

# Transforming Lives Through Faith and Service

## **New Partnerships for 2016 Service Year**

Application Deadline is May 15th.

We have some amazing opportunities to serve communities in need throughout the state of Florida and we are so excited for our volunteers to have the chance to truly promote community engagement and opportunity in these new service roles. Our application deadline is May 15th so please help spread the word to people you know who might be interested in positions in social work, case management, affordable housing, teaching, public health, and youth and community development.



We are currently looking for two dynamic, community-driven volunteers to serve the atrisk youth and families in Overtown, Miami. These folks should be fun, outgoing, and ready to get creative! The programs at Overtown are changing with the growing needs of the children and families in the area and potential volunteers should be ready to use their communication skills to find new ways to get the community more involved through community activities, social media engagement, and other advocacy efforts.

Another community-transforming opportunity we hope to share with a new volunteer is in the small town of Wimauma. This rural farmworker town is in need of two volunteers ready to assist with upcoming community engagement projects, including a local transportation initiative, along with assisting the local farmworker health clinic. This multicultural community has a personality all its own and the opportunity to learn from this diverse population will truly bring out the best in any volunteer ready to serve!

These are just some examples of the new, exciting ways CVIF is reaching out to our Florida communities in need. We are looking for people with a heart for service and a genuine hope for personal growth and development.

#### **Donate Today**

Click <u>here</u> to make a donation today or donate by check made payable to:

Catholic Volunteers in Florida P.O. Box 536476 Orlando, Florida 32853-6476

#### Are You Considering

#### a Year of Service?

Our application deadline is coming up fast and we are looking for folks who are ready to engage in a year of lifechanging, soul-filling service!

If you've ever considered taking a year to focus on community service and professional development, now is your chance!

Our volunteers serve in positions ranging from social work to public health and advocacy. Our unique retreat program allows participants to enhance their professional skills, reflect on their spiritual development, and promote community development in their lives and the lives of those in need right here in Florida and internationally in the Dominican Republic. Please take a moment to share these opportunities with anyone who might fit the descriptions above! Our service year begins with orientation this August.

Apply <u>Here</u>

## **Spring Retreat in Miami**



**Our April retreat** was a much-needed time of fellowship and reflection for our volunteers who are beginning to feel the pressures and stresses of their volunteer year coming to an end. Before they begin filling out grad school and job applications, we wanted to ensure this gathering in Miami, Florida was a fun and fulfilling week.

Our week at the Juan Pablo II Retreat House was an amazing opportunity to engage with the community. We were able to visit three of our service site partners and even had the chance to volunteer as a group in the gardens at Camillus House. Being able to visit St. Mary's Cathedral School and Overtown Children & Youth Coalition was a beautiful way to see firsthand what the needs of the community are and learn more about how we can become a part of their support systems.



We are so thankful for Sister Mary and Susannah from Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary who provided some midweek inspiration for us through their spirituality talk. We were blessed by Archbishop Wenski who joined us to celebrate morning mass. That same day, Ms. Valarie guided volunteers through a resume writing workshop and Liz, our executive director, led a fun art project that gave us a chance to channel our creative sides.

Applications are due May 15th for the service year which begins this fall. Click <u>here</u> for more information and to apply.

#### **Our Mission**

Catholic Volunteers in Florida is dedicated to providing people of all faiths the opportunity to volunteer for a year and live out their faith by serving the diverse needs of the people of Florida and the Dominican Republic.

Catholic Volunteers work towards justice and peace, transforming the community they serve as well as themselves.

#### **Birthday Wishes**

Help us celebrate these special people by keeping them in your prayers this month!

#### <u>May 2</u>

Anita Bresnahan Class of 2015 - 16

<u>May 9</u> Gerry Glynn CVIF Board Member

<u>May 11</u> Tyler Kuhn Class of 2014 - 15

> May 21 Father Walsh

<u>May 26</u> Lauren Triche Class of 2012 - 13

> May 27 Bishop Lynch



Our final retreat day was a day of guided meditation and reflection. Our volunteers spent one entire day in silence and were given various activities to keep them occupied as they used their time to embrace the silence and reflect on all they'd learned throughout the week. Sister Florence Bryan did a wonderful job helping prepare them for this activity.

As the volunteers continue their service year we ask that you hold them in your thoughts and prayers. These last few months are usually full of anxieties about what lies ahead. We are so grateful to have had a full week to enjoy their company and share in community activities with them during this retreat.

#### Tell us your story!

How did your service year impact you? Where has your service experience taken you? Tell us about it. We'd love to share your memorable moments with the CVIF family.

#### Share your news!

We want to celebrate your new job, promotion, engagement, or anniversary!

Share your news and memories with us by emailing Vanessa at vhornedo@cvif.org and look out for your announcement in next month's newsletter.

### **Tell Your Friends**

Click <u>here</u> for a printable PDF version of our current flyer to share with those who might be interested in applying!

Click <u>here</u> for a printable PDF version of this newsletter.

#### Follow us



@CatholicVolunteersInFlorida