

FALL 2021

# JVC Magazine

News for Former, Current, and Future Jesuit Volunteers and Supporters

## SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Developing a sustainable  
organizational plan and furthering  
our JEDI work



JVC BIDS FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBERS CYCLING OFF,  
AND WELCOMES THOSE NEWLY ELECTED //

JVC GOES VIRTUAL //

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS //

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### Cover Image

Emma Green (Syracuse 2020-21) and William Nelson (Syracuse 2020-21) braid flowers at the 2021 Silent Retreat at Christ The King Retreat house in Syracuse, New York. Photograph by Nicole Antonacci (San Diego 2019-20).

### Contributors

Karen Griffin, Director of Development  
Dominique Troy, Manager of Strategic Communications

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JESUITVOLUNTEERS.ORG

Aspiring to create **a more just and hopeful world**, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps engages passionate young people in **vital service** within poor communities, fostering the growth of leaders committed to **FAITH IN ACTION**.



## Dear JVC Community,

***IN THE MIDRASH, AN ANCIENT COMMENTARY ON HEBREW SCRIPTURE, THERE IS THE STORY OF NASCHON, A YOUNG MAN ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD.*** According to the midrash, when the Israelites reached the Red Sea, they found themselves surrounded by the Egyptian armies. Seeing the armies, hearing the fear and desperation of the Israelites and with their leader, Moses, nowhere in sight, Naschon decided to act.

The commentary says that Naschon waded into the sea and when the waters reached his shoulders, the sea parted. The Israelites were able to pass through while their aggressors were lost in the waves that filled in behind the Israelites. Naschon, a young man, saw a crisis and decided to take action.

Each year, young adults from around the country join JVC. Like Naschon, JVs are responding to a call that comes from within them to act. They courageously agree to live in community, deepening their understanding of the systems of racism and social injustice while living simply on a modest stipend. All this takes place as they learn and use the tools of discernment that are core to Ignatian Spirituality. Our volunteers take action through the work they do every day where they analyze the structures and systems that promote poverty, inequities, and racism and unpack the various privileges they bring to this experience.

This is the core work of JVC — creating a healthy and supportive place where JVs can challenge themselves and each other as they enter into community and accompaniment during their JV experience. And it is the work that we intend on continuing to do. But this understanding of our core work is not grounds for being content with the status quo.

That is why we are engaging in a yearlong strategic planning process to help guide our path forward for the next five years. And why we are asking you to be an essential part of the learning.

Next week, we will be arranging focus groups and sending a survey out to everyone within the JVC family, including current JVs, former JVs, donors and many more. This survey, along with information that we've already collected from our board and staff, will help us evaluate what we are doing well, and how we can better serve all communities. Hearing from you, our JVC family, is one of the most important steps in the strategic planning process and I want to thank you in advance for being part of this journey with us.

While we are in the early stages, I am energized by this strategic plan because we are intentionally centering the JVC community and prioritizing an inclusive process at every stage. In addition, because it will be developed in partnership with our staff, Board, and JVC community, this strategic plan will allow us to think creatively and collectively about our future. Instead of gathering dust on a shelf, this strategic plan will sit at the forefront of all that we do for the next five years.

The last three years have provided us the opportunity to rebuild and stabilize the organization. I am grateful to our board, staff and our many supporters who have brought us to this place of opportunity. Now, we want to look forward and grow, with you.

It energizes me to think about strengthening an organizational infrastructure that has staying power for years to come. It challenges me to ensure that our anti-racism work is integrated into every aspect of the organization, along with a commitment to take on this hard work with dedicated funds to sustain and advance Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI). The JEDI and strategic planning work focus me on creating a strong JVC culture that welcomes and supports staff and JVs — particularly members of the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community — and creates an environment where people can bring their best selves. And part of that culture is ensuring that we continue to recruit, retain and develop staff who, along with others, uphold our mission and values and move this organization forward.

Naschon was an ordinary person who was brave enough to do extraordinary things in service of others. And while it is unlikely that JVs will be faced with the choice of parting a sea or ocean, they will be challenged to enter a turbulent world to make change for the good. These transformational experiences are what JVC is all about and why this strategic plan is an important part of how we as an organization help them achieve their lifelong goals.

Thank you for being part of our family and thank you for helping shape the next five years of JVC.



TOM CHABOLLA,  
JVC PRESIDENT

#daretochange

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

## PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLAN + JEDI

**The RACIAL JUSTICE CONVENING,** which was re-established as the Racial Justice Task Force in July of 2020, was charged with coordinating the organization's efforts to create departmental goals focused on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) work. It was also responsible for managing JVC's outreach to and request for proposals from consultants to orchestrate focus groups, review policies and procedures, and administer the intercultural development inventory for JVC staff.

When our new JEDI Director, Dr. Shana Jones, first met with the group this summer, she noted that they were "overwhelmed and needed definition [...] that Whiteness needed to be decentered and the investment from all staff was pivotal." They voiced that this work cannot just be developed and brought to fruition by BIPOC staff, but that it must begin with everyone intrapersonally to support our readiness in developing and implementing an anti-racist framework.

Upon many discussions, they supported a name change to Racial Justice Convening, reimagined as a voluntary staff group serving as ambassadors for change. With this restructure, RJC will be a sounding board for JEDI change efforts, defining priorities, timelines and changing needs.



*"Having the space to discuss DEI work at JVC with the task force, my department, and with the staff-at-large has shaped my first year here. As an FJV, it fills me with hope to see the changes the organization is making. I think it will create a formation program that recognizes where today's volunteers are at on their anti-racism journeys, and that is something I care deeply about as a member of program staff."*

**ALEC HARTMAN** (NASHVILLE 2016-17) / JVC AREA MANAGER

Our values remain the driving force behind this work, and to help us on our journey, JVC engaged Idaltu Counseling and Consulting. The research and information that Idaltu gathered throughout their

process is a building block that we hope will shape our approach to future planning, pinpoint our 2021-22 training needs, and identify the continued areas of improvement we can make across the organization.



*"As the Human Resources Manager at JVC, I am excited about the effort and focus JVC is putting into equity, diversity, and inclusion. Having the assistance of Idaltu and a full-time Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will help JVC improve our policies and practices — creating a more equitable and welcoming environment for staff and volunteers."*

**ANISSA ROSE** / HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

We simultaneously launched a strategic planning process to ensure that Idaltu's findings are addressed in our new framework. Together, these processes will help us develop a sustainable organizational plan that is informed by our commitment to racial equity. To spearhead our strategic planning efforts, we partnered with the consulting firm Fiovaranti Secoya Maith.

Our consultants bring years of experience in racial equity work, coaching, strategic planning, and assessment.

To maximize the various workstreams and to provide regular cross-collaboration and communication, JVC first formed a Core Team comprised of JVC staff and representatives from our consulting firms. In July, JVC then established a Strategic Planning Committee to provide feedback and track progress. This group is comprised of JVC employees, Board members, FJV representatives, and an agency partner, to provide feedback and track progress.

JVC President Tom Chabolla shared, "Including the experiences and perspectives of staff helps JVC to make more-informed decisions, and creates a space for nondominant voices to be heard. Thanks to the work already being done by our staff-led committees and teams, I'm hopeful about the goals and objectives on the horizon."



## Over recent months, we have focused on and completed some of our DEI goals:

- Create and roll out the racial justice curriculum for the Jesuit Volunteer cohort
- JVC has launched new former JV chapters for BIPOC FJVs, LGBTQIA FJVs, and parent/family FJVs who wish to incorporate the values in how they raise children
- JVC has completed its search and hired **DR. SHANA JONES** as our full-time Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Staff has read and had monthly discussions about the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad to assist with crafting personal and professional equity commitments
- Dr. Jones will conduct focus groups with our volunteers, staff, and alumni, complete an organizational assessment, review of policies and procedures, provide staff training, and facilitate ongoing collaboration with our strategic planning partners
- JVC has hired a DEI consultant for board training and facilitation
- Launched a strategic planning process where staff interviewed consultants and obtained their services to build a sustainable plan for JVC moving forward



**DR. SHANA JONES** has over 10 years of experience in equity work across non-profit, corporate, and higher education institutions. She studied Organizational and Multicultural Communication and earned her Doctor of Education in Higher Education and Organizational Change. She is stepping in during a critical planning and visioning time within the organization and will be integral to JVC's strategic planning process.

Dr. Jones says, "My passion for DEI stems from my own experiences, which helped shape my understanding of the world, but better shape my understanding of a world that I wish to thrive in."

Dr. Jones' professional focus has been on creating opportunities for those who would not otherwise have them. Her accomplishments range from developing programming, mentoring underrepresented populations, and facilitating DEI conversations and workshops.

### FALL 2018 – SPRING 2019

JVC's President embarked on a listening tour to hear directly from volunteers and local constituents about their experiences.

### WINTER – SPRING 2020

JVC's President convened three community leaders as consultants to build out the organization's Formation Program curriculum that embeds racial justice throughout JV faith formation, retreats, and life in their cities of service. Together, JVC's President and Director of Programs met with North Central Jesuit Volunteers to discuss the proposed formation changes regarding anti-racism and racial justice work.

### SUMMER 2020

JVC re-established its Racial Justice Task Force to identify short and long term ways to lay out a measurable plan of action for the fiscal year. Meanwhile, JVC staff members began monthly meetings to discuss privilege, identity, culture, and equity.

### FALL 2020

Maryknoll Lay Missioners was secured as the sponsor of JVC Community Conversations, which are workshops or discussions that center BIPOC voices as key presenters, and focus on topics that invite attendees to directly address anti-Blackness, bias, and ongoing personal and communal accountability and discernment.

### EARLY SUMMER 2021

JVC's Board of Directors engaged in intentional conversations on race and identity at the March 2021 board meeting, had a follow-up session in June 2021, and will do so in subsequent meetings as well. Sybol Anderson, Executive Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusive Diversity at the College of Southern Maryland, is consulting with the group.

### WINTER 2021 – PRESENT DAY

As part of JVC's commitment to becoming an anti-racist entity, consultants have been hired to help renew its culture and construct the framework for DEI to further guide the organization as it engages in this work.

Participate in JVC's match campaign by making a donation to support our ongoing efforts:

**[BIT.LY/READYFORRENEWAL](https://bit.ly/readyforrenewal)**





# SUPPORTIVE LEADERSHIP IN A STRONG, PASSIONATE BOARD

**AMID** *THE PANDEMIC, SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND SHIFTS IN PHILANTHROPIC CAPACITY, JVC HAS RELIED ON SOUND LEADERSHIP* — people who are not only passionate about our organizational purpose, the service that volunteers commit to, and our four core values, but people invested in the experience of those volunteers and of our former JVs and friends of JVC.

We are lucky to have supportive leadership among our Board of Directors who continue to offer sound advice and guidance to our management team. Together they were often making some tough calls while at the same time having the opportunity to launch new programs and initiatives in the online space we occupied throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The combination of former program directors, parents of JVs, Jesuits, former JVs, and those with extended connections but intimate relationship with the four values, has made for a stronger Board.

## BOARD MEMBERS CYCLING OFF

### MARCOS GONZALEZ

Former Jesuit Volunteer Marcos Gonzalez has always been pivotal in the push toward JVC remaining mission centric, and has assisted with programmatic development and curriculum design over the past several years, including refining our important work around racial justice retreat programming and support in the creation of affinity groups.

### MARY BERNER

Marketing and media executive Mary Berner brought her passion and expertise to the Board while also having a personal connection to JVC: her daughter Molly was a JV in Sacramento in 2014-15. It is that combination that led Mary to contribute with fire and intellect in leadership roles, and as a member.

### FR. FRED KAMMER, SJ, JD

Priest, attorney, and member of the Central and Southern Province of the Jesuits, Fr. Fred served as Director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola New Orleans from 2009 until his recent retirement in 2021. He brought vast experience and institutional knowledge to the JVC Board of Directors and helped reshape JVC after the merger in 2009. Additionally, he oversaw the creation of an outcome-based JVC Formation curriculum assuring that all JVs received consistent exposure to the four inter-related values of the Jesuit tradition: Ignatian spirituality, social justice, community, and simple living.

### VIN DECOLA, SJ

Vin DeCola, the former director of JVC'S international program, is a higher ed professional and mentor to former JVs. Vin was instrumental in ensuring our international program and development functions found ways to improve and innovate in recent years.

### JOHN "JACK" MCLEAN, JSTB, JD

As a long time member of the JVC Board, Jack McLean served in multiple roles. Formally as Chair of its Board Governance and Operations Committee and informally as a trusted and sage advisor for current President, Tom Chabolla. His generosity included hosting Tom when his travels took him to Chicago and sharing his network of connections. During his tenure on the JVC Board he was also the Assistant Vice President for Student Development at Loyola University Chicago.

### FR. JOHN STAUDENMAIER, SJ

Another stalwart of the JVC National Board, Fr. John served as the Assistant to the President for Mission and identity, University of Detroit Mercy. In his words, "I have lived and worked at UDM since 1981. Detroit Mercy's agency in the rebirth of the City of Detroit comes close to the heart of the university's identity and the teaching of St. Ignatius, Founder of the Jesuits, who called all Jesuits to go anywhere in the world searching for places of greater service of God." His gregarious persona made him renowned in the Detroit Catholic community and the Detroit Jesuit Volunteers enjoyed an open invitation to supper with him each week.



## NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

In March, five new members were elected to the Board. During the same meeting, the Board approved an amendment to JVC's by-laws that establishes a seat for an FJV who has finished their term of service within the last three years. Izzy Shahmirza, who has been a vocal proponent of racial justice and antiracism work, is the first FJV to be elected to that seat! She is currently a Master of Public Health candidate at UCLA.



Denise Bennett-Walls  
(Tanzania, 1997-98)



Carlos Esparza, SJ



John Giere  
(Belize, 1985-87)



Izzy Shahmirza  
(Kansas City, 2019-20)



Kate Haser  
(Baltimore, 1980-82)



## POWER of THE PLEDGE

Support of the *Power of the Pledge* campaign will build resiliency in our formation program for years to come. Your generosity in paving the way for future generations of volunteers is a powerful testimony to the commitment of our JVC Community.

Make YOUR pledge today.

Email Karen at: [development@jesuitvolunteers.org](mailto:development@jesuitvolunteers.org)



## Honoring **Dominique Troy**, JVC's Former Senior Strategic Communications Manager

**IN THE FOUR YEARS** that Dominique Troy (Los Angeles 2014-15) worked for JVC, she fostered tremendous growth across all internal departments. Most of the social media, appeals, and publications you received were conceived and produced by Dominique, including this magazine! Her role within the organization was to work with Development, FJV Engagement, and Programs to share, organize, and evaluate information across platforms so that JVC could grow and form more personal relationships with FJVs and donors.

“Dominique's contributions to JVC centered around both her spirit and her work. All of her incredible accomplishments and additions to JVC stemmed directly from her presence and her person!”

— ROB ROA

More recently, Dominique helped launch the Racial Justice Convening to begin the process of making JVC an anti-racist organization, beginning with internal education and awareness. They worked closely with Dominique in figuring out how to establish roots in making JVC an anti-racist organization.

Her breadth of knowledge and networking can be seen in the talented guests we've invited to our Community Conversations. She spearheaded many of the social media campaigns for racial justice, as well as the initiative to commit to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ affinity groups and peer mentorships.

“Dominique has a way about her that forces you to look at yourself and your beliefs. In knowing her, I have gotten to know myself better.”

— ANISSA ROSE

Dominique left at the end of the summer to advance her career in media and storytelling. We will always be grateful for her work in creating a more just and inclusive organization, internally and externally.



## GIVING BACK

### Building a Culture of Philanthropy

**Dina** MET JOE WHEN THEY SERVED AS JESUIT VOLUNTEERS IN '77 AND '78, Dina in Cleveland and Joe in Chicago. They married and had two daughters. When Joe passed away, Dina and her grown daughters set up a donor-advised fund and designated gifts to JVC in memory of Joe, knowing how important that year of service was in their lives.

Each day, JVC receives tribute gifts made in memory or in honor of a loved one, a JV house or year of service, a mentor or counselor, and at this time of year, incoming JVs. Every envelope tells a story — some tell stories of multiple generations for whom Jesuit Volunteer Corps is a family tradition, or how the experience of doing a year of intentional service leads to transformation and change. Others tell the story of lives spent in service to others, celebrated by a gift to help sustain that mission.

Many of our donors were first introduced to JVC by their friends and relatives preparing to become volunteers. Centered by Henri Nouwen's message in the Spirituality of Fundraising, there is an invitation to share in the JV journey by making a financial gift to JVC's Send Me To Serve campaign.

*“From the perspective of the gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God's people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way.”  
(Prov. 29:18; 2 Kings 21: 1-9).*

— HENRI NOUWEN

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS JOINED US IN LIVING OUR SHARED VISION AND MISSION!



Does the thought of a large gift amount seem scary at the moment?

Don't worry! The best way to support our mission is by donating your spare change each month through your roundups, or by giving \$5 or \$10 each month. We've made it easy for you to give:

**TEXT JVC TO 26989**

and we'll send you the link to give back to the Jesuit Volunteers!


Unable to give monthly? We'd appreciate your one-time donation, and/or please consider learning more about in-kind contributions, volunteering opportunities, and other ways to give.

LEAVE YOUR  
**MARK.**  
MAKE YOUR  
**GIFT.**

[JESUITVOLUNTEERS.ORG/DONATE](https://jesuitvolunteers.org/donate)



## **JVC COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR  
UPCOMING  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:

[jesuitvolunteers.org/events](https://jesuitvolunteers.org/events)



**JVC COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ARE WORKSHOPS OR DISCUSSIONS LED BY LIKE-MINDED PRESENTERS THAT ADDRESS CRITICAL TOPICS OF OUR TIME RELATED TO OUR FOUR CORE VALUES OF SPIRITUALITY, SIMPLE LIVING, COMMUNITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.** This year, we centered the voices of primarily Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and asked those who could afford to pay to do so. In our ongoing anti-racism work, we wanted to encourage and invite our constituent base, which is currently predominantly White folx, to give back as allies and make financial contributions to bolster and continue this type of programming into the future. We hope this effort can combat the cultural norm that asks BIPOC folx to resource people for free.

**After the racial uprisings that happened last summer and moving forward, we would like to continue to amplify BIPOC voices, experiences, and expertise.**

We are excited for this opportunity for co-creation and educational programming that invites people to tap into the four values during and after their term of service. We also recognize our sponsors last year, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, for assisting with getting this event series off the ground so quickly as we responded to shifting needs during the pandemic.

*Life and Dignity of the Human Person* is one of the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our volunteers serve at a variety of agency partner organizations who provide services, basic needs, and resources to predominantly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. In honor of all of the parents and birthing people who are kept away from their children, and for all the children who are unable to receive the love and care from their mothers, their parents, their guardians — we stand with you.



**BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO**





**EMILY WIN (TUCSON 2017-18)** *she/her*

Emily took participants through a deep dive of the research she did for over a year, where she wrote both theory and poetry on the spiritual connection between queer poetry and Catholic mass. The conversation was an invitation to acknowledge that there has always been tension between the Catholic Church and queer communities, and time to reflect on Catholic tradition and spirituality as it relates to LGBTQ+ allyship.

**KHARISMA GOLDSTON (PHILADELPHIA 2015-16)** *she/her*

Kharisma is the Director of Shelter at the Bethesda Project. During this conversation, the focus was about the housing crisis. At the start of COVID-19, the shelter-in-place restrictions told people to stay at home. The conversation focused on some key questions, including: What did people do if they didn't have a home to return to in the first place? And how are millennials suddenly able to afford to buy homes at the same time unemployment rates rise? What might be some of the long-term social justice implications of shifting communities?



**JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS**

*DAKE TO CHANGE*



**KRISTEN TRUDO (ST. LOUIS 2015-16)** *they/them*

Kristen guided participants through some movement, breath work, and meditation, before spending time with the question that inspired their month-long daily journaling practice, The River Daily: "If we imagined racism as a spiritual problem, how might that shift the ways we choose to grapple with it?"

**MAKA BLACK ELK (OGLALA LAKOTA)** *he/him*

Maka is the Executive Director for Truth and Healing at Red Cloud Indian School. In this conversation, Maka walked participants through an abbreviated history of Indian boarding schools in the United States. Together, we took time to recognize that the Society of Jesus was one of many Catholic orders that ran some of these schools and held a dialogue about how we might seek to understand and heal.



**HEIDI CERNEKA (BELIZE 1987-89)** *she/her*

Heidi is an immigration attorney working with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center as part of the detained defense team. She shared more about her experience with change and transitions, then together we shared wisdom, tips, and tools for fearlessly moving forward while honoring what we are letting go.



**JADE AGUA** *she/her*

Jade, the Chief Learning Officer at USC Equity Center, spoke about the reality that, while the pandemic was at its height, so was hate crimes against Asians; there was a series of high-profile killings of Black Americans; and a rush of people purchased books about being anti-racist. Jade guided participants through the continuum on becoming anti-racist, and what it might mean to show up as an accomplice, ally, or co-conspirator.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PRESENTERS THIS PAST YEAR!**



## IN THE FIELD

# DIS-ORIENTATION: ADAPTING TO CHANGE

**OUR JULY 2021 DISORIENTATION CONSISTED OF REGIONAL IN-PERSON RETREATS WITH ALL-VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS.** This hybrid model allowed for the JVs to engage in all of the meaningful talks, workshops, and one-on-one time while remaining safe and feeling connected. Across the three regional DisOrientations, JVs were led through five sessions that were designed to help them begin to process their experience and transition into their next adventure.

Mission to Mission's Kelli Nelson led the East Coast cohort in many of these talks, where she made space for JVs to process heartache, acceptance, and forgiveness. Many of the JVs felt that reconnecting with their own community and their fellow cohort was invaluable. One Washington DC JV shared, "Some of the most impactful moments for me were being able to reflect on the sessions with my housemates. Being able to name my heartaches was necessary."

A large focus of Dis-O across all regions is simply making the space to think through what and who JVs encountered on their journey and how this affected them as they learned to grow alongside those they served. This emphasis on presence is exactly what one Baltimore JV feels they will take with them: "to be present where you are, when you are there."

This year, the JVs spent even more time with their communities due to COVID-19. On top of navigating the usual ups and downs of intentional living, they were all challenged with shouldering the weight of what it means to function together under the stress of a national crisis. "Dis-O gave me a new view on the idea of 'simple living.' It showed me just how simply our house was living in the way that we spent so much intentional and unintentional time together, even if it was because of COVID," a JV Camden reflected.

One of the major takeaways that our JVs walk away with is a new appreciation for gratitude. An essential step of the healing process is giving thanks for everything they experienced throughout their time of service. One Baltimore JV says that one thing they need to be reminded of is "the importance of actively expressing gratitude to the people from this year [...] because I think I often make my goodbyes quickly and then pass over them, just saying I'll see important folks again."

The benefits and baggage of "working from home" took on a new meaning for most of the JVs, who experienced the pandemic the hardest within the pillars of community and simple living. Instead of getting to know other JVs, or even members of their city's communities, this year's cohort was limited within the parameters of their house and local formation team. They had to intimately rely on one another instead of, perhaps, other cohorts, communities, or support systems to navigate how to walk on the journey with those who were undoubtedly more oppressed by the effects of the pandemic. Nothing can replace the companionship of physically being present, but Dis-O became an appropriate closing to a year that was marked by many sudden changes, adaptations, and Zoom calls.





# JVC GOES **VIRTUAL**

**On** **A GLOBAL SCALE**, we have been grieving together. Our international program has been on pause. Yet, we have watched in awe as FJVs like Hannah Klein continued to work virtually for her placement site out in Micronesia: “I owe complete gratitude to JVC because it allowed me the opportunity and experiences necessary to create this foundation. Without JVC, I would not be who I am today. I would not have faced the challenges of this life in the same way, nor would I have the support and connections that I do to uphold me.”

Area Manager Katie Dorner (Los Angeles 2013-14) held virtual office hours to find unique ways to continue to build relationships with the JVs she supported this year in Chicago, Milwaukee, the Twin Cities, Cleveland, and Nashville. Our recruitment team attended 51 virtual university events, held 17 information sessions, and logged nearly 500 one-on-one meetings to share the values, mission, and joy that can come from doing a year of service with prospective volunteers. In the virtual landscape, we saw budding friendships across screens and time zones. We got to witness moments like former staff reconnecting with the volunteers they accompanied in the 80s. Together, we held individuals grieving losses due to COVID-19 close to our hearts during our monthly virtual prayers.

ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JEAN MERRIMAN'S PASSING, CLEVELAND JVS BROUGHT FLOWERS TO HER HUSBAND, BILL, TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR HER LIFE. THE CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER HOUSE IS NAMED IN THEIR HONOR AND WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT THEY HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS.

“

It was really important for all of us to find a way to connect as a group of Texas JVs! We started virtually connecting through group chats and Zoom hangouts. Over Halloween, we went on a socially distanced camping trip to finally get together in person! As everyone became vaccinated, it got much easier to spend face-to-face time together. We're currently making rounds visiting each other's cities and have plans to camp this summer. Although it was difficult, we still found ways to safely connect and build relationships.

**ALLY BLOHOWIAK** (SAN ANTONIO 2020-21)

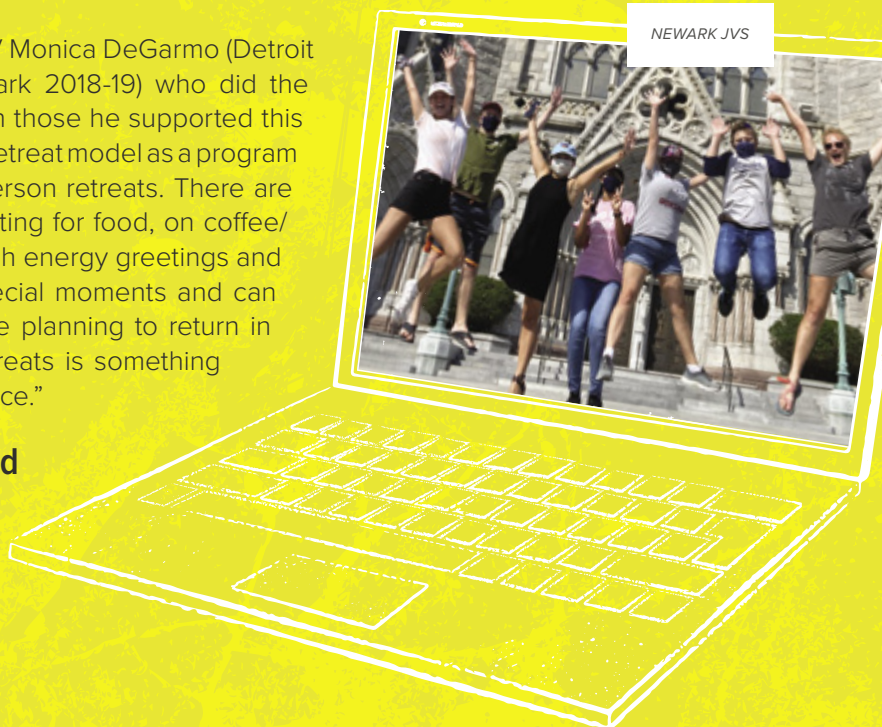




**GRIEF IS A WORD THAT JVC EXPLORES WITH OUR JESUIT VOLUNTEERS** as they prepare to transition from our formation program each year. Our entire DisOrientation pays homage to this word about loss, good-byes, and an end to something. Tears and laughter are typical as program staff leads the volunteers through the Shalom process as part of their final retreat. Last summer, we had to say our farewell to volunteers via screen, and this year some of our staff have never met face-to-face with the JVs they accompany and whom they are now guiding through the transition process to become former JVs.

Area Manager Ben DeGarmo who is married to FJV Monica DeGarmo (Detroit 2012-13) and has a sibling Brad DeGarmo (Newark 2018-19) who did the program, holds out hope for future gatherings with those he supported this year: "While we have been able to adapt to a virtual retreat model as a program team, we are very excited to be returning to in person retreats. There are moments on retreats, at a dinner table, in line waiting for food, on coffee/stretch breaks between or during sessions, the high energy greetings and farewells that bookend retreats, that are truly special moments and can sometimes have a tremendous impact. As we are planning to return in person, the idea of setting sacred spaces for retreats is something amazing that I am anxious for every JV to experience."

**We're grateful for the many ways we could renegotiate our ways of connecting!**



THE FOUNDER OF HALLMARK GREETING CARDS — J.C. HALL — WAS A PARISHIONER AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS, AND SELECTED A CROWN FOR THE COMPANY'S LOGO BECAUSE HE LOVED THE GOLD CROWN ABOVE THE ALTAR! A HALLMARK FACTORY NEIGHBORS THE CHURCH.

“

It was heartbreaking to not be able to go to church in person when COVID-19 escalated into a pandemic. One of my hobbies is exploring Catholic churches for their architecture and history, so you can imagine it was hard to move everything virtually. Many of us went weeks or months without holy communion. Some of us lost hope in church, others reminisced the feeling of going to church. When it was safe to go in person, I took that opportunity to document my church tours on social media to inspire others to see the beauty in church again, and to spark curiosity in these sanctuaries. I hope that by posting these pictures on social media and telling a bit of the history of the church or explaining the art it houses, the audience can feel as if they are touring it, and feel more connected to both Christianity and the local community.

**VERONICA LUGTU** (KANSAS CITY 2019-20)

PARTICIPANTS OF THE VIRTUAL JV BOOK CLUB THAT MARY CREATED.



“

I wanted to facilitate this group around Fr. Massingale's *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* to connect with fellow JV's who are seeking to engage in this work within the Church and/or from a faith lens. I saw this as an opportunity for more reflection, dialogue, and to deepen our understanding of where history meets the present moment in this particular context. Being able to learn from peers, discuss accountability, and commit to actionable items has been a crucial part of my experience.

**MARY LAVIGNE** (CHICAGO 2020-21)



# JVC Launches New FJV Programs

**OUR** **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH EFFORTS EXPANDED THIS PAST PROGRAM YEAR.** We recognize that professional development opportunities in the form of mentorship and spaces for ongoing dialogue about identity are essential for alumni and volunteers. A trove of insight exists across our network and is accessible during a JV's service time and after they've completed the program.



OUR FJV ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, **CARTER WHITE**, SHARES: "WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ALL OF THE EXCITING POSSIBILITIES TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER AS THINGS BEGIN TO REOPEN! AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE FOUND CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER FROM A DISTANCE THIS PAST YEAR. AS REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS HAVE REMINDED US, THE FJV COMMUNITY IS A LASTING AND LIFE-GIVING ONE, WHETHER WE COME TOGETHER FACE-TO-FACE OR SCREEN-TO-SCREEN."

## FJV BIPOC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BIPOC Jesuit Volunteers are offered opportunities for added support through the FJV BIPOC Mentorship Program, made up of former Jesuit Volunteers who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color. Our hope in connecting JVs with an FJV mentor is that JVs will receive personalized support navigating their JV experience and FJVs will gain an opportunity to invest in the accompaniment and growth of JVs. As Courtney Romans (Nashville 2017-18) was finishing her MSW, she signed on to start working at JVC as a recruiter for the east coast. When the BIPOC JV Mentorship Program launched, she took on a mentee! Courtney reflects, "My JV experience has been so impactful in my life and career. I was excited to participate in the program to help guide JVs through their year."

## FJV AFFINITY CHAPTERS

In addition to our BIPOC Affinity Space, LGBTQIA Affinity Space, and our White Ally/Accountability Space — meant for volunteers of our program — JVC also launched several affinity chapters this year exclusively for our former Jesuit Volunteers. Our FJV Affinity Chapters are spaces where FJVs who hold particular identities can build community, share resources, and explore opportunities relating to JVC's values.

**DIVERSITY**

**EQUITY**

**INCLUSION**



### FJV LGBTQIA Affinity Chapter

A place for FJVs who identify as LGBTQIA+ to connect.



### FJV Parenting/Families Affinity Chapter

A place for FJVs who are caretakers of children to share ideas about raising kids while staying connected to their core values, and passing onto the next generation.



### FJV BIPOC Affinity Chapter

A place for FJVs who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color to connect.



**DEEDS**

**NOT**

**WORDS**



Join a local or shared affinity-based chapter:  
[jesuitvolunteers.org/fjv-chapters](https://jesuitvolunteers.org/fjv-chapters)



## ARRIVALS //

**Valerie Panicker (Noce) (El Paso 2007-08)** and her husband Tisin welcomed their baby girl Vivian on November 4, 2020 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Lindsay Kramer Custer (Kansas City 2013-14)** and her husband John Custer welcomed their daughter Holly to the world just in time for Christmas — a true Advent blessing in a difficult year.

## COMMITMENTS //

**Portland, Maine 2016-17 FJVs Stephanie Johnson, Sarah Marr, Linnea Brandt, Michaila Czarnik, and Kaylyn Armstrong Shiira** reunited for Linnea's wedding in upstate New York. 🌟

After hoping to get married in the city where they served, **Carolina Dominguez** and **Johnny Dolan (Belize City, Belize 2013-15)** wed in Miami in November 2020. 🌟

**Sara Siegfried** and **Bailey Warfield** met during their JV year in **New Orleans** in **2014-15**, where Sara worked for UNITY of Greater New Orleans and Bailey worked for The Harry Thompson Center. Since leaving New Orleans, they have been living and working in Philadelphia. Sara is a licensed clinical social worker and Bailey is working in sales. They got engaged in December 2020 and look forward to their upcoming 2022 wedding! 🌟

## WORK AND LIFE //

**Michael Stone (Providence 1978-81)** led the successful effort to abolish the death penalty in Virginia, and attended the bill signing ceremony that ended 1,390 executions carried out since 1608 in that state. He has plans for a 60-day road trip starting in September to visit state and national parks across the country to begin his semi-retirement. 🌟

**Sarah Neidhoefer (Christopher) (Philadelphia 1993-1994)** has launched her work as a mentor, coach, and spiritual director with Plumb Line Coaching for people looking to discover their right alignment with path and purpose. She is very happy to work with current JVs, FJVs, or their children (much of her work is academic and wellness coaching for youth and young adults) looking for support, direction, tools, and inspiration. AMDG!



**Casa Guadalupe JVs Lauren Graham Sullivan, Meghan Beatty Klassen, Ruth Wimsatt Trautwein and Carolyn Gordon Kenney** (pictured above) from **San Antonio 2003-04** reunited in SATX in January 2020 to reminisce, connect, and laugh.

**Caroline Wilson (Oakland 2012-13)** and **Katie Athis (Nashville 2015-16)** graduated this May from Loyola University Chicago with their Master's in Social Work degree. Both were members of the Magis Program at Loyola and were able to form a deep friendship during their time together in the program.

**Adam Whalen (Baltimore 2015-16)** recently graduated with a Master's of Public Health degree in epidemiology from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. He lives in Brooklyn, New York with his partner and is looking forward to starting work as an epidemiologist after a short but much needed break from Zoom.

The **Jersey City 1998-99** JV community, including **Mary Niebler, Donna Kelly Romero, Katie Ryan Clark, Scott Nash, Julie Schneider** and **Megan McBride McCarthy**, reunited via Zoom in April 2020!

In June, **Dave Hinchin** celebrated **Newark 1977's** reunion in Cape Cod along with Michael Mary Cahoon McGinnity, Jim Campbell, Jerry Tobin, and Heather Wilson (Lorraine McDermott Knight and Sandy Graff joined via Zoom).





## Update Your Information

By providing your most up-to-date information, you'll be sure to receive newsletters, publications, and organizational updates from JVC.

★ [bit.ly/jvc-update-info](http://bit.ly/jvc-update-info)

## Social Media

Follow JVC on Instagram or join our LinkedIn group to start making professional connections. You may also tag us in the comments of your favorite nonprofit organizations or justice campaigns with a note about why it's important to you — we love sharing via our IG Stories!

As a bonus, email a #FlashBackFriday photo to [fjvs@jesuitvolunteers.org](mailto:fjvs@jesuitvolunteers.org) so we can share more broadly (please include a short description). Be sure to tag your communitymates in the comments once the photo goes live.

★ [@jvcnation](https://www.instagram.com/jvcnation)

## Local FJV Chapters

In cities across the country, local FJV chapters connect enthusiastic and dedicated FJVs to one another, and to opportunities in their area. While each chapter has its own level and frequency of engagement, many plan social, spiritual, and service activities within their regions.

★ [jesuitvolunteers.org/fjv-chapters](http://jesuitvolunteers.org/fjv-chapters)

## FJV Graduate Scholarships

Graduate schools across the nation recognize the value of the unique experiences and skills that Jesuit Volunteers gain during their term of service. Certain colleges and universities have generously partnered with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps to offer full or partial tuition scholarships to JVC alumni.

★ [jesuitvolunteers.org/graduate-scholarships](http://jesuitvolunteers.org/graduate-scholarships)

## FJV Job Board

Our job board is intended to share open positions of interest with our FJV community and friends of JVC.

★ [jesuitvolunteers.org/job-board](http://jesuitvolunteers.org/job-board)

## Google Group

Whether you are looking for a strong hire at your organization or have an extra room open in your apartment, the FJV Google group is a great place to start building connections. You can adjust the frequency of updates to daily or a summary, or read updates via the digital discussion board.

★ [groups.google.com/g/former-jesuit-volunteers-fjvs](https://groups.google.com/g/former-jesuit-volunteers-fjvs)



Linnea's wedding

I'M AN FJV.  
HOW CAN  
I STAY  
CONNECTED?



Sara and Bailey



Michael Stone



Carolina's wedding



## IN MEMORIAM //



### **MICHAEL PATRICK HAMILL**

**(CHICAGO 1986-87)**

JULY 18, 1961 – JANUARY 1, 2021 / CULVER CITY, CA

**A****FTER GRADUATING** from Santa Clara University, Michael served as a JV in Chicago as a teacher at an alternative high school. He taught math and accounting, and was the basketball coach. After JVC, he went from public accounting to the film and music industries, and financial consulting. He worked for many years as a CFO in the music industry, becoming a member of the Recording Academy. Michael married Wendy Heavner in 1995 and they had three children together. A lifelong athlete, Michael shared his passion for sports as a long-time Little League manager and AYSO youth soccer coach and referee, enriching the lives of many Culver City youth.



### **MAUREEN SULLIVAN DARCEY**

**(KENTUCKY, 1977-78)**

MARCH 1, 1952 – JANUARY 13, 2021 / SAXAPAHAW, NC

**U****PON GRADUATING** from nursing school at the University of Buffalo, Maureen served in various rural community hospitals, including her year as a JV in Kentucky, before attending midwifery school. She met her husband of 41 years, FJV Dennis Darcey (Washington DC, 1975-77), while she was a JV and he was serving on JVC staff. They are one of the original FJV couples from JVC East! They had three children together.

Maureen and Dennis remained close with JVC friends and, for 30 years, gathered each summer for a reunion retreat at Blue Ridge Summit. Maureen's passion for midwifery and the birth center model of care led her to establish North Carolina's only nonprofit, free-standing birth center (the Women's Birth and Wellness Center). There, Maureen served as director from 1994 to 2019, delivering thousands of babies over the course of her career.



MICHAEL (TOP ROW, CENTER) WITH HIS JVC CHICAGO COMMUNITY IN 1986.

## DARE TO CHANGE

Whether we receive your notes online from a digital campaign, from an email message, or something handwritten to the office in Baltimore, it warms our hearts every time!

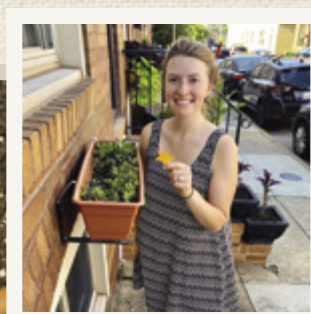
“ This donation is part of my commitment as an FJV to transform JVC into an antiracist organization.”

“ To my granddaughter working in Washington DC this year, bless you!”

“ In honor of my year of service at My Friend's Place in 2007-08!”

“ This gift is in honor of Fr. Brian Paulson as he transitions to become president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Brian was a support person for Pete's house in Chicago from 1993-94.”





## HOW WILL WE GROW TOGETHER?

In our appeal mailer from this past spring, we included a bookmark with detachable seed paper. We asked that recipients email us their seedling photo along with a message for the incoming JVC cohort...

“ To future JVs: I hope that you will grow when you arrive at your new community. God bless.”

**JOHN DEVIVO** (MICRONESIA, 1991-94)

“ Here is my seed planting in my garden with St. Francis in beautiful Brunswick, Maine. I am an FJV and 46 years old, and I still think about and teach in my high school classroom about my JVC experience. The new JVs are doing the right thing for the people they are serving, for themselves, and for their future families. I have a baby son now and he will surely be learning the values I came away with in Nepal.”

**DARREN WALLACH** (NEPAL, 2004-06)

*JVC Board of Directors and Former Jesuit Volunteers Ann Greiner (Los Angeles, 1982-83), Colleen Magnus and Nancy Johansen (Belmont, 1989-90), Bridget Perry (JVC NW, 1991-92), John Carron (St. Luis, 1993-94), and Ted Penton (Raleigh 2000-01) banded together for the Clash of the Cohorts and challenged their cohort members to participate. The campaign has been doing great with \$15,350 raised towards a goal of \$10,000! The following are some of the notes from donors:*

“ God bless all of the volunteers and staff members!”

**PHIL DIPASQUALE** (WASHINGTON DC, 1982-83)

“ Being a JV was transformative and informs my life today. Happy to support the program now.”

**KATHEL DUNN** (ATLANTA, 1991-92)

“ Hands down, the most transformative experience of my life. JVC, and the folks with whom I lived and worked, re-set the trajectory of my personal and spiritual growth. I wish everyone that same gift!”

**CARRIE DONAHUE** (ANAHEIM, 1991-92)

“ JVC was transformative for me and, yes, it ruined me for life in such a great way. Helped me realize that I was incredibly blessed and that I should always give back for others. Good luck and thanks.”

**JIM HOCK** (LOS ANGELES, 1991-1992)

“ JVC SW will always hold a special place in my heart and soul.”

**THERESE LEDERER** (OAKLAND, 1989-90)

“ Definitely Ruined for Life! Love to JVC MW, 1993-94!”

**PAM CONNER** (CLEVELAND, 1993-94)

**RICARDO ZAYAS** (DETROIT, 1993-94)

## Apply to be a Jesuit Volunteer!

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps application is an opportunity to showcase your commitment to our aspirational mission and our four core values.

Apply online at: [jesuitvolunteers.org/apply](https://jesuitvolunteers.org/apply)

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

November 29 | February 21 | May 23





## THE LAST WORD



# CHRIS

**CHRIS BARGERON** IS AN ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR AT JVC. HE SUPPORTS THE SCREENING AND PLACEMENT PROCESS FOR ALL INCOMING JVS AND AGENCIES, AND IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING FORMATIONAL SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTEERS PLACED IN BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON DC. CHRIS SERVED IN A SIMILAR PROGRAM TO JVC — DOMINICAN VOLUNTEERS USA — FOR TWO YEARS PRIOR TO JOINING JVC'S STAFF. IN HIS FIRST YEAR, HE SERVED AT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE, A REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCY IN CHICAGO, WHERE HE TAUGHT ENGLISH TO NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES. IN HIS SECOND YEAR, HE SERVED AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES ATLANTA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AS AN EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST.

### HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT JVC?

I heard about JVC during my years of service. I was pretty closed off to knowing about other faith-based programs existing outside of my program, DVUSA. When I met other JVs during my first year of service in Chicago, I learned more about JVC and the array of similarities the programs shared. Many of those JVs very much became a part of my community outside of my intentional community.

### WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY FROM THE WORK YOU ARE DOING AT JVC?

I currently wear several hats, so there's much to draw joy from among various aspects of the program. Since becoming a JVC staff member, formation has been very life-giving. Offering guidance to JVs who are hoping to journey and grow in ways they weren't expecting to grow, is beautiful. Sometimes I feel selfish when planning retreats because I look forward to sharing sacred time with the JVs and hope to gain something of my own.

Serving on the Admissions team this past year, I've found such a beauty in having many conversations with potential JVs weighing whether JVC is the correct next step for them. Some of these conversations can be difficult in that there may be expectations from applicants that are not met — and for the most part, that's okay. What I draw from those dialogues is that applicants gain a better understanding of who exactly this program is for, and ultimately it's for the clients and students at organizations and schools.

### HOW HAVE YOU DEEPENED YOUR EXPLORATION OF THE FOUR VALUES AS A STAFF PERSON?

It's interesting to think that further exploration of the four values — which are similar to the values of the program I served in — would come years and years after my own volunteer experience. Something that I've learned quite recently is that this year of service is offering a foundation to which one can continue to journey through life. Now at more than a half a decade removed from my years of service, I feel like I'm finally moving deeper into these values.

Intertwined with putting my faith into action, I am constantly reminded of how important it is to be agents for change. It's easy to not be as motivated to advocate for change if it's not "what's trending," but I've needed to continually motivate myself and others I interact with daily, that this mindset and these attitudes need to change or we're not going to be living in a world where everybody is treated equally, with respect and dignity.

Aside from my spirituality being nourished in common ways through prayer, I feel most grounded in my faith through my actions. One of the lessons I learned this past year is how much I really need to be mindful of the 'stuff' that clutters my life. Valuing relationships is something I believe JVs learn in the exploration of living a simple lifestyle, and as we are (hopefully) nearing the end of quarantine, I understand how important it is to value personal relationships regardless of any obstacles or distance in the way.

### WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHER PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION?

Coming from a small program like I served in, I was very much blown away at how large and tightly knit the JVC community is — it supports every JV community in each city, every year, whether on a formal level, or for the most part, in informal ways. I feel like every city has FJVs that are 'go-tos' for the current community whenever certain issues pop up, that are invaluable. Being able to be supported by so many former volunteers in a program every year is something extremely unique with our program, and a BIG reason why we are so successful spreading and living out our mission.







**JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS**

*DARE TO CHANGE*

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**BROKEN OPEN PODCAST** is a limited series podcast by the Jesuit Volunteer Corps where we speak with members of our community on how they've navigated spirituality, simple living, community, and social justice during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can listen in online and download a journal to accompany your podcast listening experience at: [jesuitvolunteers.org/broken-open-podcast](https://jesuitvolunteers.org/broken-open-podcast)