you for taking a glimpse into the faithful life of Urban Servant Corps AND thank you for your generous love and support of this important light in Denver. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PEACE,

Pastor Michael TeKrony, *USC Board Chair*



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“My hope for myself and for my community is that even when we part ways, we take this new and deeply rich capacity for patience wherever we may go. May God meet us there.”

–BILLY J.

“Community ... is also about finding your own internal authority, and knowing what is yours to hold, and what is for you to let go.”
–BILLY J.



Support Urban Servant Corps!

- Recurring Donation:**
www.urbanservantcorps/support
- Community Shares of Colorado:**
Work place giving - www.cshares.com
- Thrivent Choice Dollars:**
As a member, you can designate funds to USC - www.thrivent.com
- Amazon Smile:**
Donates .5% of the price of your Amazon purchase to USC www.smile.amazon.com
- King Soopers Community Give Back:**
<https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/community-rewards-9>

URBAN SERVANT CORPS IMPACT

In 2018-2019, eight USC volunteers offered 16,640 hours of volunteer service to the Denver community. At a rate of \$15/hour, this amounts to \$249,600 in support of Denver non-profit organizations serving those who are most in need.

USC VOLUNTEERS OFFERED

16,640

Since 1987, Urban Servant Corps' full-time volunteers have contributed more than 800,000 hours of service

at more than 75 partner non-profit organizations in central Denver. This totals over \$12 million in volunteer hour support of Denver non-profit organizations.

THIS AMOUNTS TO

\$249,600

IN SUPPORT OF DENVER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Three of the 8 volunteers remained in Denver and were hired at partner non-profit organizations. One moved seamlessly into volunteer service at the US/Mexico border, one enrolled in graduate school, and the others returned closer to their families and have found meaningful ways to integrate their values of service and simplicity in their communities.

Simplicity!



Julie C. - USC Emeritus Volunteer

URBAN SERVANT CORPS: EMERITUS

Urban Servant Corps has extended our current full-time volunteer service program with a new focus called "Urban Servant Corps: Emeritus." This added focus responds to the continuing need for volunteer service at our non-profit partner sites and provides opportunities for volunteers to have purposeful community engagement during their encore years. Join us!

Why choose USC: Emeritus?

- Engage in meaningful volunteer service work as an outlet for your skills
- Meet, mentor, and connect with young and older adults involved in service
- Create community with others who share values of faith, service, and simplicity
- Learn and share about social justice
- Keep your mind and body healthy and active
- Find meaningful conversations around faith and spirituality

How does this work and what's the process? You will:

- Make a commitment to volunteering at a non-profit organization for 16 hours per week for one year
- Match with an organization that meets your gifts and skills (non-profit organizations focused on women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, homeless initiatives, immigration/refugee services, education/child care, etc)
- Receive a \$75 monthly stipend to offset transportation or incidentals

Outside of your weekly service, you will meet monthly with the other members of USC: Emeritus for dialogue around: racial justice, poverty, LGBTQ communities, social conscience investing, healthy eating, mental health, etc. Quarterly, this monthly meeting will overlap with the full-time, USC volunteers for intergenerational collaboration

"Matching the joy of freedom with the desire for purpose."

JULIE C., USC EMERITUS VOLUNTEER

Julie moved to Denver 3 years ago from the Milwaukee, WI area. She is part of the Emeritus program at Urban Servant Corps - new this year! As an Emeritus, she lives at home and serves 16 hours/week at Women's Bean Project in Denver.

"Stay busy." That was the most often mentioned piece of advice I received as I contemplated what retirement would look like for me after working for the last 3 decades in the corporate world. Naturally, when I noticed in the Sunday bulletin at church the words, "Have extra time on your hands?" my curiosity was piqued. Hmmm, I thought, surely I could squeeze something in between Church Council and yoga, now that my part time teaching gig was up. I met with Krista at Urban Servant Corps and knew this was for me.

My first day on the job at Women's Bean Project (WBP) was inspiring and a bit overwhelming. This place was absolutely buzzing with energy and activity. There's a staff of approximately 10 people, but the real workers are the women served by WBP - chronically unemployed, coming from prison or halfway houses or the street, who are transforming their lives by learning how to work. They learn the importance of showing up every day on time, how to problem solve, follow processes, manage inventory and the warehouse, and how to run semi-automated equipment. They learn the basics of how to be successful in a job during their - 7 months at WBP.

One day, during a morning meeting, I listened as everyone around the table stated one personal and one business

goal, "Stay sober," "Get an ID," "Be home every night for my kids," and "finish my GED homework" were a few of the responses. In that moment I felt profound gratitude for everything I take for granted and more. I am blown away by the transformation I see everyday at WBP, as I see women building their confidence and self esteem, standing taller, and having hope for a brighter future for their families.

JULIE C.-

I love my role at WBP and I am so grateful that Urban Servant Corps and my life crossed paths. I have the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of these women.

To apply: <http://urbanservantcorps.org/volunteer/emeritus.html>



Safehouse Denver – serves survivors of domestic violence and their children through an emergency shelter, a non-residential counseling and advocacy center, and an extended stay program.

Becca accompanied women and children who were seeking safety from domestic violence situations.



WORK • DIGNITY • COMMUNITY

El Centro Humanitario – promotes the rights and well-being of day laborers and domestic workers through education, job skills, leadership development, united action and advocacy.

Nathan made connections with day-laborers and work projects while offering opportunities for employment in a safe, respectful work environments.

“Being a part of Saint Francis Center and their mission simply makes my heart happy.”

Sarah H. - USC Volunteer



GrowHaus – an indoor farm that catalyzes a neighborhood-based food system in the community that is healthy, equitable, and resident driven.

Billy utilized his Spanish-speaking skills by serving in the market and supporting programs alongside community members.



Every Child Pediatrics – provides high-quality health care to all children, regardless of their family’s insurance status or ability to pay.

Katie served low-income children in the clinic helping with in-take and vitals in preparation for the doctor visit.



SAME Cafe – a donation-based fair exchange restaurant that serves healthy food to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

Nate helped to create community through healthy food access.

Service!



St. Francis Center – Provides a place of transformation for people who are homeless. Sarah welcomed 700+ guests a day to the day-time shelter where individuals could have a shower, receive their mail, or store their belongings.

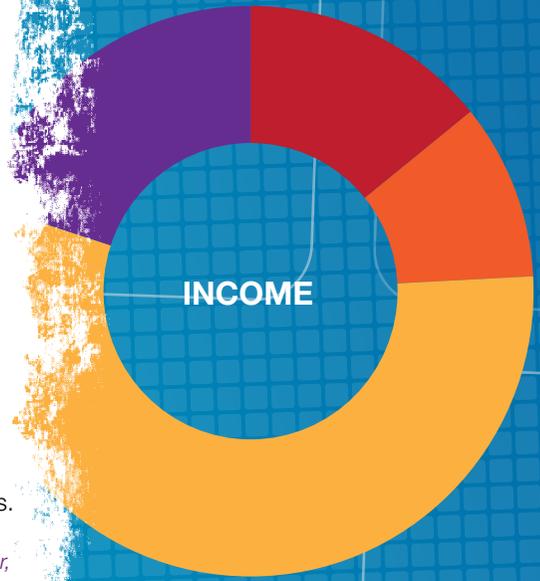


Earthlinks – Provides a work program for people who are homeless and low-income to learn skills and create earth-friendly products that sustain people and the planet. Josh built community with participants who earned income by creating earth-friendly products and learned new gardening skills.



Urban Peak Outreach – 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. Caroline served as an outreach worker, offering resources and support to youth ages 15-24 experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers pictured left to right -- Back row: Billy Jeide, Sarah Harp, Josh Menke, Becca Schmidt. Front row: Katie Winslow, Caroline Glavin, Nate Flory, Nathan Putnam.



\$206,846 INCOME

Individual: **19.9%**
 Partner Organizations: **55.8%**
 Faith Communities: **9.7%**
 Foundations/Corporations: **14.6%**



\$196,594 EXPENSE

Administration: **9.7%**
 Program: **85.5%**
 Fundraising: **4.8%**

