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
2011-2012 Annual Report
Dear Friends, Alumni and Partners,

It is with great joy and deep gratitude that we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Urban Servant Corps and its powerful mission of “Serving Christ through action for better community.”

We honor the vision and courage of Nelson and Bonita Bock who founded this non-profit organization in 1987 as a mission development of Avondale Lutheran Church and a budget of $0. From that more than humble beginning, Urban Servant Corps has not just endured, but thrived! There are now 18 full-time volunteers living in intentional community in 2 USC homes while providing volunteer services to 13 non-profit organizations in Denver.

Perhaps as importantly, in those 25 years, more than 340 full-time volunteers have experienced intentional community, service, simplicity, and spirituality in a way that has transformed their journeys forever. When Urban Servant Corps volunteers finish their year of service, they carry these values into careers as ministers, social workers, lawyers, business persons, and teachers across the United States and the world.

Denver itself also continues to be transformed by the Urban Servant Corps volunteers as approximately 8,000 clients were served by USC volunteers at their partner organizations during 2011-2012 alone. With a spirit of joy and simplicity, USC volunteers positively impact persons most in need with the resources, basic needs and education to triumph over adversity.

Urban Servant Corps is able to celebrate its 25th Anniversary and its many, many accomplishments because of your partnership and support. We request your continued financial and prayerful support as we mobilize USC volunteers to be leaders in the community and to continue to provide valuable opportunities for all who are inspired by this mission. We, quite literally, could not do this without you and sincerely give thanks for your involvement with Urban Servant Corps!

Blessings!

Krista Kilgus
Executive Director

Richard Russeth
Board Chair

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
info@servantcorps.org

Board of Directors

Richard Russeth, Chair
Allyson Therien, Vice-Chair
Vicky Hales, Treasurer
Anell Ewing, Secretary
Rev. Matthew Bolz-Weber
Rev. Ruth Ann Lourghy
Chad Skupien
Frank Tapy
Community Partners

Catholic Volunteer Network is a non-profit membership organization of 200 domestic and international volunteer and lay mission programs; Urban Servant Corps is one of them!

AmeriCorps Education Awards are often granted to Urban Servant Corps volunteers after their year of service. This benefit allows volunteers to pay off $5500 of past school loans or use this amount for future graduate school work.

Lutheran World Relief utilizes space in the USC Ogden House to store hand-made quilts, school kits, and health kits that are distributed to third world countries in need.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans supports Urban Servant Corps in a variety of ways. The newest project is piloting an Alumni Affinity Group with the goal of sustaining the mission and values of USC to encourage a more generous world.

Community Shares is a non-profit organization that inspires philanthropy and raises funds and awareness for 115 Colorado non-profit organizations. Community Shares is Colorado’s Community Giving Fund and is committed to helping Urban Servant Corps fulfill its mission.


**TOTAL INCOME:** $276,670

**TOTAL EXPENSE:** $226,377

- **Industries, Alumni, Board:** 10.41%
- **Partner Non-Profit Organizations:** 17.02%
- **Faith Communities:** 3.42%
- **Foundations and Corporations:** 69.15%

- **Program:** 87.9%
- **Administration:** 12.1%
Program Report

Ogden House
Kayla Johnson, Laurel Duncan, Dayna Tapp, Karl Streufert, Nolan Nicaise, Jillian Heimbruch, Sarah Van, Danielle Pixler, Kyle Dresser, Alain Nussbaumer, Seung-Hwan Kim

5&9 House
Cristina Kinz, Kylie Sprague, Kayla Rockwell, Alyssa Kovar, Travis Hanson-Pollock, Tommy Schlather, Amy Janssen,

In addition to full time volunteer work, Urban Servant Corps volunteers and staff gather each Monday evening to learn, pray, laugh, and support each other. These Monday gatherings consist of a rotating schedule of worship services, faith reflections, issues nights, and community bonding. One Friday each month is also dedicated to team building, a service project or continuing education that engages one of the six core tenets (intentional community, service, simplicity, and spirituality).

Retreats are also an intentional time for volunteers and staff to connect and reflect on the year of service. The relationship with Border Servant Corps remains strong as visits to one another’s programs is a highlight of the year. This exchange allows for sharing of common experiences and discovering service in a different context.

Many thanks to all of those who presented information, shared experiences, and walked the journey with the 2011-2012 Urban Servant Corps volunteers!

~Erin Benson, Director of Community Life

Our Founding Families

During this celebratory year, there have been a number of noteworthy occasions:

♦ Establishing exciting new partnerships with the Mennonite Central Committee (hosting international volunteers).
♦ Receiving a gracious contribution from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as they closed the doors of their physical building and continue to share God’s love in the community in other capacities.
♦ Hiring a Property Manager, Jack Ganzar, to oversee maintenance and repair on USC’s 2 properties that boast 115+ years of age.
♦ Obtaining a professional audit that verifies the financial statements of Urban Servant Corps and adds to the financial credibility of the organization and will assist us in new fundraising efforts.
Did you know that Urban Servant Corps....

...was founded by inspiration from Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) in Denver.

...had "original" community members who were primarily families and international volunteers.

...has existed during terms of 3 different bishops of the Rocky Mountain Synod (Bishop Weissenbuehler, Bishop Bjornberg, and Bishop Gonia – who is the father of a USC alumna!)

...inspired USC alumna, Dot Quaintance, to establish a “sister” program called Border Servant Corps in El Paso, TX and Las Cruces, NM.

...hosted volunteers from India, Japan, Brazil, Finland, Madagascar, Romania, Liberia, Germany, Denmark, South Korea, France, Sweden, Honduras, and Egypt!

...has offered an estimate of 680,000 hours of volunteer service to those most in need in the 25 years the organization has existed. At an hourly wage of $15, that’s $10,200,000!

...plans to transform communities for the next 25 years and more, thanks to our generous supporters!

Kyle Dresser joined the Urban Servant Corps primarily because of his interest in serving in Denver while living in a faithful community. He was assigned to work as a Direct Care Counselor at Urban Peak, a shelter for homeless youth. Urban Peak helps young people overcome homelessness and other real life challenges by providing safety, respect, essential services, and a supportive community, empowering them to become self-reliant adults. Some of these essential services include an overnight shelter, housing programs, GED prep, college assistance, job readiness training, life skills classes, and other activities throughout the week. Kyle often relied on his faith in God and regular practice of prayer as he sought to find hope in the stories of the young adults at Urban Peak. He was encouraged by each one of the youth and is grateful for all that he learned during this year of service! Kyle is now employed at Family First, a residential treatment center for children ages 3-10.

Alyssa Kovar is a graduate of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and worked at The Empowerment Program as the Project Success Care Manager. The Empowerment Program provides education, employment assistance, health and housing referrals as well as support services to women who are in disadvantaged positions due to incarceration, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS infection and/or involvement in the criminal justice system. As the Project Success Care Manager, Alyssa attended court on weekday mornings to speak with women who have been charged with misdemeanors. If eligible and interested, the women may receive sentencing to Project Success, rather than serve a sentence in jail. Alyssa enjoyed working with the court system and learned a lot of new legal jargon during her year of service. She benefited personally as well as professionally from this experience and was thrilled to be hired at Empowerment following her Urban Servant Corps year. Alyssa now serves as a supervisor for the 2012-2013 USC volunteer.
USC Volunteers spend 40 hours a week at the following non-profit organizations:

- **St. Paul’s Local Assistance Ministry** — Serves our 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 our community.

- **Energy Outreach Colorado** — Ensures that all low-income Coloradans can meet their home energy needs.

- **St. Luke’s Local Assistance Ministry** — Provides education, employment assistance, health, housing referrals and support services to women who are in disadvantaged positions due to incarceration, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS infection or involvement in the criminal justice system.

- **The Gathering Place** — Offers a community of safety and hope where positive relationships, choice, and essential resources transform lives.

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

- **Earthlinks** — Provides a work program for people who are homeless and low-income to earn skills and create Earth-friendly products that sustain people and the planet.

- **Harm Reduction Action Center** — Educates, empowers and advocates for the health and dignity of Metro-Denver’s injection drug users and affected partners in accordance with harm reduction principles.

- **Denver Urban Ministries** — Inspires hope as an advocate and trusted provider of needed services.

- **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.

- **Focus Points** — Helps to build better communities by strengthening families.

- **St. Luke’s Ministry Nurses Aid Training** — Provides highly motivated individuals with the training and additional support needed to pursue a career as a Nurse Aide in the high-demand healthcare profession.

- **Hope Communities** — Creates diverse, healthy communities through quality, service-enriched affordable housing.

- **St. Francis Center** — Provides a place of transformation for people who are homeless.