



## Information and Guidelines for Partner Agencies

Thank you for your willingness to engage the volunteer services of a Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps member (JVE). To support the JVE in having an effective and meaningful service experience, we have included information describing the JV EnCorps program components and service placement expectations. The goal is to assist the JVE in serving others with actions and intentions that are aligned with your organization's mission and JVC Northwest's core values of community, simple living, spirituality and social & environmental justice.

### **JV ENCORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

JV EnCorps, a program of Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest, engages women and men ages 50 and older in a transformative experience of volunteer service and spiritual growth. Participants commit to 10 months (September – June) of service in their local communities and to the exploration of JVC Northwest's core values: community, simple living, social and environmental justice, and spirituality. The JVE's experience includes:

- Volunteer service for 10 months in one community agency or institution for 5 – 10 hours weekly
- Monthly JVE community meetings plus three retreats for learning, reflection and spiritual growth
- Commitment to building a JVE community with shared values of service and spiritual reflection

JVEs may be placed in a community agency by JVC Northwest *or* a JVE may already have an established volunteer placement that fits the mission of JVC Northwest. For example, community agencies might have current volunteers for whom the JV EnCorps program would be a fit. JVC Northwest welcomes inquiries from community agencies and their volunteers with the goal of supporting a more effective volunteer experience.

### **AGENCY CRITERIA FOR JV ENCORPS PLACEMENTS**

- Agencies directly serving people who are economically poor or working to address the issues and structures impacting marginalized populations.
- Agencies able to provide minimum service requirements to meet the JVE time commitment of five or more hours a week, September - June.
- Agencies able to offer adult volunteers (50 years and older) meaningful service opportunities and enrichment, including: orientation, supervision, and training that supports the effectiveness of volunteers.
- Agencies able to provide standard liability protection for volunteers.

## **SUGGESTED PRACTICES FOR ENGAGING JV ENCORPS MEMBERS:**

Volunteers 50 years and older are increasingly available and committed to serving their community in meaningful ways. They bring a new “face” to volunteerism and are redefining retirement. They desire to give back in meaningful ways utilizing their professional expertise and wisdom. In support of their effectiveness, they anticipate that their service placement will provide clear expectations, relevant training and purposeful service activities.

In support of a successful volunteer experience, the following practices are recommended:

- **Collegial Relationship.** JVEs value opportunities for social interaction and team support. Integration with staff and activities assures meaningful assignments and opportunities for input and innovation. Feedback and appreciation are desired outcomes.
- **Clear Expectations.** Clarity on mission, role and tasks, in the form of a *Volunteer Position Description*, helps volunteers to effectively utilize their time.
- **Orientation and Training.** JVEs value opportunities for continuing education and skill development. Understanding the policies and procedures of your organization and the issues impacting those they serve lends support and a sense that they are making a difference.
- **Communication and Creativity.** JVEs need to be apprised of organizational changes and circumstances impacting their volunteer activities. Being well informed, they can more effectively lend their life experiences and skills to enhance their service, offering new ideas and directions.

We hope these suggestions help to ensure a positive volunteer experience for all. We encourage conversation among the site placement, volunteer and JV EnCorps office to address any questions or concerns.