



# Catholic Volunteers in Florida

*Transforming Lives Through Faith and Service*

## Black Lives Matter

CVIF stands in solidarity with the movement in support of Black Lives. We condemn the sin of racism in all its forms. Our mission is to embody peace and justice in our communities, and in ourselves, by building relationships that dismantle systemic oppression and liberate each person to live into their God-given potential and purpose. We are building an authentic, faith-filled community based on the values of the Gospel and Christ's call to love one another, as Christ has loved us.

There is much work to do. What is the work? For us, it involves a commitment to racial and economic justice and becoming an equitable organization. It involves creating opportunities for young people of color, partnering with organizations led by people of color, and investing deeply in historically excluded communities. It also means building relationships across difference so that our CVIF family not only reflects the beautiful diversity of God's creation, but also experiences a community of love, inclusion, and support.

Finally, it means putting our money where our mouth is--looking internally at our own organizational practices, and ensuring that our staff, leadership, and volunteers mirror these commitments; that our decision-making structures are inclusive; and that we are investing our resources and dollars in efforts that create meaningful change and justice. We are on the journey! Your sisters in solidarity, Liz & Ms. V



*The CVIF Team at January Retreat in St. Augustine.*

## Apply Now!

CVIF is recruiting for positions starting in August 2020. Your service is needed now more than ever!



APPLY FOR A  
**LIFE CHANGING**  
SERVICE YEAR! 

Benefits include a monthly stipend, housing or housing allowance, health insurance, the AmeriCorps Education Award for qualifying positions, and quarterly retreats, which includes faith formation, social action, leadership training, and professional development.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

## COVID-19 Update

We are thankful that all of our volunteers have stayed safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. We pray for all those who have been impacted by this pandemic, for those who are sick, for our heroic health workers and essential workers, and for all those whose lives have been lost.

All of our members have been able to serve remotely in order to stay safe and complete their service year commitments through July. Thank you to our amazing site partners for their resiliency and strength during these difficult months. While some site placements and housing arrangements may change in August due to COVID-19, CVIF is committed to meet the needs of



# A Poetic Reflection by Auria Creary

## Hand in hand we move forward.

Each act of service uplifts a part of us that has never been unlocked. Service opens the heart to new levels of love, creation and God energy. What can we do that brings us more joy and compassion than serving our community? Loving and living for God, how angelic it is to work on Earth, with Earth.

## Physically.

Is where it all begins, that first step on the field. Many emotions are rushing through us. Will I be enough? Am I ready? Am I prepared? Did I come with the patronage of the saints? It matters but you also realize that God prepared you from birth. He made you in his mind's eye, he shaped you perfectly for this task. With this thought, you raise a hand to the sky.

## Mentally.

Is where the mass trials have all taken place. Was my years of schooling a gateway? Life was a teacher and this is the next test, will I pass or fail? Is my brain healthy enough to be a guide and vessel for this organization? Am I ready to think beyond my usual comprehension? You've been ready, from the moment you wrote out your application, you knew what you were capable of. You've been put to the grind and now your left and right brain almost work in unison. Or is it that your preferred side completely took over? Either way, you feel like a new person.

## Spiritually.

The lives you have encountered have enriched you fully. Whether you made new friends, became a mentor, or gained a mentor, it all came full circle. You've learned to stay grounded and at peace under pressure whilst expressing yourself to the highest of vibrancy. And now as you look back on this year, you thank him because you never knew how much this would change you for the better and give you to the best.

Thank you for the opportunity, thank you for believing in us, thank you for the resources, thank you for the kinship. Thank you for the holy spirit. And thank you for redefining gratitude.

## Amen.

*Auria serves with the CVIF Pathways to Success AmeriCorps Project and the FIU Education Effect, providing student success coaching at Booker T. Washington Senior High School in Miami. Auria will be completing her service year in July.*

CVIF is committed to meet the needs of our communities this coming year, and we are now recruiting for positions in Orlando, Miami, Wimauma, and Jacksonville.

Please check out [connect.cvif.org](http://connect.cvif.org) to learn more!



## 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. We live out our mission statement through our five core values:

**Doing Justice**  
**Active Spirituality**  
**Creating Community**  
**Living Simply**  
**Personal Growth**

## Volunteers Connect at January Retreat



Once again, CVIF gathered in January at the Sisters of St. Joseph Renewal Center in St. Augustine. Highlights of our time were fellowship and reflection, visiting the retired sisters at Lourdes, spending an afternoon with the women at St. Maria Goretti House,

doing a scavenger hunt in the historic city, cooking a meal together, making vision boards, and celebrating Mass together at the Cathedral. We spent time sharing in the circle, learning about practices to sustain and nourish ourselves as we serve, connecting with God and one another. CVIF Board member, Sr. Florence Bryan, offered a spiritual talk on forgiveness and as always, extended the warm hospitality of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine. We are grateful!

