

*I can change the world...*



# WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS



**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.

**A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KRISTA KILGUS**

*"I can change the world with my own two hands. I can make peace on earth with my own two hands."*



The lyrics from the Ben Harper song that you see sprinkled throughout this year's report, are true. They are true for you and me...and they are most certainly true for the Urban Servant Corps volunteers who are spending each day accompanying our neighbors to offer safe, healthy and basic needs. USCers are sustaining and improving the non-profit community in Denver as they are being transformed by this leadership and service opportunity. I hope you are inspired by the actions of their two hands being joined with your two hands to help create change and offer peace.

**LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, JESSE LOPER**

Dearest Friends of the Urban Servant Corps community,



If ever there was a time for the USC tenets of community, service, and simplicity, that time is surely now. Throughout this year's struggle with the global pandemic of COVID-19, political uncertainty, and the call that Black Lives Matter, we are leaning into the belief that community is a continuously creative process that demands engagement, service, and love.

Our volunteers fulfil the core tenets of USC as they serve with our partners at New Legacy Charter School, Urban Peak Shelter and Outreach, The Gathering Place, Every Child Pediatrics, St. Francis Center, Senior Support Services, and S.A.M.E. Café. Through these partnerships, Urban Servant Corps is bringing hope in an uncertain world where marginalized members of our community are especially vulnerable and our partner organizations struggle with fundraising and finding their way forward during the pandemic.

In addition to these rich partnerships, members of the USC staff, board, and volunteer community along with members of the Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp community are participating in Courageous Conversations about Race, led by Pastor Richard Gianzero and USC board member Pastor Barbara Berry-Bailey. We are excited to see how these conversations further the intentional growing of our inclusive community and help us fight injustice.

In the midst of all of these exciting bustling activities, we hosted our first on-line Fall fundraiser: Gather and Give. This event created the opportunity for USC alumni and supporters from all over the country to come together for a shared (virtual) meal, story sharing, and a talent show! Through your generosity, we were able to raise over \$5,000 that evening.

This year, USC will continue this growth and creating new opportunities for connection in the midst of the unknown. We look forward to engaging each of you as partners in community, service, and simplicity. Thank you for your support!

**JESSE LOPER**, USC Board Chair

**"In community I get to show up as myself and that is such a gift."**

*-Maria*



**Support Urban Servant Corps!**

**Recurring Donation:**  
[www.urbanservantcorps/support](http://www.urbanservantcorps/support)

**Community Shares of Colorado:**  
Work place giving - [www.cshares.com](http://www.cshares.com)

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:**  
As a member, you can designate funds to USC - [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)

**Amazon Smile:**  
Donates .5% of the price of your Amazon purchase to USC [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

**King Soopers Community Give Back:**  
<https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/community-rewards-9>



**"The community and my service site were both things that changed me this year. The community constantly reminded me of the good work I have done and reminded me to be easier on myself. My guests [at my service site] did the same thing for me, and have always made me feel like this is the job for me."** *-Hailey*

## USC Alumni who are authors!

### USC ALUM – ELLIE ROSCHER

Ellie Roscher served at Urban Servant Corps in 2002-2003. She is now the author of *12 Tiny Things*, *Play Like a Girl* and *How Coffee Saved My Life*. Her writing also appears in the *Baltimore Review*, *Inscape Magazine*, *Bookology Magazine* and elsewhere. Ellie hosts the *Unlikely Conversations* podcast and is a certified yoga instructor. She teaches writing at The Loft Literary Center and the Minnesota Writing Project. Through curious inquiry, commitment to the sacred ordinary and artistic collaboration, her work accompanies people to a more centered, whole, and embodied self. Ellie holds an MFA in Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and an MA in Theology from Luther Seminary. She lives in Minneapolis with her spouse and sons.

Urban Servant Corps will be hosting a Lenten Book Club utilizing Ellie's newest book *12 Tiny Things: Simple Ways to Live a More Intentional Life* beginning in February. Stay tuned if you are interested and order your book at: <https://12tinythings.com/>



### USC ALUM – IRENE SUN

Irene Sun spent her time at USC serving and teaching the women and girls of Metro Denver in 2003-2004. She is now surrounded by four boys whom she teaches at home with much joy. She is the author of the picture book *God Counts: Numbers in His Word and His World* and is a contributor to *Held*, a slow meditation on Psalm 139 for those in the midst of sorrow of miscarriage. After her year at USC, she studied liturgy and literature at Yale University (MAR) and the Old Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (ThM). She is married to her pastor, Hans who serves Pittsburgh Chinese Church.



*"The Urban Servant Corps program and my intentional living community allowed me to explore faith, religion, and spirituality in my own way with no judgement, I made some deep discoveries." — Karina*



## Impact of Service from 2019-2020 Volunteers



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

*Brady taught and coached students who are teen parents.*



**Urban Peak Shelter** – An over-night shelter for youth who are experiencing homelessness that offers access to basic needs.

*Raquel supported youth experiencing homelessness by sharing resources and trusted care in their most vulnerable moments.*

**Urban Peak Outreach** – A drop-in center 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.

*Karina served as an outreach worker, offering resources and support to youth ages 15-24 experiencing homelessness.*



**Senior Support Services** – A day center for hungry and homeless seniors where they are offered a safe place to spend time, socialize with others, and participate in activities.

*Brigid assisted clients by providing meals, access to clothes, and offering resources for health care and housing.*



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

*Allie accompanied guests as a Resource Advocate, providing important care to those in need.*

*“In service, I learned a lot about my prejudice ideas of the community I served. I was not conscious of how growing up in a discriminatory world actually caused me to internalize these ideas, even if I did not believe them to be true.”*

*Karina — USC Volunteer*



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

*Maria helped to create community through healthy food access.*

*I know I will be connected to people full of grace and care, no matter where I go. I know I will carry these people and these experiences with me wherever I go because community has changed me. For that, I will always be grateful.”*

*Maria — USC Volunteer*



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

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



**St. Francis Center** – A day-time shelter that offers a place of transformation for people who are homeless.

*Hailey welcomed 700+ guests a day to the day-time shelter where individuals could have a shower, receive mail, or store belongings.*

*Volunteers pictured left to right: Back row: Diane Sherwin, Maria Bruno, Raquel Vasquez, Brady Ross. Front row: Hailey Myers, Karina Donayre, Allie Salewski, Brigid Reid*

### INCOME

# \$202,413

Individual: **25%**

Partner Organizations: **58%**

Faith Communities: **7%**

Foundations/Corporations: **10%**

*“I’ve learned quickly how to adapt and become resourceful with what I do have. I prioritize what really matters, and I stop distracting myself with what doesn’t.”*

*Brady — USC Volunteer*

### EXPENSE

# \$240,780

Administration: **5%**

Program: **86%**

Fundraising: **9%**





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