

The Covenant of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps

“The volunteers live simply, in community, immersed in Ignatian Spirituality. The experience opens the volunteer to be conscious of the poor, attuned to the causes of social injustice, and dedicated to service informed by faith.”

-Jesuit Volunteer Corps Mission Statement

As a Jesuit Volunteer, I agree to uphold the following, to the best of my ability:

Social Justice: *In order to work for justice we must become aware of our role in society. We are called to change the attitudes and structures, both personal and societal, which create poverty, oppression, and waste the Earth.*

- *I will labor in a spirit of solidarity with the poor and marginalized toward the goal of structural change in attitudes, practices, and institutions of our society.*
- *I will strive to be just in my thoughts, language and actions so that my work for justice will have credibility.*
- *I will seek to know the truth of situations, rather than relying on prejudices, assumptions, rumor, and incomplete information.*
- *I will make a good faith commitment to work at my agency for a full year.*
- *I will participate in community nights with my community members in order to integrate social justice throughout our lives.*

Simplicity of Lifestyle: *Honoring simplicity allows us to value relationships over objects and to avoid the distraction of excess activity. Living simply brings us closer to awareness of God and Creation, our humanity and the effect that our lifestyle has on others.*

- *I will live on the JVC stipend of room and board, in addition to my personal monthly stipend, in solidarity with my community. I will not accept funds from family and friends, work second jobs or seek other sources to supplement this amount.*
- *I will seek to live life focused on people and relationships rather than objects and acquisitions.*
- *I will seek simplicity in my use of time, energy and resources, and thereby avoid distraction, busyness, materialism, and consumption.*
- *I will socialize and recreate in ways that enhance my relationships with other persons and the natural world, and agree to limit my use of objects and technology, such as cars, TVs, iPods, Facebook, cell phones, computers, and other products of U.S. popular culture.*
- *I will consider the toll alcohol takes on the people I serve when making decisions about alcohol. Aware of the personal, social, and economic costs of illegal drug use in poor neighborhoods, I will not use illegal substances during my JVC year.*
- *I will reflect on privilege and the power it affords individuals in an effort to understand the impact of my actions in this world and in an attempt to lead a simpler life.*

Community: *Communal life allows for mutual support and encouragement in the difficult work we choose to do as volunteers. It challenges us to be open, compassionate, and willing to grow. We learn that our lives are interconnected and we have responsibility toward all members as they do to us.*

- *I will be open and honest with my community members, willing share my joys and struggles, and listen with care to the experiences they share.*
- *I will participate fully in community activities, including but not limited to community nights, meetings, shared meals and reflection.*
- *I will evaluate my behavior and decisions in light of their effects on my community, the agency and locale where I serve, and the JVC program. I will not make decisions affecting my community, the agency where I serve or JVC without consulting them.*
- *I will commit to the numerous communities I am part of – households, neighborhood, state, nation, world. I will work to gain a greater understanding of these communities throughout the year.*

Spirituality: *Spirituality is both the awareness of and our response to God's presence in the world. Each of us has a personal spirituality, our way of responding to other persons, to the way we live, to our experience, and to the universe. As Christians, we recognize the responsibility we have to each other and, as Jesuit Volunteers, we follow the Ignatian tradition of reflection and action.*

- *I will spend time each day in personal reflection or prayer in order to grow in my relationships with God and others.*
- *I will attend all community times of prayer or reflection, bringing my own gifts and cherishing the gifts of others.*
- *I will participate fully in JVC retreats and workshops by being on time and wholly present to the larger JVC community of volunteers.*

In addition, as a member of JVC:

- *I will arrive at Orientation at the designated time and place.*
- *I will participate in Local Orientation and work with the support team throughout the year.*
- *I will participate fully in the Fall and Spring Area visits.*

I have carefully read the above covenant and, in a spirit of solidarity with other volunteers, I enter into this year-long commitment.