

PREACH THE GOSPEL
IF NECESSARY USE WORDS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



FrancisCorps
Young Adult Franciscan Volunteer Service Experience

15TH ANNIVERSARY: INTRODUCING BRO J'S FRATERNITY



Fifteen years ago this June, Bro Jim Moore took up his Franciscan brothers' challenge and founded FrancisCorps with the mission to give young adults an experience of Gospel service, community living and Franciscan spirituality that would forever change them. Well, 115 FrancisCorps volunteers later, we can say that Bro Jim succeeded in his mission. In a recent survey of our former volunteers the vast majority listed our founder as, by far, the most influential reason for their decision to do a year of service with FrancisCorps. As well, 91% of the alums stated that they would be Very or Extremely Likely to recommend FrancisCorps to others seeking a post-grad service experience.

In honor of our founder, Bro Jim, and in celebration of our 15th Anniversary we are pleased to introduce Bro J's Fraternity. This Fraternity is for those who both appreciate what Bro Jim has done in the past with the founding of our organization and who are committed to ensuring that FrancisCorps continues to flourish in the future.

Members of Bro J's Fraternity will benefit from invitations to the FrancisCorps Commissioning BBQ, an exclusive Open-House in September, Mass and dinner



with the Syracuse volunteers during their January retreat and invitation to the end of the year BBQ with all the volunteers.

Bro J's Frat's will also be invited to participate in the life of FrancisCorps by an annual Service Day in Syracuse where they can work side-by-side with our volunteers, by attending "Community Nights" at the Volunteer House in Syracuse and by the opportunity to participate in an annual one week Costa Rica Service Experience where they will experience life and work with the volunteers.

The members of Bro J's Fraternity commit themselves to donate at least \$25 a month for a year to support FrancisCorps. FrancisCorps Alums who want to be Frats are invited to contribute at least \$10 a month.

Thank you Bro Jim for the gift of FrancisCorps. It has been a blessing for the friars and sisters, for the volunteers, for those who have been served and for the community of supporters and benefactors who have been part of making this dream a reality.

[Happy 15th Anniversary FrancisCorps!](#)



SURVEY REVEALS SUCCESS!

89%

FrancisCorps was very or extremely effective in providing an experience of Gospel service and community.

86%

FrancisCorps was very or extremely effective in communicating the values and spirituality of Saints Francis & Clare of Assisi.

85%

FrancisCorps was very or extremely influential on their life choices and decisions

83%

FrancisCorps was very or extremely helping in developing their spiritual & faith life

Read the complete results of the survey on our website or just scan this QR code with a Smartphone.



WORKING WITH THE SISTERS

You can't work or live in Syracuse without being impressed by the impact and ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities who sponsor so many local ministries and who count the newly canonized St. Marianne Cope as one of their members. From the first day of its founding FrancisCorps has sought to have volunteers participating in the ministry of these amazing sisters. Over the years this has meant a volunteer assisting Sister JP and Sister Dolly at the Medical Clinic and Northside Ministries.

IN THIS 15TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TWO NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WORKING WITH THE SISTERS:

FRANCIS HOUSE: A home and an extended family to people with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity and experience the unconditional love of God. It's a joy-filled caring environment. The FrancisCorps volunteers at this site will have an opportunity to experience various aspects of working in an effective private non-profit agency.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL HEALTH CENTER: This volunteer will act as a liaison between the hospital and patients especially those who traditionally have had a challenging time finding the right healthcare resource and getting the support they need.



SERVING THE VULNERABLE IN COSTA RICA

As we announced in the Fall Newsletter, the FrancisCorps house will be relocated to the Franciscan Friary in Alajuela, Costa Rica. The FrancisCorps volunteers will make their home in a wing of one of the retreat centers on the property. The move, coming this July, will save money, provide a closer relationship between the volunteers and the friars and make for much shorter commute to the work sites for our volunteers. Alajuela is the second largest city in Costa Rica and is 10 minutes away from the San José airport.

It will be very sad to say goodbye to the very gracious friars and staff of St. Francis College in Moravia and the amazing ministry partners in the capital city where our volunteers have worked over the last 7 years. We are most grateful for the warm welcome and support we received over the years. The people we have met on this journey will always be carried in our hearts.

OUR VOLUNTEERS WILL SERVE:

Abandoned Children: Manos Abiertas is an amazing place where disabled children who have been abandoned including terminally-ill children find a loving home. The home is run by an Order of sisters which is headed by a very dynamic superior. Sr. Marlene, who is like the Mother Teresa of Costa Rica, has a contagious smile and a spark in her eyes that says she means business. When we visited Manos Abiertas we noted that the sisters know all of the children by name. They really care. The volunteers will help feed, care, and play with the children. There are also opportunities for the properly prepared volunteers to assist with physiotherapy and in the pharmacy.

Seniors: Hogar Santiago Crespo is a home for senior citizens especially those who come from very modest families or have no one to care for them. The hogar is a lovely, sprawling property with lots of sunshine. The seniors we met were so eager to sit and talk with us. They had plenty of stories to tell! Our volunteer here will assist in providing all sorts of recreational and therapeutic services as well as a loving environment for the residents.



Teen Moms (Posada de Belén): We were not prepared to meet a 13 year old mother when we visited the Posada. Yet there she was holding her baby, when in reality she should have been holding a doll. This young girl was one of many who are victims of rape and incest. The Posada is a home for teenage moms sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Costa Rica. Here the young women find a welcoming home, a place to care for their children and opportunities for personal development. Workshops and courses are offered in personal life skills such as sewing, cooking, reading, writing and arithmetic. The Posada runs a restaurant and beauty salon to assist the young women with practical skills.

Families: Rostro de Maria is a dynamic and upbeat community center run by a gregarious lay missionary from Peru who is passionate about the Church and the need to evangelize. Our FrancisCorps volunteer will help reach out to "at-risk" families and especially attentive to the needs of youth. The center offers lunch to about 70-100 people every day and complements this service with kindergarten, tutoring, and basic life skills.

Addicted Men: When you come to Rostro de Jesus, this busy addiction treatment center for men you can't help but notice the positive energy of this place. Based on Christian and humanistic values, men from the ages of 20-60 come here for about six months to learn to deal with their dependency. Our volunteer will assist with various treatment modalities offered as well as workshops in various life skills. There is also a small farm where the residents learn to grow their own food and raise chickens.



VOCATION AWARENESS

FrancisCorps is unequivocally about promoting the role of the laity in the Church and preparing lay leaders who are imbued with the Spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. These men and women serve their communities in a variety of fields.

Among our former volunteers the larger areas of occupation include 19% of alums who are students, 16% working in education, 15% in social services, 15% in health care, 8% in law and 8% in church ministry.

Of the 105 alums, 3 entered religious life (Two Franciscan Friars and one Jesuit).

When asked how their perception of religious life (friars and sisters) changed because of their experience of FrancisCorps, 89% replied More or Much More Positive.

80% of our alums are Very or Extremely Likely to recommend the Franciscan Friars or Sisters to a friend considering religious life.



THE \$ VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

The impact of our volunteers on the lives of the people whom they serve is priceless. As the ancient Jewish saying goes; To save one life is to save the whole world. But for many of us it helps to get sense of the volunteers' impact on our communities by looking at the numbers.

**We serve
1185 people
a week**

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service (The federal agency for service and volunteering in the United States) the 2012 dollar value of one hour of a volunteer's service in the United States is estimated at \$22.14.

In an average week the 10 FrancisCorps volunteers combined perform volunteer service for 380 hours and serve 1,185 men, women and children.

This means that our FrancisCorps volunteers contribute \$8,413 of service per week and collectively their impact is valued at \$370,000 per year.

FINANCE REPORT

July 2012- May 2013

INCOME

General Donations	\$31,089
Fees	9,000
Volunteers	8,565
Contributed Services	28,590
Other	9,820
Total Income	87,064

EXPENSE

Stipends	48,659
Costa Rica House	21,105
Office	13,511
Syracuse House	3,720
Training	13,142
Recruiting	15,856
Fundraising	6,484
Total Expense	122,477

Net Ordinary Income -35,413

Grants 52,562

Net Income 17,149