



CATHOLIC VOLUNTEERS IN FLORIDA CLOSING ITS DOORS

After 39 years of service, Catholic Volunteers in Florida will be closing its doors on November 30, 2022.

We want to communicate our heartfelt thanks to the Florida Bishops, our sponsors, donors, founders, volunteers, and alumni for nearly 40 years of faith-filled volunteer service in partnership with an incredible network of nonprofit and community organizations across the state of Florida.

"We praise God for the work of Catholic Volunteers in Florida whose ministry in the Lord brought so many to serve as missionary disciples. We are blessed by the partnerships established and flourished across the span of time. We are especially grateful for those individuals who continue to serve God by their daily living because of their profound increase in faith through Catholic Volunteers in Florida", reflected Bishop John Noonan, Episcopal Liaison, CVIF Board of Directors.

CVIF was founded in 1983 by Rev. Pat O'Neill and founding director John Geiger with a vision of lay missionaries living out the gospel while serving economically poor and marginalized communities in Florida. Since then, Catholic Volunteers in Florida has provided people of all ages and experiences the opportunity to live out their faith by serving those with the greatest need.

"It has been an honor to see the growth of lay ministry through CVIF these nearly forty years", said Rev. Pat O'Neill, CVIF founder. "My heart sings with joy and gratitude for the hundreds of volunteers and thousands served, and for the new ministries seeded by the Holy Spirit".

For the past 10 years, CVIF has been a leader in the field of faith-based service, growing the organization's focus on equity and inclusion, and ensuring that volunteers, staff, site partners, and Board members reflect the rich diversity of our communities.

"We are grateful for the incredible spiritual community that has been built by CVIF", said Liz Buckley, current Executive Director. "We trust that the good work will continue in new and different ways, guided by the Holy Spirit". Liz Buckley and Valarie Amica will continue to provide spiritual support to alumni and others through a new nonprofit entity called Sisters in Solidarity. More details coming soon!

CVIF has impacted the lives of over 400 volunteers and served more than 10,000 Floridians in economically poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities throughout the state. We are grateful for partners including the seven Dioceses in Florida, the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, Catholic Charities, L'Arche Jacksonville, Bishop Grady Villas now Magnify of Central Florida, St. Joseph Hospital, St. James Catholic School, St. Andrew Catholic Church, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Florida Rural Legal Services, Enterprising Latinas, Florida International University, Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Raskob Foundation, Volunteer Florida, and countless others who have made this work possible.

For more information regarding service-year volunteer opportunities in Florida, please check out our good friends at Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps (ndmva.org) and Catholic Volunteer Network (catholicvolunteernetwork.org). Thank you and blessings always!

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CVIF's last closing celebration in Miami in July 2022 with our amazing summer cohort.