



THE ESPRIT DE CORPS

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS NEWSLETTER ♡ FALL 2015



MEET THE 2015-16 VOLUNTEERS

ON PAGE 6

VOLUNTEERS IN RAINBOW TO CELEBRATE MARRIAGE EQUALITY AT ORIENTATION

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A Second Year
Shares Her Story, p. 5

FOOD JUSTICE IN MILWAUKEE

THIS YEAR LVC IS INTRODUCING a new Food Justice Project in Milwaukee, an opportunity to increase local, affordable, and healthy food to people living in the Harambee and Lindsay Heights neighborhoods of Milwaukee, WI.

Beginning in August 2016, LVC will place five Volunteers in Milwaukee urban agriculture projects to increase the communities' capacity to produce and distribute fresh produce. Participating organizations include: All Peoples Church, Urban Ecology Center, The Victory Garden Initiative, Walnut Way Conservation Corps, and the Trickle Bee Café.

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BOBO'S 10 LESSONS

FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR YEAR

At National Orientation in Chicago, Volunteers had the opportunity to hear Kim Bobo, a worker's rights activist and founder of the Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues. Kim inspired and amused the Volunteers with "Bobo's 10 Lessons for Making the Most of Your LVC Year."

1 | **CHANGE HISTORY NOW.**

Social change historically has always been led by young people. Don't think about work you'll do later. Do it now.

2 | **DEVELOP A "CAN DO" ATTITUDE.**

Having a positive, "can do" spirit is the most important characteristic of being able to change the world. Pitch in and do whatever needs doing.

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**2015 – 2016
LVC BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Nathan Miller
Board Chair
Julie Nelson
Treasurer
Carrie Carroll
Gary George
Justin Ask
Bruce Albright
Gwen Spencer
Emerson
Williams Mollett
Jeff Yamada
Vice Chair



Back row (left to right): Gwen Spencer, Jeff Yamada, Julie Nelson, Bruce Albright
Front row (left to right): Nathan Miller, Justin Ask, Carrie Carroll
Not pictured: Gary George, Emerson Williams Mollett

LETTER FROM SAM COLLINS, LVC PRESIDENT

PASTOR KAREN BRAU of Luther Place Memorial Church recently said to me, “we all have to remember that Christianity is, first and foremost, about death and resurrection. The death must happen before we see the divine on the other side.” For those of us with relative privilege we will need to experience difficult personal “deaths” before the resurrection in the form of peace with justice will occur. How can we help each other summon the faith, and community, that facing the challenges to our privilege will require? It seems to me that this was the question Jesus asked us in going to the cross, and that LVC endeavors to ask our Volunteers each year.

HOW CAN WE HELP EACH OTHER SUMMON THE FAITH, AND COMMUNITY, THAT FACING THE CHALLENGES TO OUR PRIVILEGE WILL REQUIRE?

This year, LVC faced sharp declines in enrollment due largely to the improving job market. This forced LVC to make significant changes in its operations and structure at a time when we were trying to begin exciting new initiatives, like the Food Justice Project in Milwaukee. I am proud of, and grateful to, our staff, board, and stakeholders who rose to the occasion and lived through these changes with LVC while keeping our vision in front of us. As a result, we welcomed 104 Volunteers to LVC last month—the 36th year in a row that we have had this honor!

These Volunteers include Cassie Hartnett, who is serving a second year in LVC at Reconciling Works in Minneapolis. She was accepted into Union Seminary in New York, but requested a deferment of her full scholarship to serve another year with LVC. She shares, “The essay that I wrote to get into Union I would not have written a year ago. LVC has helped me to articulate who I am in the world.”

Cassie’s story, and so many others like it, make all the difficulties associated with the changes that LVC faced this year worth it. For we know that Cassie and her 103 peers will begin lifelong efforts to nurture the peace with justice for which we yearn.

LVC was further inspired to face its transitions by its vision to “unite people to work for peace with justice.” Our efforts will pay dividends when LVC opens a Food Justice House in Milwaukee next year. In support of All Peoples Church’s Fresh Harambee initiative, LVC will place five Volunteers in Milwaukee food justice organizations to create a constellation of initiatives that make local and healthy food available to those facing hunger.

I thank our entire community for keeping your faith in LVC and our work as we endured changes that, yes, were unexpected, but were also invitations from God to help us transform our work. We look forward to all the new invitations that we will receive this year, and the next, and the next, so that we all may one day experience peace with justice.

In Service,

Sam Collins
LVC President



MEET THE STAFF WORKING FOR JUSTICE FROM COAST TO COAST

DC



SAM COLLINS
PRESIDENT



REV. ENGER MUTETEKE
NATIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR



REV. SUE GAETA
PROGRAM MANAGER
—EAST REGION
Qlum, DC 1993–1994



A.J. CABRERA
PROGRAM MANAGER
—ADMISSIONS



DEBORAH SHEPARD
BUSINESS OPERATIONS
MANAGER



KEVIN MACKIEWICZ
BUSINESS OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR



JESSICA MORTON
OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATE



JULIE HAMRE
COMPTROLLER



JUDY KUHAGEN
STAFF VOLUNTEER

TWIN CITIES



DEIRDRE KANZER
PROGRAM MANAGER
—MIDWEST REGION



ELODIE LEE
ANNUAL FUND &
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



ELIZABETH FLOMO
RECRUITMENT &
OUTREACH MANAGER
Qlum, Twin Cities 2002–2004

CHICAGO/ MILWAUKEE



ERIKA DORNFELD
PROGRAM MANAGER
—MIDWEST REGION
Qlum, Chicago 2009–2011

BAY AREA/ PUGET SOUND



SOPHIE GARDNER
PROGRAM MANAGER
—WEST REGION
Qlum, Seattle 2010–2011

OMAHA



PATRICIA COTTRELL
DEVELOPMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

THIS YEAR IN LVC

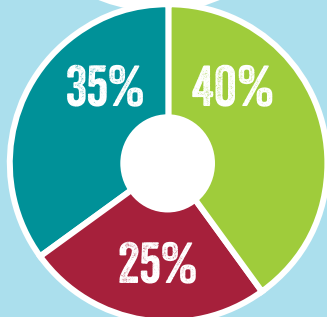
20% IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR

19% IDENTIFY AS LGBTQIA



200,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

OTHER SPIRITUAL JEWISH HINDU ATHEIST AGNOSTIC OTHER



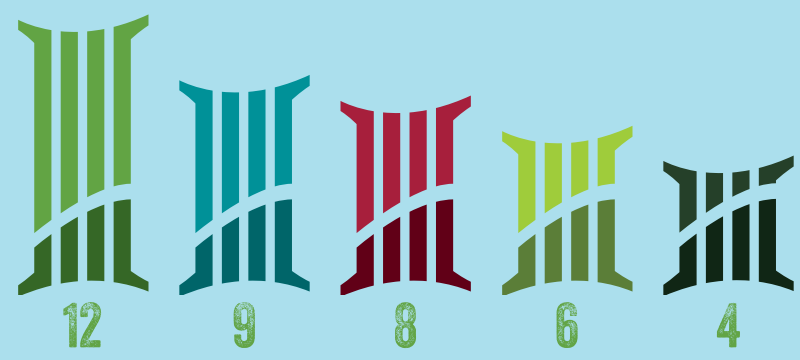
LUTHERAN

25% OTHER CHRISTIAN

13 U.S. CITIES WITH LVC VOLUNTEERS

- DC
- BALTIMORE
- WILMINGTON
- OMAHA
- CHICAGO
- MILWAUKEE
- MINNEAPOLIS
- ST. PAUL
- BERKELEY
- OAKLAND
- SAN FRANCISCO
- SEATTLE
- TACOMA

TOP COLLEGES



GRINNELL COLLEGE

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

LUTHER COLLEGE

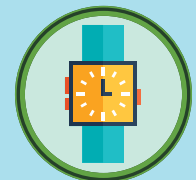
PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



36 YEARS



2,700 LVC VOLUNTEERS

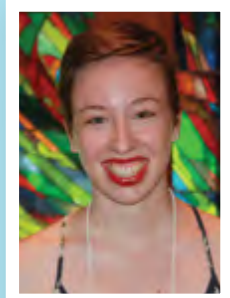


4,590,000 HOURS SERVED



92% LVC ALUMNI REMAIN ENGAGED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

AN ABUNDANCE OF GRACE
SECOND YEAR VOLUNTEER CASSIE HARTNETT SHARES HER STORY



AFTER A YEAR of relationships, direct service work, and grad school applications, Cassie Hartnett is embarking on another year of LVC. She comes to her second year with a few lessons learned, a deepened sense of community, and a full ride to Union Seminary awaiting her. This is her story:

My first LVC year was a huge growing experience in learning how to live in intentional community and exploring my faith. Being held accountable to my house community was important to me as I struggled to adjust to a new city, my first-year placement at Trinity Safe Place, and many new relationships. We all made mistakes and we were all offered grace, which really brought my house community together and taught me a lot. One housemate taught me a lot about sustainability; another was passionate about anti-racism and unpacking our race privileges; one knew a lot about gender and sexuality. There was so much I didn't know! I am now more equipped to talk about my experience, and I learned to be quiet and listen when others talk about their experiences.

"I LEARNED TO FIND MY SPIRITUALITY IN COMMUNITY, AND TO SEE GOD'S GRACE AND ABUNDANCE IN THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING ME."

I came out as queer before my first year of LVC. My second-year placement is Reconciling Works, which advocates for the full inclusion of Lutherans of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all aspects of their Church and congregations, is a great place for me to explore my queer identity alongside my Christian identity. I made a lot of connections with people who are doing the same. I can connect with the people, communities, and organizations that are moving the church forward and starting to make the kinds of changes that I want to continue making in my career.

Like many of my housemates, I was applying to graduate schools during my first LVC year. I applied to Luther Seminary, Yale Divinity School, and Union Theological Seminary in New York. Not only did I get accepted to all three schools, they also each offered me a full-tuition scholarship. Since Union has such a rich history of social justice work, feminism and liberation theology, it seemed like a perfect fit for me after LVC! Although I was confident in apply-

ing, I don't think that my graduate application process would have turned out the same had I not participated in LVC—and my essay titled, "In Defense of Loud Girls," was certainly not something I would have written before my time in LVC.

One thing I've thought a lot about during LVC is the idea of "enough." On a volunteer stipend, for example, you're worried about having enough money for food and material resources; or maybe about having enough time and energy for your job

"I'M CONNECTING WITH THE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE MOVING THE CHURCH FORWARD."

and your house community; or maybe about being enough—smart enough, funny enough, pretty enough, etc. to be loved and accepted. I was worried about all these things, and yet, in my LVC year I experienced abundance. Sometimes I had little to no time, money, or energy to give, but when I gave what I could, and asked for help when I needed it, I received everything I needed and more—whether that was food, company, support, a listening ear, and a true abundance of grace. I learned to find my spirituality in community, and to see God's grace and abundance in the people surrounding me and caring for me.



Cassie (third from the right) in her first LVC year with her Twin Cities Wellstone housemates

2015–16 LVC VOLUNTEERS BEGIN A YEAR OF SERVICE



BAY AREA VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Rachel Swanson, Mari Hanchar, Shelby Walton, Shannon Clark; **Front Row:** Anne Futterer, Keeya Singer, Hannah Flanery



MILWAUKEE VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Karl Anliker, Martha Sudermann, Amelia Gamboa, Alexander Macdonald; **Front Row:** Amy Sowers, Julia Roche, Ankita Sarawagi



BALTIMORE VOLUNTEERS
(L to R) Bjorn Payne, Margaret Steinberg, Alyssa Apollo, Nate King, Kirsten Mathisen, Amy Delo



CHICAGO VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Kimberly Boche, Hannah Bernard, Elaine Fang, Tashina Good, Callie Mabry; **Middle Row:** Eryn McNeil, Sum Tim Chan, Anna Rayas, Caitlin Zimmerman; **Front Row:** Katherine Quinn, Meagan Murphy, Eleni Irrera, Mary O'Brien



WILMINGTON VOLUNTEERS
(L to R) Morgan Hill, Libby Larson, Margi Hughes, Claire Talty, Hans Jonas Schatzel, Melissa McCormack



OMAHA VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Amanda Zasada, Hailey Hanna, Paisley LeRoy, Hans Hille; **Front Row:** Jeanette deVeer, Elizabeth Clapp, Deborah Metcalf, Anne Friedrich, Sitara Mahtani



WASHINGTON, D.C. VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Dan Larson, Nicole Newell, Brian Henson, Ian Frei, Anne Marie Buron; **Middle Row:** Amanda Kirsch, Kirsten Wee, Aria Christenson, Sabrina Sieg, Rochelle Kwan, Michele Gardner; **Front Row:** Gina Haro, Katie McCoy, Alexa Stevens, Adi Salinas-Ferreira, Isabel Zietz-Moskin, Danisha Williams



SEATTLE VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Amy Pretzer, Vanessa Reyes, Rachel Baran, Anna Stone, Emily Stets, Anne Wickland, Katrina Mundt, Rebecca Carpenter, Taylor Graydon; **Front Row (L to R):** Maya Mineoi, Yuezheng Sun, Erik Gartland, Elizabeth Lieske, Linda Chastine, Sarah Slothower, Katherine Chapin



TWIN CITIES VOLUNTEERS
Back Row (L to R): Jordan Schellinger, Rose Reed-Maxfield, Margaret Yapp, Emily Stumpf, John Werner, Jesse Stephens, Trevor Leuzinger; **Middle Row:** Lauren Abrams, Cassie Hartnett, Emily Evans, Kendall Daugherty, Alex Sharfman, Caleb Rollins, Cassandra Paulsen; **Front Row:** Jenna King, Alison Stenczynski, Sarah Thomas, Rachel Birkedal, Emma Ostby, Katherine Panning

Bobo's 10 Lessons, Continued

3 | BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS MOVEMENTS.

Heather Booth, a feminist leader in the 60s, rode a Freedom Ride bus across Mississippi and is a longtime friend of Rev. Jesse Jackson. The hardworking, committed activists of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

4 | DO YOUR BEST AND LEARN FROM MISTAKES.

Do the absolute best you can at any moment and then let it go. If you focus too much on avoiding mistakes, you'll never take any risks.

5 | WORK HARD, BUT DON'T SEEK PERFECTION.

Those who brag about being perfectionists are seldom the most effective staff. We simply don't have time for it.

6 | DEVELOP SKILLS YOU WILL NEED.

Most nonprofit jobs need people with skills in relationship-building, writing, speaking, computers, Spanish, and organizing. Be intentional about building the skills you will need in the field.

7 | READ AND WRITE.

To be a leader in social change work you must read and study the issues. You will have more influence in the world if you write.

8 | CONTROL YOUR TIME.

Time is the most valuable resource you have. Focus on what is important, not just pressing, and learn to nicely say "no" to things that aren't your priorities.

9 | GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

It's okay to be uncomfortable. In fact, it's probably good. Go to prayer vigils, marches and actions; and maybe even get arrested!

10 | PRACTICE SELF-CARE AND YOUR FAITH.

No one will take responsibility for your care other than you—or perhaps your mother! Set one personal care goal this year. If you don't already have habits around your faith, begin a few. We need you as long-time social activists. Not just Volunteers.

THIS YEAR, YOU BEGIN CHANGING HISTORY.

Food Justice, Continued

LVC VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN SERVING at All Peoples Church in its youth programs and urban garden for over two decades. LVC is excited to join with All Peoples to expand the reach of its "Fresh Harambee" project by collaborating with other food justice organizations striving to bring fresh food to these two Milwaukee communities.

For more information, contact
Jessica Morton at 202-387-3222 x223
or jmorton@lutheranvolunteercorps.org



All Peoples Church Community Garden provides a meal to the youth and staff who care for it



Board/Staff Visit to the Walnut Way Conservation Corp.



LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

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LUTHERANVOLUNTEERCORPS.ORG

WAYS TO GIVE

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AT LVC, OUR MISSION IS TO UNITE PEOPLE TO WORK FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE. YOUR GIFTS ALLOW US TO MATCH BRIGHT VOLUNTEERS WITH ORGANIZATIONS IMPORTANT TO THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT. **WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.**



DONATE

Make a financial contribution to support the Volunteers as they build community, live simply and sustainably, and work for peace with justice.

INVOLVE YOUR CONGREGATION

Your congregations are the neighbors, the community activists, and the caretakers helping LVC to accomplish its meaningful mission. Involve your congregation in raising funds and supporting houses.



DONATE THROUGH THRIVENT

Are you a Thrivent member? Designate your monthly Choice Dollars to LVC or make a monthly donation through Thrivent's SimplyGiving program.

MONTHLY GIVING

Sign up for a recurring donation to provide ongoing support to the next generation of leaders in the social justice movement. Visit www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org and click on 'Please Donate Today.'



JOIN A LOCAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Across the U.S. local communities of alumni, friends, and supporters give their time and talents to supporting area Volunteers. Join this dedicated team by contacting an LVC Program Manager near you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO LVC,
CONTACT ANNUAL FUND & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, ELODIE LEE, AT 612-314-5822
OR ELEE@LUTHERANVOLUNTEERCORPS.ORG.

