We are grateful for our faith community supporters, alumni and friends! You make the work of the Urban Servant Corps possible! Thank you!

Urban Servant Corps
1660 Ogden St.
Denver, CO 80218
303.894.0076
www.urbanservantcorps.org
krista@servantcorps.org

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Urban Servant Corps seeks to fulfill Christ’s mission of love demonstrated through action by working for peace with justice, advocating for and with oppressed persons, and sharing our power and abundance with those most in need.

Urban Servant Corps
2010-2011 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

As we embark on preparations for our 25th Anniversary celebration, we reflect on this past fiscal year with many noteworthy emotions. With humility, we share that 18 USC volunteers worked over 41,000 hours of service this year; with joy, we share that the first floor of the Ogden house was remodeled with the help of many hands; and with pride, we share that 9 of our 18 full-time volunteers were hired at their placement site following their volunteer service. This illustrates that Urban Servant Corps is mobilizing leaders for the future and providing valuable opportunities for volunteers as well as our partner agencies.

The need for full-time volunteers at our partner agencies continues to be significant. We are pleased to develop new partnerships each year with local non-profit organizations and to support the mission of justice and peace to all God’s creation. The volunteer service provided is transformational for all who are involved—the client who receives a healthy meal and a safe place to spend the day, the USC volunteer who discovers a new perspective on poverty and equality, the non-profit organization that is able to assist 25% more clients because of a full-time volunteer, the church communities and spiritual directors who witness and act upon faithfulness, and the Denver community that is forever changed by the efforts of advocacy and empowerment.

Our hope is that with your consistent support we will motivate each group of volunteers to be the change that we seek in our world. The Urban Servant Corps is able to celebrate many accomplishments because of your partnership and support. It is truly invaluable. May we all adopt this spirit of generosity and grace as we move through another incredible year of service to those most in need.

Abundant blessings to you!

Krista Ullestad
Executive Director

Amanda Baker
Board Chair

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### Life in Service

#### Lindsey Lovvorn-Zimmerman
Lindsey served as the Case Manager at Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). DenUM provides emergency food assistance, job services, rental and utility assistance for families in the Denver Metro Area and around the state. Each service attempts to help families meet immediate needs while also providing case management and referral assistance for clients to move forward in achieving goals of self-sufficiency. As a case manager, Lindsey stays busy, alert, and passionate about the importance of the work that DenUM does in the community! As she finished her year of service, Lindsey transitioned into a role as a full-time employee and case manager on the DenUM staff. She is excited to be able to continue to pursue her passion for service in an agency she has grown to love!

#### John Kenny
John was the Resident Services Intern who implemented and coordinated all resident-service programs at Hope Communities. Hope Communities’ primary mission is providing affordable housing, and by doing so they wish to promote stability in people’s lives. The goal is to dually create a place where low-income people feel happy and proud to live, while at the same time developing skills and the financial stability that is necessary to purchase a home, thereby leaving the community. The position is always varied and kept John on his toes. While the experience was invaluable to John, he continued on a slightly different path in the fall, as he currently attends UC-Berkeley to pursue his M.S. in Environmental Engineering.

#### Sara Diedrich
Sara Diedrich completed her USC term at Cooking Matters Colorado (CMC). CMC provides cooking and nutrition education classes for low income families in the Denver Metro area and surrounding regions. Chefs, dieticians, and other volunteers from the community donate their time to help people of all ages learn why it’s important to eat a healthy, well balanced diet. Sara continues her life of service with School Based Health Educator for MCPN HealthCorps where she will be a health teacher for elementary and high school students. She hopes to eventually earn her Master’s in Public Health and become a registered dietician in the next few years.
Program Report

In January, Urban Servant Corps volunteers and staff welcomed Erin Benson ('02-'03 alumnus) as the Director of Community Life! Erin shares highlights from volunteer programming:

One way that Urban Servant Corps fulfills this mission is to gather each Monday evening and for one Friday a month to learn, pray, laugh, and support one another. Monday evenings consist of a rotating schedule of worship services, faith reflections, issues nights, and fun nights. Urban Servant Corps volunteers and staff also gather once a month for team building, a service project or continuing education. During these community times volunteers discussed topics of domestic violence, adoption, deconstructing oppression, legislation and advocacy, philanthropy, gardening and care for the earth, conflict resolution, domestic and world hunger, sustainability and energy-efficiency, and intentional community. Many of these conversations were had in the context of faith and spirituality practices.

One exciting and significant program change was a border immersion for the mid-year retreat. In February, Urban Servant Corps volunteers traveled to Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX to learn about Border Servant Corps and issues along the US/Mexico border. Volunteers learned about a variety of perspectives during this retreat. In April, Border Servant Corps came to Denver for an urban education experience. The exchange was overwhelmingly positive for the volunteer and thus will be our annual mid-year retreat in upcoming years.

Many thanks to those who presented or welcomed the Urban Servant Corps community to their organization. The hospitality of those working for justice in the Denver community is simply overwhelming!
Cooking Matters – 60,000 families learned healthy, low-cost cooking for a life time.

Harm Reduction Action Center – provided meals and a safe place for 1,000+ injection drug users.

Energy Outreach Colorado -- $136 million was distributed in Colorado for energy assistance to limited income households and for energy efficiency upgrades for affordable housing and non-profit facilities.

St. Paul’s Local Assistance Ministry—800+ individuals and families secured direct financial aid and avoided eviction from their homes.

Gathering Place— welcomed (on average) 600 women and children each day, providing nutrition, healthcare, childcare, community resources, and job resources.

Sewall Child Development Center – educated and included children with and without special needs in integrated environments.

St. Francis Center - served (on average) 650 people daily with dignity and respect.

Agency Partnerships

Denver Urban Ministries – total number of services provided in 2010 (67,601) was reached by August of 2011.

Urban Peak Shelter—staffed day-time hours for mentoring youth only because of USC volunteers.

Metro CareRing -- 131,698 emergency services (food, utility assistance, etc.) stabilized those most in need.

Denver Urban Ministries Urban Plunge program -- 2,880 young adults engaged in experiential learning activities around issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness and provided 9,778 hours of service to the community.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless—opened Renaissance Uptown Lofts, its 15th affordable housing property. 98 households that were formerly homeless or were at risk of homelessness are now housed.

Hope Communities— assisted 300 children with reading and literacy, arts enrichment, behavioral management through the STRIVE program.

Empowerment Program - accompanied 40 court-ordered women, recently released from incarceration through case management services.