



# MAGAZINE

WINTER 2012 • THE JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS MAGAZINE

*News for Former,*

*Current, and Future Jesuit*

*Volunteers and Supporters*

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The background of the cover is a photograph of a person with their back to the camera, wearing a bright yellow hoodie and dark pants. They are standing on a rocky ledge, looking out over a vast, layered landscape of eroded hills and valleys. The hills are composed of various shades of brown, tan, and red, creating a textured, stepped appearance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

## The Road to “Ruined”

*A Journey Across  
America Teaches Two  
JVs About Life in JVC*

# President's Letter



**T**his month's feature story takes place against the backdrop of a road trip, but to call it a travelogue is selling it short. As I read it for the first time, I found myself comparing my own metaphorical journey with JVC to the actual journey of the author, Caitlin O'Donnell, a Jesuit Volunteer in Tanzania.

Mine began as a JV and continues to this day. As a volunteer in Houston, the people I worked with were my neighbors and friends and I began to understand how structures and systems affected their lives. As the executive director of JVC South, I had a broader view of JVC's work and the value that JVs provide to placement sites and the people they serve. I was privileged to help the next generation share their own gifts with those on the margins of society.

Today, my job as president gives me a global perspective. I meet hundreds of Former Jesuit Volunteers who have served in different locales, during different decades, and worked in a variety of settings. Though there are differences in local cultures and needs, JVs share a common experience of cultural immersion, relationship building, and providing direct assistance. This is what impacts them throughout their lives. This is what we mean by being "ruined for life."

At the time of their trip, Caitlin and her traveling companion, Beth Killian, had not yet started their work as Jesuit Volunteers in Tanzania, but it became clear that this trip was great preparation for their time in Africa. They experienced hospitality in an unfamiliar culture on the Great Plains, they saw the consequences of drug violence on the U.S. Mexican border, and they visited neighborhoods and heard about the needs of people in urban America. The difference is they will be encountering these things in East Africa instead.

Just as importantly, they saw all of this through the eyes of their fellow Jesuit Volunteers, who work daily in these places with and for those in need. Caitlin and Beth encountered a sampling of a larger community, consisting of Jesuit Volunteers around the U.S. and around the world.

On another note, there has been a change in leadership for JVC's board of directors. Lisa Grattan (*San Jose, '86*) ascended to the position of board chair in January. I look forward to working with Lisa as we move into the implementation period of our strategic plan.

We also say goodbye to Joe Walker, who served as the board chair for the past three years. His extensive business and organizational experience was invaluable as he shepherded the merger of the five previously separate Jesuit Volunteer organizations into the current JVC. I've often relied on his wisdom and advice when confronted by new challenges. His wife, Charlotte, served as secretary to the board and helped with the innumerable little details involved in planning and executing board meetings, conference calls, and other organizational needs. Their service to the board will be missed, but they will remain an important part of the larger JVC community.

Kevin O'Brien  
President

## JVC MISSION STATEMENT

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps offers women and men an opportunity to work for justice and peace. It sends Jesuit Volunteers for a year or more to live with and serve the poor and marginalized in the U.S. and developing countries. JVs live simply, in community, immersed in Ignatian spirituality. The experience opens the JVs to be conscious of the poor, attuned to the causes of social injustice, and dedicated to service informed by faith. JVC helps Former Jesuit Volunteers nurture this orientation throughout their lives.



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*Italicized names indicate Former Jesuit Volunteers.*

## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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# Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice

## Washington, D.C.

# From the Field

JUANY TORRES, WHITE HOUSE INTERN, IMMIGRATION POLICY OFFICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL



This year was my third time participating in the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice. Though I was there in an official capacity as a university minister for University of Detroit Mercy and coordinator of our group, it was the most heart-felt experience I have had at the teach-in.

I started planning this trip at the start of my second Jesuit Volunteer year. Besides organizing logistics, I scheduled meetings for advocacy day, which gave people the opportunity to meet and discuss two crucial social justice issues with representatives on Capitol Hill: the closing of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly known as the School of the Americas) and the DREAM Act.

We had a unique opportunity on November 14, 2011, to meet directly with two White House officials: Alexia Kelley, deputy director and senior policy advisor for the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Felicia Escobar, senior advisor for immigration policy at the Domestic Policy Council.

We were well prepared, thanks to the Ignatian Solidarity Network, which provided us with information and talking points, and the breakout sessions and speakers who shared their stories. Still, I found myself thinking, "Is this really happening?"

I've had some experience working with immigrant populations during my time as a JV. During my first JV year, I worked at the 30th Street Senior Center in San Francisco. Most of my conversations with clients took place in Spanish. Now at a university, I see immigration through the lens of students and the DREAM Act. Nothing we said was as powerful as hearing from someone who is directly affected by current legislation.

Maria, a UDM student who spoke at the IFTJ about being a "DREAMer," came with us to Capitol Hill. She opened the discussion with questions and concerns regarding both the successes and failures of the Obama administration with regard to immigration reform and the DREAM Act. She was a face, a name, a testimony, a hope.

Felicia had been working with immigration for about 15 years and is still working toward a more just system because

*Kelly Miguens* (San Francisco '10, Detroit '11) works as a campus minister at the University of Detroit Mercy. She recently accompanied students from UDM and the



University of Michigan to the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice in Washington, D.C., and had an opportunity to talk with two White House officials.

she believes things can, and will, improve. She encouraged us to continue our efforts advocating for these issues because that is how you create change.

Her words continue to reverberate in me. We're not just energized students and dedicated Jesuit Volunteers. We're advocates fighting for Maria and students like her who long for an opportunity to change the world. It was an amazing opportunity to discuss this with two advisors to the president.

We left that office with encouragement and hope that our actions make a difference. Our voices, our presences, and our faith will give us the courage and strength to keep fighting for justice. 🇺🇸 🇩🇪 🇲🇪



Some of the current and Former Jesuit Volunteers gathered in Washington, D.C., in November 2011 for the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice.

# From the Field

## Giving Thanks For Enough

### *A Life Lesson Learned in Belize*

*Christin Tomy (Belize '10) is working with Hand in Hand Ministries on its Building for Change program which builds homes for low-income people in Belize City, Belize.*



*Christin with a Belizean woman who was a house recipient in 2011.*

**TRUE THANKFULNESS  
GOES BEYOND SPOKEN  
WORDS TO AN ATTITUDE  
THAT IS REFLECTED  
IN THE WAY I CHOOSE TO  
LIVE MY LIFE.**

**W**e recently visited an applicant to determine whether we could build a house for her. Years ago, she left an abusive marriage and raised seven children on her own, putting them all through school by cleaning streets by day and houses at night. Now with her children grown and her youngest about to graduate from junior college, she hoped they could finally begin to help her. Yet after her many years of sacrifice, she feels abandoned. She's living alone in a cramped, rotting, often-flooded little room below her brother's house. None of her children make an effort to support her. It will be several weeks before she knows the status of her application and even longer before a house is built. She's been beaten down again and again, but somehow she rises each day. As she put it: "*Ah work haad fi grow all a dehn pickney and dehn gaan lef me... bot ah noh mi Gad no lef me.*" (I worked hard to raise all of my children and now they've left me... but I know my God hasn't left me.)

This woman's words demonstrate a clarity of thought not clouded by material excess. Her story demonstrates a truth that I witness every day: far more challenging and far more damaging than material poverty are the social ills of an unhealthy urban ecology. It happens in Belize and in cities all around the world. Pervasive violence, disempowerment, and lack of conflict resolution strategies contribute to a broken social fabric. People are marginalized based on sex, gender, race, or creed, giving evidence that "old" prejudices and hatreds are alive and well. These things are deeply and subtly entrenched in society, which makes them hard to recognize and even harder to root out. Yet we focus on material poverty because it's easier to name and easier to "solve." Build someone a house and we've changed a life; donate clothes to Goodwill and we feel better about our own material privilege.


The immersion-project volunteers who come to Belize to help build houses often tell me that because of their experience

here they'll return home "more thankful for what they have." I have felt and said the same thing, but what does that mean? If thankfulness remains just a word, and "what I have" is defined only in material terms, then I'm rejecting the idea that people living in material poverty may have a thing or two to teach me.

True thankfulness goes beyond spoken words to an attitude that is reflected in the way I choose to live my life, and "what I have" is everything but material excess. It is material "enoughness," family stability and the knowledge that I am loved and supported. It is having a voice that is valued and the self-confidence and empowerment to make it heard. It is a childhood untainted by violence, drugs, and gang warfare. It is access to quality education. It is community and support systems, the luxury of being able to choose relationships over working to survive, and above all, it is the knowledge of God's presence in and all around me, the divine energy that nourishes and sustains us.

We are all interconnected, we belong to one another, and we're all part of the harmonious song of creation. When we recognize that, we learn that we must give thanks for all good things, not just our good things. We learn that the pain of those across the world is as much our pain as it is theirs. We realize that destruction and violation of any form of life is also self-destruction, and we realize that, as Martin Luther King Jr. says, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And so I know that we are called to work for the kind of world that honors both our uniqueness of being and our belongingness to one another.

Yes, there is beauty in this broken world, and that beauty is Godspirit present with and in all things. So today, I am thankful. I still have much to learn about what that means.

The person to teach me is a woman who, though everyone else in her life has left her, knows that her God never will. 

# The Road to “Ruined”

Two Jesuit Volunteers took a cross-country journey together and found kinship with each other and other JVs they met along the way.

By Caitlin O'Donnell  
*Tanzania '11*





*Presidential candidates say it changes their perspectives.  
 Simon and Garfunkel once put their own experience into song.  
 Now it was our turn to look for America...*

**WITHIN ONE MONTH,  
 OUR JOURNEY WOULD  
 WIND THROUGH  
 MORE THAN 20 STATES  
 WITH STOPS IN MORE  
 THAN 25 CITIES,  
 ROUNDING OUT AT MORE  
 THAN 7,000 MILES.**

I met Beth Killian a few months prior, during orientation for international Jesuit Volunteers. The two of us were placed together in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to serve as English teachers for the next two years. Even though orientation took place in July, our December departure gave us some extra time at home.

It was at orientation that we decided to go on an adventure together. A road trip would give us the opportunity to see America before we left, and would allow us to visit friends, relatives, and other JVs scattered across the country.

We left New Jersey in early September armed with an industrial-sized box of granola bars for sustenance, Harry Potter books on tape for entertainment, and a Cracker Barrel map of the United States for guidance. Within one month, our journey would wind through more than 20 states with stops in more than 25 cities, rounding out at more than 7,000 miles.

No matter what we packed, nothing could have fully prepared Beth and me for the unexpected adventures ahead, nor the love and support of the JVC community that we met along the way. In a month of

wonderful memories, the greatest experiences were those shared with other JVs.

## Day 8: South Dakota

*Mile 1,802*

After traveling for a week through Washington, D.C., Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis, we arrived in the Mount Rushmore State, driving through the barren hills of South Dakota. For the first time we found ourselves traveling to a corner of America where we knew no one.

Up to that point, we slept on couches of our friends and family as we traveled. As we planned our trip further west, we reached out to the JVs in St. Francis, South Dakota. Before we arrived, we were strangers to each other, but you'd think we were long-lost friends. Davanne Piccini, Colin Laffey, Katie Mathews, and Mike O'Sullivan welcomed us with open arms, despite the fact that the only thing they knew about us was that we were JVs too.

We asked each other questions about the domestic and international programs, comparing everything from the application processes to orientation. They told us about their jobs and their way of life on the Lakota Rosebud reservation. They described some of the challenges plaguing the local community which made their service so important. Alcohol and drug abuse are rampant and more than half of St. Francis's population lives below the poverty line.

They all work at the St. Francis Mission, but are doing very different jobs. The mission supports parishes, schools, addiction recovery programs, a museum, and a Christian radio station. Davanne works in pastoral ministry, Colin is a tutor, Katie helps with community organizing, and Mike is a DJ and online guru.

Being located many hours away from the next closest JV community, and 45 minutes from the closest grocery store in Nebraska, theirs is a unique experience in the domestic side of JVC. It helps strengthen them as a community.

I began to realize that the domestic and international programs aren't all that different. Just as I expect to experience in

## LIVING ON A RESERVATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA SEEMED LIKE IT COULD BE JUST AS UNFAMILIAR AS TANZANIA.

Tanzania, they were undergoing a process of cultural acclimation and were adjusting to an entirely new way of life, and doing it together. Living on a reservation in South Dakota seemed like it could be just as unfamiliar as Tanzania.

I soaked up their stories and stored them away for my own future experiences in Africa. Their courage and enthusiasm for their community and service was truly inspiring and memorable.

## Day 13: San Francisco

*Mile 3,829*

Before the week's end, Beth and I arrived in California. As we looked out at the Pacific Ocean for the first time in our lives, it was hard to believe that there could be anything more satisfying.

We were in San Francisco to see two other JVs who would be with us in Tanzania, Hannah Brosnan, who was heading to Moshi, and Cristina Sciuto, who was heading to Dodoma. The four of us had met at orientation and formed a beautiful quartet of support and excitement about our coming service in East Africa.

At dinner, we mulled over the experiences that awaited us in Tanzania and sifted through our feelings about leaving home for two years. It was a relief to hear that I wasn't alone. Like me, they had questions and

fears about starting our service; they worried about how their relationships would change after being away from home for two years. But they were also excited and eager; they were hopeful about the new relationships that awaited them in Tanzania.

I imagine these thoughts echoed through the minds of JVs everywhere, and have done so for decades. Sitting with Hannah, Cristina, and Beth reminded me that I have great company to share in my apprehension and my anticipation. Thousands of JVs have walked this road before me, and happily these new friends of mine will be with me the whole time.

## Day 18: El Paso

*Mile 4,959*

Along the way home, we made a few more stops. In Los Angeles, we visited Carlos Rodriguez, who was destined for Chile. In Dallas, we saw Jana Carson, who was heading to Nicaragua.

We spent the night with the JVs in El Paso, Texas, Nicole Grzesiuk, Megan McCormick, and Casey Leigh. They took us to a hill where we could see into Juarez, Mexico. It's a violent city, recently dubbed the murder capital of the world because of the drug war that's raging. From where we stood, high above the fray, we could only see God's creation.



*Looking toward Juarez from the Franklin Mountains in El Paso. The lighted line is the international border.*

PHOTO BY BILL MORROW

Caitlin O'Donnell and Beth Killian with El Paso JVs Nicole Grzesiuk, Megan McCormick, and Casey Leigh.



But on the ground, where the JVs work, the human toll is all too clear. Because of the influx of refugees fleeing the violence in Mexico, they are close to many immigration-related issues. Nicole works in children's services with the YWCA, Megan works in migrant and refugee services for the diocese, and Casey is at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish at the Ysleta Mission.

Not surprisingly, the Hispanic culture is pervasive in El Paso. It's an aspect of the city that makes this a unique and rich experience for all of the JVs who serve there.

## Day 23: Nashville

Mile 6,358

Nashville was one of the final stops on the trip, but also one of the most joyful and

exciting ones. Sarah Finney, Beth Grace, Gretchen DeMong, Andrew Childers, Willa Voss, Brian Doyle, and Bobby Fredrickson treated us like members of their house.

Within hours of our arrival, Beth and I joined them at an outdoor concert for their weekly community night, my first as a JV. It was an honor to be invited to take part in such an important aspect of JV life.

The following day, they hosted a potluck for friends, neighbors, placement-site coordinators, and Former Jesuit Volunteers in the Nashville area. More than 50 people came to their cozy home. The dining room table was brimming with plates of food and the walls reverberated with the sounds of good conversation.

I marveled at how well these JVs were

able to bring so many people together. I hope that before I finish my two years in Tanzania, I will be able to do the same.


Unlike our stops in South Dakota and El Paso, we knew two of the JVs before we arrived, but it had little to do with why we were warmly welcomed. Hospitality isn't specifically defined in JVC's four core values, but it's a natural result of community, which is one. We were accepted and appreciated every time we met people with ties to JVC. We were never alone.

## Seeking Magis

At the start of this journey, I didn't know what to expect. I started out wanting to see the country and intending to say goodbye to my loved ones along the way. I definitely didn't anticipate the depth of new friendships that would form, especially with my partner-in-crime, Beth.

Meeting so many people in the JVC family showed me the unity and the continuity that exists between the thousands of current and Former Jesuit Volunteers who find kinship through their shared experiences.

I gained insight into what it means to live JVC's four values. Simple living is a challenge that requires a conscious choice every day, and it's not always easy for JVs and FJVs alike. The impact of everyday decisions is often at the center of meaningful conversations about our role in promoting justice in the world. Community is a centerpiece of the JV's personal experience no matter how big or small that community is, and it is always strengthened by a shared spirituality.

Most of all, I learned about the kind of JV that I want to be in Tanzania: courageous, engaged, open, and welcoming. These traits fit with JVC's tenets of spirituality, simple living, community, and social justice. I can't wait to be "ruined". 



BACK TO FRONT: Bobby Fredrickson, Andrew Childers, Beth Grace, and Brian Doyle, Beth Killian, Sarah Finney, Willa Voss, and Gretchen DeMong in Nashville.

Caitlin O'Donnell began her two-year commitment as an international JV in December 2011. She is teaching at Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

# JVC Welcomes Lisa Grattan

## *New Chair of the Board of Directors*

# DEVELOPMENT Notes



*In January 2012, JVC welcomes the new chair of the board of directors. Lisa Grattan (San Jose '86) follows in the footsteps of Joe Walker and is JVC's second chair since the 2009 merger. Lisa is an attorney with Bourne, Noll & Kenyon in Summit, New Jersey, where she also lives with her husband, Bob Moriarty (Syracuse '83), and their four children. We're delighted to have her leadership for the coming three years.*

### **What first drew you to join JVC as a Jesuit Volunteer?**

I was first attracted to JVC by the desire to do something meaningful and off the

beaten track. During my senior year in college, I sought the advice of the late Kim McElaney, who was the Holy Cross College chaplain. Kim told me about JVC and I knew right away it was a perfect fit. The service as well as the opportunity to have a job with significant responsibilities at a young age appealed to me.

### **What inspired you to become active on JVC's board of directors?**

A few years back, Kate Haser (Baltimore '80, '81, staff '82-current), who was executive director of JVC East, and John Mullman, who was on the board, reached out to Bob. As a result, both of us became re-engaged with JVC, mostly in connection with the New York fundraising event.

During the period of the merger, I was completing a term as president of the board of a not-for-profit childcare center that had just merged with another not-for-profit. John and others knew of my experience and asked me to join. I was honored to be asked; board service is very gratifying.

### **What's your vision for JVC's future? What do we need to get there?**

JVC pre-dates the Peace Corps and has a long and distinguished record as a first-rate service organization. Today, there is robust competition in the service space

and my vision is to ensure that JVC is the premiere, faith-based, international service organization in the world.

To do this, JVC must (1) be very attractive to college graduates interested in service, (2) recruit and retain exceptional staff to ensure a high quality experience, including the life-long spiritual formation of the Jesuit Volunteers, and (3) provide and grow frontline, meaningful service to the people in greatest need in our world.

### **What role does philanthropy play for JVC?**

Philanthropy is critical for JVC. Financial resources are an indispensable part of JVC's provision of services to the poor, hungry, sick, vulnerable, and marginalized. JVC's current work, as well as its ability to grow, simply is not possible without the support of our generous donors.

### **How do you continue to live out the JVC values in your life?**

It is more aspiration than accomplishment, but I try and incorporate the concepts of community and spirituality in my life by being involved in service organizations in my town and by making time for spiritual reflection. The values and perspective of my JVC year and now my board service are enduring and impact my life both personally and professionally. 🌱🙏

## Thank You, Joe Walker

We also say goodbye to Joe Walker, departing chair of the board of directors. Joe started on the board of JVC Midwest in 2001 and became chair of JVC in 2008. His leadership was instrumental in guiding JVC through the merger.

We're indebted to Joe, and his wife, Charlotte, for their many contributions during the last decade. We're also grateful to his daughter, Mary Ann Roche (Houston '93), son-in-law, Paul Roche (Houston '93), and daughter-in-law, Sandy Pennell Walker (Los Angeles '92), for inspiring their involvement.



*Paul Roche, Mary Ann Roche, Charlotte and Joe Walker, and Sandy Pennell Walker.*

## Work & Life

**Jack Dennis, SJ** (Philadelphia '75), has been named president of Brebeuf Jesuit High School in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Christopher Derby, SJ** (Manhattan '86), pronounced final vows in the Society of Jesus on September 16, 2011, at the Mass of the Holy Spirit at Canisius High School in Buffalo where he teaches. Chris is the former board chair of JVC East.



**Jim Reidy** (Manhattan '84), **Kate Kostelc** (Brooklyn '06), **Kathleen Haser** (Baltimore '80, '81, staff '82-present), **Chris Derby, SJ**, **Sharon Ryan** (Bronx '86, Camden '87, staff '88-present), **Paula Fitzgerald** (San Francisco '88, Baltimore '89).

**Millie Duchow** (St. Louis '10) is a case manager at the Downtown Emergency Service Center in Seattle.

**Jeffrey Gagnon** (Belize '97) is completing a PhD at UCSD in cultural literary histories of the U.S. He attributes his interest in the subject to his JVC experience and hopes to eventually find a position at a Jesuit university.

**Kimberly (Payne) Jordan** (Worcester '95) recently joined Ohio State University as a professor in the Justice for Children Clinic. She previously served as a legal aid attorney, representing low-income adults and abused and neglected children for 10 years.

**Tony Mazza** (New Orleans '06) is studying medical physics at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

**Kim Miller** (Portland '09, Washington, D.C. '10) is the program director for the Ignatian Solidarity Network.

**Yvonne Prowse** (Sacramento '84; former executive director JVC SW) joined the spiritual direction team at Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, Ontario. She provides spiritual direction, directs various types of retreats, and helps integrate the center's ecological efforts into the Spiritual Exercises. Yvonne has a master's in spirituality and spiritual direction from Fordham University. Her thesis explored how the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius can help North Americans address the ecological crisis.

**Kristie Thomas** (Raleigh '00, Brooklyn '01) completed a PhD in social work at the University of Pennsylvania in 2011 and is an assistant professor at Simmons College School of Social Work in Boston.

**Liz (Bormann) Van Dyke** (Nashville '02) and her husband, **Mike Van Dyke** (New Orleans '02), live in Iowa City, Iowa, with their two sons, Jude and Kelly. Mike is a pediatric resident at University of Iowa and begins a pediatric intensive care fellowship this summer.

## Nuptials

**Brian Considine** (McAllen '00, JVCNW: Yakima '01) married Brittney Carter on July 16, 2011, at St. Patrick Parish in Tacoma, Washington. They met at Seattle University School of Law and now live in Tacoma.



*Brittney Carter, Brian Considine, and Fr. Seamus Laverty.*

**Jeremy Duclos** (Newark '98) married Elizabeth Frangione in Meredith, New Hampshire, on July 9, 2011. Joining them for their special day were Jeremy's sisters, who are also Former Jesuit Volunteers, **Rebecca (Duclos) McHugh** (Philadelphia '94) and **Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello** (Kansas City '95).



**Alex Gray** (Sacramento '06) and **Lauren Pandolfe** (Sacramento '05) were married in Boston in August 2011. They met while working at Loaves and Fishes Friendship Park in Sacramento, California.



*BACK ROW: Jesse Auth (Dallas '96), Liz (O'Hare) Auth (Raleigh '05), Liz Silva (Sacramento '05), Meghan (Morse) Muller (Sacramento '05), Ben Garrity (Sacramento '06), Jess Woodward (JVCNW: Portland, '06), Betsy Davis (Sacramento '06). FRONT ROW: Heather West (Sacramento '06), Sarah McGee (Sacramento '06), Alex Gray, Lauren (Pandolfe) Gray, Tom Byrne (Houston '06), Paul Nicholas (Oakland '06).*

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**Suzanne Geaney** (Philadelphia '76, Baltimore '77) was married on July 17, 2010, to John Nickey. They reside in Hanover, Pennsylvania.



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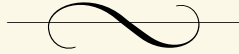
**Mary Verso** (St. Louis '07) married Sam Smalidge on October 8, 2011. They were joined by fellow FJVs from Mary's 2007 St. Louis community.



Joseph McCormack; James Sand, nSJ; Mary (Verso) Smalidge, and Erica Jones.

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On May 28, 2011, **Sydney Wilbur** (Hartford '05) married **Christopher Fernandez** (Boston '07, Brooklyn '08) in Irvine, California. Joining them were many former FJVs: **Jack Waldron** (Brooklyn '08), **Sarah Arnini** (Boston '07), **Mary Pimmel** (Syracuse '07), **Katie Sullivan** (Hartford '05), **Jeanne Powers** (Hartford '05), **Paul Freeman** (Hartford '07), **Joan Gallagher** (New Orleans '90), **Samira Abu-Ghazale** (Hartford '05), **Drew Russo** (Detroit '03), **Sabrina Miranda** (Hartford '08, Los Angeles '09), and **David McKinley** (Newark '78).



## Family

To **Cynthia** (Boston '90, Brooklyn '91) and Michael Chovan-Dalton, and big brother Matteo, Veronica Claire on August 28, 2011.



•••

To **Marianne Reat** (Philadelphia '80, '81) and her husband, Mark Estes, Claire Wangmin, who comes from China. Claire is two years old and adapting well.

•••

To **John Stevens** (Los Angeles '05, Sacramento '06, staff '08-'11) and his wife, Becky, Mae Annmarie on June 4, 2011.



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## FJVs Organize Creative Events to Stay Connected

In Chicago, Former Jesuit Volunteers started with a potluck. In San Francisco, they organized a Mass and brunch. In Kansas City, they helped ready the new house for the Jesuit Volunteer community. In New York, they sponsored an evening with author Fr. James Martin, SJ. New Orleans FJVs held a Lenten day of reflection and Boston FJVs coordinated a retreat. South Bay FJVs hosted brunch and collected toys for a JVC placement site. These are just a few of the events the FJV chapters have organized over the past year to bring FJVs from the community together.

Animating FJV chapters is one of the ways JVC hopes to engage Former Jesuit Volunteers in a life-long relationship with JVC, its mission, and values.

By inviting FJVs to establish FJV chapters, JVC hopes to lend structure and support to existing FJV activities and to help FJVs plan spiritual, social, and service-related activities. Chapter members make use of Facebook and Google groups to post notices of activities, photos, local needs, etc. JVC will also network chapters to share best practices.

Over time, JVC aims to be able to direct JVs finishing their years and FJVs moving to new cities to an established group in which they can be involved. The goal is to have active FJV chapters in U.S. cities where there are a significant number of FJVs, particularly those with JV communities.

For more information on FJV chapters and other ways to get involved, visit [www.jesuitvolunteers.org/stayconnected](http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org/stayconnected).

If you and other FJVs would like help to start an FJV chapter in your city, contact Kathleen Haser, director of FJV relations, at [khaser@jesuitvolunteers.org](mailto:khaser@jesuitvolunteers.org).



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## JVC Receives Centennial Medal From Catholic Charities USA

In September, JVC received a Centennial Medal from Catholic Charities USA. CCUSA presented 100 individuals or organizations with medals to recognize their contributions to the reduction of poverty in the United States and their commitment to the principles by which Catholic Charities USA conducts its work.

"Through your ministry throughout the world, those who need loving, compassionate care are embraced every day by your dedicated and competent volunteers," said Fr. Larry Snyder, president of CCUSA. "Your pillars of spirituality, community, simple living, and a commitment to social justice guide Jesuit Volunteers as 21st-century witnesses to the Gospel mandate of charity and service. Our hope is that the Centennial Medal will be a tribute of our regard for who you are as a ministry of our faith and a sign of the hope you bring to so many who seek a kind word or a helping hand."

Kevin O'Brien, president of JVC, and Joe Walker, board chair, accepted the award on behalf of JVC at the Chapel of Grace at St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore.



*Fr. Larry Snyder, president of CCUSA; Kevin O'Brien, president of JVC; Joseph Walker, chair of JVC's board of directors.*

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