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

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.

* Intentional Community * Service *
* Simplicity * Spirituality *
Dear Friends, Alumni, and Partners,

Another fun and exciting year at the Urban Servant Corps has come and gone! Volunteers served more than 30,000 hours at their placement sites; listening to peoples’ stories, providing care for children, teaching nutrition classes and offering basic services and case management. The passion and energy that Urban Servant Corps volunteers bring to their organizations is unparalleled; they volunteer 40 hours per week in roles where they can apply their experiences and education while they learn from those they serve and their coworkers.

Volunteers who apply to the Urban Servant Corps not only have a passion for service, they are curious about social issues, inspired to advocate with people who traditionally are not in positions of power and a desire to explore their faith during this year of growth and challenges. Our hope for the UrbanServant Corps is that as volunteers complete their year of service with us they take the blessings, life lessons and adventures from their year and they continue to serve their communities through acts of kindness, advocating for peace and justice and continuing to work with people in need.

Our 2012-2013 volunteers have enrolled in graduate school, applied to other volunteer programs and entered the world of work, both in nonprofits and for-profits. We are so proud of the work that our volunteers do each year and they inspire us as church partners, alumni, board members and friends to continue being of service in our daily lives. If you are as inspired by our volunteers as we are, we encourage you to consider giving a financial gift to the Urban Servant Corps this year. Thank you for your continued support through your prayers and good works. You make it possible for us to send servants out into the world year after year!

Blessings!
Allyson Therien, Chair
Krista Kilgus, Executive Director

Life in Service

Jamie Hawk is from Harrisburg, PA and graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a Bachelors of Science – Psychobiology. She was placed at Cooking Matters for her year of service with Urban Servant Corps. Cooking Matters helps families shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget as part of “Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry” campaign. Jamie was motivated by the relationships that she established during her year of service. At the end of her term, she reflected, "I am so thankful for the experience I had this year and that I was able to make a difference in the lives of so many families." Jamie continues to serve at Cooking Matters as an AmeriCorps volunteer this year and is living with a house full of former Urban Servant Corps volunteers!

Essam Samaan came to Denver through the Mennonite Central Committee, International Volunteer Exchange Program. He served at Lutheran Family Services Refugee and Asylee Program while being hosted by the Urban Servant Corps intentional living community. Essam is from Cairo, Egypt and enjoyed sharing his cultural traditions with members of Urban Servant Corps. He especially appreciated conversations about politics, religion, and history and added an important perspective to discussions. Essam was eager to return to his family in Egypt and is continuing ministry work.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod and Congregations — partners in ministry
Reconciling in Christ — welcoming LGBTQ individuals
Thrivent Financial — assisting with alumni relations
Mennonite Central Committee — hosting international volunteers
Community Shares — supporting community philanthropy
Catholic Volunteer Network — offering the AmeriCorps Education Grant
Program Report

In addition to full-time volunteer work, Urban Servant Corps volunteers and staff gather each Monday evening, one Friday a month, and for 3 retreats each year to focus on the four Urban Servant Corps tenets — service, intentional community, simplicity, and spirituality. Two of these values are highlighted below.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

The Urban Servant Corps community gathers regularly for worship, faith reflection as well as for professional development or personal growth. Perhaps the most memorable and meaningful practice of Monday evenings is called “check-in.” During this time, each member of the community shares about four areas of their life: community, personal, work, and faith. This sharing allows the community to understand one another and support one another more intimately.

How do you “check-in” with your family and friends regularly?

SIMPLICITY

One of the ways that the volunteer communities explore the tenet of simplicity is through their environmental consciousness. They use practices such as washing in cold water, hang drying clothes, turning off lights, and composting. Volunteers also experiment with different simplicity challenges such as buying all food from local growers for a week. Kat Melheim from the 5&9 community created a blog about their experience of simplicity: http://intentionallysimple.wordpress.com

What new practice can you try to be more environmentally conscious and/or attempt a more simple lifestyle this week?

Financial Report

Total Income: $253,777

Total Expense: $244,227

Urban Servant Corps Board of Directors

Allyson Therien: Chair, Anell Ewing: Vice-Chair, Vicky Hales: Treasurer, Carolyne Schultz: Secretary, Rev. Matthew Bolz-Weber, Rev. Ruth Ann Loughry, Chad Skupien, Frank Tapy
Agency Partnerships

USC volunteers spent 40 hours per week at the following non-profit organizations:

- **The Empowerment Program, Inc.** Provides education, employment assistance, housing referrals, and health services to women who are in disadvantaged positions due to incarceration, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS infection or involvement in the criminal justice system.

- **Changes** women’s lives by providing stepping stones for self-sufficiency through social enterprise.

- **Urban Peak** 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.

- **Refugee and Asylee Program**: Promotes refugee and asylee success through services that heal, strengthen and provide hope.

- **St. Paul Local Assistance Ministry**: Serves the neighborhood and proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through words and actions by listening, offering hospitality, and providing emergency financial assistance to the most vulnerable members of the community.

- **A group of folks figuring out how to be a** liturgical, Christo-centric, social justice-oriented, queer-inclusive, incarnational, contemplative, irreverent, ancient / future church with a progressive but deeply rooted theological imagination.

- **Inspires hope as an advocate and trusted provider of needed services.**

- **Empowers families with skills, knowledge, and confidence to prepare healthy affordable meals.**

- **Provides a place of transformation for people who are homeless.**

- **Offers a community of safety and hope where positive relationships, choices, and essential resources transform lives.**

- **Provides affordable dental care for children and adults.**

- **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.**

- **Helps low-income single parent families achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency—and to sustain it.**