

PREACH THE GOSPEL
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FrancisCorps
Young Adult Franciscan Volunteer Service Experience

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE 2018 ANNUAL APPEAL



When you donate to the Annual Appeal you not only provide for those in need today but make an investment in the future by allowing FrancisCorps volunteers to see the importance in providing service in all that they do today, tomorrow and for the rest of their lives!

FEEDING OTHERS WHILE NOURISHING OURSELVES

BY JENNIFER DREW COELHO FC 4, SYRACUSE ALUM

God has placed a spark in my heart for feeding the hungry. This spark billowed brightly during my year in Syracuse serving at the Assumption Food Pantry and Franciscan Northside Ministries. In the 15 years since that treasured time, I have worked at a food bank, served at a homeless shelter and food pantry, delivered homemade meals to the homebound, and made many casseroles, cupcakes and sandwiches. As I juggle life as a mom, much of my serving since the boys arrived has happen behind the scenes – often in my own kitchen. The experiences and relationships that I developed during my time with FrancisCorps give my efforts today deeper meaning.

As a FrancisCorps volunteer, my daily interaction with those in need gave me a glimpse into the journeys of our guests. Their stories touched my heart and I grew in understanding and compassion. There was no better opportunity for this than at Franciscan Northside Ministries' weekly Coffee and Donuts gathering, a time when anyone, from anywhere was welcomed for coffee, conversation, and companionship.

One day at Coffee and Donuts, a friendly competition brewed between a frequent visitor and me about who could make a better apple pie. We both boasted about our treasured family recipe. A bake-off was set for the following week. He needed a pie plate

and our volunteer house had two. When I dropped one off at his meager apartment, he told me we would have to wait a week until he received his check so he could buy his ingredients. Even on my modest stipend, this was not an issue for me; all my needs were met. This silly competition that I took for granted required a real sacrifice on his part.

He won.

I cherish many memories like this from serving with FrancisCorps. For the last two years I have volunteered weekly at a lunch program at the cathedral in Camden, NJ, very reminiscent of my time in FrancisCorps handing out sandwiches daily at the Assumption Food Pantry. Most days, the line at the window where we serve a bagged lunch and a friendly smile is relentless and often I work behind the scenes making the sandwiches. I don't have the opportunity to get to know our guests these days like I did on the Northside. I long to hear their stories but for now it is the FrancisCorps memories and relationships that remind me to seek, honor and serve Christ in every person.



Jennifer still serves at a Food Pantry today!





THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This coming year, FrancisCorps will welcome its 20th group of volunteers. These amazing young adults will carry on a 20 year tradition of serving those in need, providing vital assistance to amazing organizations, and opening themselves to the transformative experience of faith-filled community and service.

In order to continue to provide for these amazing volunteers, ensure they have a life changing experience, and secure a new group for the coming year, we need your help!

We have set our goal for this year's Annual Appeal at \$15,000. This amount will go a long way in meeting the many costs associated with supporting, forming, and recruiting these amazing FrancisCorps volunteers. Your donations, no matter the size, will help us reach this goal.

Your support is a vital component of the FrancisCorps experience and FrancisCorps works hard to ensure every dollar is put to good use!



This year FrancisCorps volunteers:

- **Fed the hungry at the Assumption Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen**
- **Welcomed refugees into the United States at Refugee Resettlement**
 - **Comforted the sick and dying at Francis House**
 - **Responded to crisis situations at Cathedral Emergency Services**
- **Accompanied individuals with developmental disabilities at L'Arche**
- **Mentored Children at the Bishop Foery Foundation and Rostro de Maria**
 - **Assisted seniors at Hogar Santiago Crespo**
- **Cared for the chronically ill at Manos Abiertas**



Our 20th Anniversary Celebration will include special guest presenter, Franciscan Friar, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM!

SAVE THE DATE!

We're turning 20 and we want you to be a part of it!

We will be marking this milestone in a special way from Friday evening, July 19 until Sunday, July 21, 2019. This weekend of events will include a celebratory banquet and we are excited to announce that joining us will be guest presenter, Franciscan Friar, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, a highly sought after speaker on Young Adult and Franciscan Spirituality! Mark your calendars now and keep a look out for more information on the events in the coming months!

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