



ESPRIT DE CORPS

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS NEWSLETTER | FALL 2017

Volunteers Engage Their Passions

During National Orientation this year, Volunteers took a moment to write their hopes, fears, questions, and insights onto post-it notes and place them onto the walls of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. One read, "How do we work for social justice today?"

Part of LVC's answer to this question is to work where one's passion lies. Because LVC believes that achieving justice requires progress across many issue areas, and that each area needs talented leaders in the future, LVC places passionate Volunteers with amazing nonprofit organizations across a wide range of social justice issues. All of this contributes to LVC's legacy of helping great leaders get their start in inspirational social justice careers. For eleven LVC Volunteers this year, the answer to this question lies in issues surrounding immigration and refugee resettlement.

Micaela Laurence spent last year volunteering in Uruguay through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. With only a year of Spanish under her belt, she found herself immersed in a

new culture with a limited ability to converse with those she was now living. "I relied heavily on the patience and support of my new neighbors. Their gestures of friendship, whether just slowing down the speeds of their conversations, or going so far as to invite me into their homes for Christmas and New Year's, made the difference between me feeling like a stranger and me feeling welcomed and accepted."

This year in LVC, Micaela is serving at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota as a Family Reunification Coordinator where she helps new arrivals navigate the U.S. immigration system and "extend[s] the same hospitality" she received abroad to new arrivals in the U.S. "They fled all that was familiar in exchange for a life of incredible uncertainty, and still dare to hope for a safer and more secure future. They deserve nothing less than justice and compassion and I will never stop hoping right alongside them."

Seattle Volunteer Kasey Shultz is serving at the Northwest Immigrant

2017 PLACEMENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Food & Hunger
13%



Advocacy/Public Policy
21%



Education
12%



Environment
10%



Housing
10%



Immigration/Refugee Services
13%

Rights Project as the Bilingual Immigrant Youth Advocate. At least 25% of the youth she works with are DACA recipients. "I get the impression that the work has become more intense since January. People in the immigrant community are scared and every case we get feels a little more urgent." Kasey is inspired by her colleagues and takes "great comfort and hope in being able to

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Making a planned gift is easy and leaves a lasting legacy. A planned gift can also lessen the burden of taxes on your family and provide estate tax savings. Whether you are beginning your career or beginning to plan for retirement, a planned gift to LVC can make a difference. To find out more, contact Tait Danielson Castillo, development@lutheranvolunteercorps.org.

Volunteers Engage Their Passions *(continued)*

go to work every day in a place full of people who tirelessly advocate for the immigrant community, and who are not giving up."

Kasey feels called to this work as a result of her faith. "We are called to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbors, to care for creation, and to honor the divine in each other. We are called to be lights in the world, to be prophets for a radical and inclusive and redeeming future, to be humble and loving. So I am responding in the only ways that I know how... throwing myself into work that I believe does these things in the world."

Sam Collins, PRESIDENT



At a time when almost all in America seem to think that we are headed in the wrong direction, we all must (re) commit to standing up for what we believe is most important. In this 2017/2018 edition of LVC's Esprit De Corps, you will get the chance to meet 84 people who have chosen to do just that by spending a year in the LVC program.

You will meet Micaela and Kasey who have chosen to throw themselves into their particular social justice passion and are being inspired by colleagues in their placements who have committed themselves to careers serving the same cause. Whether they are fighting hunger, improving educational outcomes, fighting violence against women, helping find employment, serving the mission of a church, or any one of scores of other important causes, each LVC Volunteer is experiencing a deeply personal answer to the question, "How do I work for social justice today?" Our Volunteers are joining a community of nearly 3,000 others who have taken a year of service at LVC and turned it into a lifetime of commitment to creating justice in the world.

Thank you for being a part of the LVC community and please consider making a gift to LVC in support of Micaela, Kasey, and their peers as part of your commitment to creating the changes that you want to see in these tumultuous times.

In Service,

Sam Collins

2017-18 LVC VOLUNTEERS



Baltimore

Zoë Barlow, Eileen Fordham, Leah Markovich, Julia Pilkington, Morgan Coleman, Ryan Eisenman



Bay Area

Jennifer Tapler, Alexander James, Danielle Nanni, Amanda Burton, Christine Harder, Carly Tomaine, Maggie Schaller



Twin Cities

Back (L to R): Z Quanbeck, Sam Benson, Nathan Webster, Ian Magnuson, Patrick Connelly, Abigail Boyer, Erin Perry **Middle (L to R):** Bitta Gordon, Abigail Slack, Kathryn Fogleman, Monica Sieg, Emily Campbell **Front (L to R):** Grace Corbin, Frances Stevenson, Micaela Laurence, Emily Strawn, Laura Culpepper



Chicago

Anna Burrows, Katrina Buchanan, Maya Robbins, Callie Rodenbiker, Katie Maxwell



DC

Back (L to R): Nicole Gonzalez, Amanda Zimmerman, Christy Schwarz, Sabrina Batalden, Robert Dealey, Trevor Brandt, Karl Heusinkveld, Alohi Nonies, Sofia Kaut **Front (L to R):** Katie Larson, Katie Kovacovich, Keziah Grindeland, Madeline Smith, Becky Schmitthener Hayley Schultz, Kyndall Hoff, Emily Ryan



Milwaukee

Back (L to R): Tea Cakarmis, Andrea Bonneville, Mackenzie Farrington, Scott Cho, Meghan Grahs, Megan Nelson **Front (L to R):** Gina Sterk, Wyatt Meyer, Taylor DeNaples, Alexander Ponche



Omaha

Brittany Dymm, Greta Carlson, Kaley Larson, Nick Juanitas, Christian Clausner, Lucas Shurson



Seattle

Kasey Shultz, Courtney Lee, Morgan Richie, Ericka Wood, Christopher Egan, Sarah Batbold



Tacoma

Briana Bee, Charity Odetola, Sovoya Davis, Kristy Bowen, Saige Matson



Wilmington

Morgan Simmons, Isaac Jensen, Morgan Spurrier, Madi Johnson, Emily Geno



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WAYS TO GIVE

At LVC, our mission is to unite people to work for peace with justice. Your support allows us to match talented volunteers with organizations important to the social justice movement. **WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.** Read on for details about the many ways you can give.

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.

JOIN A LOCAL SUPPORT NETWORK

DONATE

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

MONTHLY GIVING

Provide ongoing sustaining support by signing up for a recurring donation to support the next generation of leaders in the social justice movement. Visit lutheranvolunteercorps.org/donate.

INVOLVE YOUR CONGREGATION

Be the hands and feet that help LVC accomplish its meaningful mission by raising funds and supporting houses.



WE ARE GOING GREEN

We are keeping our 2017 Esprit de Corps intentionally short this year to save resources—both environmental and financial. Continue to follow us online and via email for ongoing stories and updates!