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Lutheran Volunteer Corps

1226 Vermont Avenue, NW ♦ Washington, DC 20005 ♦ (202) 387-3222

June 22, 1993

Jina Sinone
Office of National Service
OE0B 145
Wash., D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Sinone:

I am sending you the information you requested today. I hope it is what you wanted. The newsletter enclosed shows pictures of each household and lists where each person is working for this year (I had told you on the phone we didn't have such a list but we do!!) Thanks for promoting LVC. Let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dawn Longenecker

Dawn Longenecker
Administrative Assistant

enc.'s





Work for Social Justice

Explore Simplicity

Build Community

The Lutheran Volunteer Corps
1226 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005



VOLUNTEERS TELL THEIR STORIES

"Spending a year in LVC can be one of the best in your life — I found that out at the age of 71 — it changed my life in many ways. While my work was with the hungry and homeless, I became aware of the injustice done to children, elderly, and handicapped people, as well as to others. While alone I can't do all that needs to be done, I continue to be one voice that maybe one day can become a chorus to do the work that needs to be done."

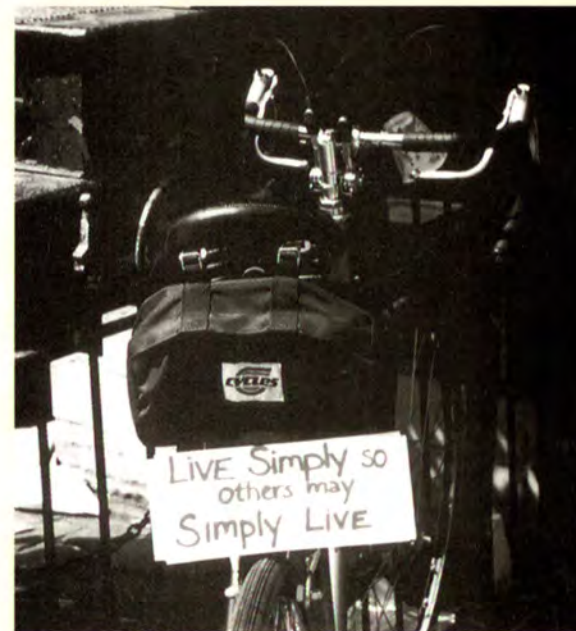
— Agnes Jacobson '89-'90

"More than ten years later, I credit my LVC experience as irrevocably shaping my vocation and the values by which I live. And because it enfolded the convictions I shared but had not known how to live out, it gave me the personal courage to take a different path I have continued to follow."

— Dee Dee Risher '81-'82

"Pure and simple, LVC changed my life. Not in a radical way, but by planting seeds deep within, seeds that bear fruit in my daily life. LVC gave me the time, the space and community to explore and live with mindfulness and faith. For the LVC experience, and for the LVC community I now share, I am deeply thankful."

— Shenandoah Gale '89-'90



THE LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

The Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) was founded in 1979 and is a ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church in Washington, DC. In addition to Luther Place Church, LVC receives support from many individuals, congregations, foundations, and the national and synodical offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

LVC places volunteers in six urban areas across the country. LVC seeks to build a diverse, inclusive group of volunteers, and all interested adults are encouraged to apply.



The Lutheran
Volunteer Corps
1226 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202/387-3222

Make a year last a Lifetime



THE LUTHERAN
VOLUNTEER CORPS

LVC AND YOU: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"What does the Lord require of you but that you do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

"But how?" you ask. "Where?" "Could I really make a difference?" The Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) offers you a challenging answer: a year to work for social justice, live in intentional Christian community, and explore a simpler lifestyle.



BUILD COMMUNITY

Living peacefully with one another is a lifelong challenge. Community provides valuable opportunities to develop communication and relationship building skills that are essential to strong families, neighborhoods, cities, and to a peaceful world.

In LVC, communities of four to eight volunteers share meals, household responsibilities, daily struggles, faith discussions, and good times. Building and maintaining a supportive Christian community offers a rewarding experience. The quality and commitment of LVC friendships can last a lifetime.

WORK FOR JUSTICE

The amount of suffering in the world can be overwhelming. In response, people of faith are called to work together for justice. You have something to offer in this effort. Whether you are a carpenter, nurse, paralegal, homemaker, or student, your energy, commitment, and skills are needed.

Through LVC you can teach in an inner-city preschool, coordinate volunteers for a free medical clinic, staff a shelter for homeless women, lobby on hunger issues, or work to protect the environment. No matter what job you do, no matter who you are, you can make a difference.



EXPLORE SIMPLICITY

We are all interconnected. Our worth comes not from what we have or what we do, but from who we are: children of God. To explore simplicity involves thinking about how our actions affect the earth, ourselves, and all of God's children.



Simplifying your lifestyle is a continual process of choosing to focus on what is most important physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This may mean finding entertainment that involves creativity and community growth, cooking from scratch to minimize waste, participating in a neighborhood garden, or using public transportation to reduce pollution. The process of simplifying enables us to reexamine our wants and needs, and to shed the burdens of the unnecessary.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH LVC

Lutheran Volunteers make a one-year commitment to the program, which begins at the end of August. Applications for the next term of service are available from December through May.

Volunteers receive a subsistence salary for their work, covering food expenses, housing, utilities, medical insurance, transportation, and a small personal stipend. There is no educational requirement, but volunteers must be at least 21 years old at the beginning of their term of service. There is no upper age limit.

Participation is open to people of all faith perspectives.

If you would like to receive additional information about LVC and/or contribute to LVC's ministry, please fill out and return the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Please send me more information about LVC.

☐ I am interested in becoming a Lutheran Volunteer.

☐ Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$____.

Please return this card to the address on the reverse side, or call 202/387-3222.

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(10pp)

1991-1992 Annual Report Lutheran
Volunteer Corps

Catherine Preus spends time with a young friend
at the West End Neighborhood House in
Wilmington, DE.



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ANNUAL REPORT

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS



Printed on recycled paper.

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Esprit de Corps

Newsletter of the
Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Fall, 1992

The Rainbow Sign

Each year LVC is born anew in late August, when a fresh group of volunteers enters the program. The 1992-1993 volunteers have again brought new life to the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. We would like to share with you the powerful vision, hope, and strength that is their gift to us all. Below in new volunteers' own words are some of the reasons they decided to serve through LVC.

I looked at the boarded up buildings and wondered why, when there were so many empty rooms, people were living on the streets. ...I saw that it was wrong that some people did not have anywhere to live or any food to eat, while others had more wealth than they could ever need. I began to realize that in order for others to gain what they needed, I was going to have to lose some things. I realized that if Jesus were walking on this earth right now, he would be with these people in Harlem, working to change the system that had created such poverty. ...

-Beth Garrison

I have been blessed with so much. Spending a year with LVC would be one way in which to share my gifts and talents with others, while recognizing that as I enrich the lives of others, my own life will be doubly enriched, both by the people whom I will serve, and the other volunteers with whom I will live.

-Suzanne Burke

I believe a great percentage of our nation is not allowed to achieve what they might be capable of. ...And if I can use the fruits of my advantage to lessen disadvantage I will truly have accomplished something to be proud of.

-Barbara Cox

We must ask ourselves why the cycle of poverty and discrimination continues in a nation that certainly has the capacity to feed, clothe, and house all of its members. ... I have been well-fed and clothed, and I have received a good education. Therefore, I have a responsibility to give of myself in return.

-Erica Gilbertson

I cannot have hope that there is change and not be an active part in that change. I feel compelled to join the struggle. LVC gives me the opportunity to jump in and help.

-Dorothy Leshner

Freedom and justice don't come overnight; they are ideals to work and strive for, never giving up. ... If I don't do my part, it's just like James Baldwin wrote: "If we do not now dare everything, the fulfilment of that prophecy recreated from the Bible in a song by a slave is upon us: God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water, the fire next time."

-Carrie Lennox



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

The Eleven Most Asked Questions About LVC

Who Can Join?

The Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) is open to mature individuals willing to commit to a year of full-time service in urban social justice organizations. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age when their term of service begins, and there is no upper age limit.

Participation is open to people of all Christian faith traditions. Married couples are invited to apply if both wish to be volunteers. Individuals with dependent children living with them cannot be accepted.

How and When Do I Apply?

Program information is available upon request year round. Application forms are available after December 1st of each year. LVC processes the volunteer applications in three sets, with application deadlines of March 15, May 15 and June 15. Earlier applicants have a wider choice of placements.

When Am I Accepted and When Do I Begin?

Applications are responded to in the order received, so it is in the applicant's best interest to apply as early as possible. When a complete application has been received at the LVC office, a staff person will contact the applicant to begin the interviewing process.

After an initial interview with LVC, the applicant will be notified whether or not they have been given basic acceptance into LVC. If accepted the applicant then chooses three placement agencies in their area of interest to interview with. Final acceptance occurs only when a match is made with a placement agency.

Each LVC program year begins with a one week orientation the last week in August, and ends in late August of the following year. Volunteers begin work at their placements the first week of September.

What is LVC's acceptance criteria?

LVC seeks mature self-motivated individuals with a wide range of skills and backgrounds who desire to commit themselves to the challenges of social justice work, intentional community, and simplified living in an urban setting. Volunteers need both the flexibility and resilience to face and grow from the many adjustments and changes a year in LVC brings while remaining invested in his/her work and community.

Because of the nature of the work and community life, applicants in recovery from alcohol or drug abuse are requested to have a minimum of two years sobriety before applying.

Where Do I Work?

There are LVC communities and placements in Baltimore, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Washington, DC and Wilmington, DE. Each Lutheran Volunteer works as a full-time staff member in a social justice agency or organization. The work placements are as diverse and varied as the talents and interests of the volunteers. Placements range from direct service and health care to community organizing and public policy.

Do I Get Paid?

Each Lutheran volunteer receives a subsistence salary from her or his placement, covering living expenses (food, rent and utilities), work related transportation, and a personal stipend of \$85/month. In addition, medical insurance is provided, as well as travel to and from the placement site at the beginning and the end of the year. Two weeks of paid vacation is included as well. Although living simply is much more than accepting a volunteer stipend, for many volunteers this is a beginning to an alternative lifestyle.

Where Do I Live?

Volunteers live together in intentional Christian communities of three to seven volunteers, sharing support, living expenses, meals, chores, faith nights and weekly community time. Volunteer houses are located in low- to middle-income neighborhoods and are chosen with regards to proximity to placements, safety and access to public transportation.

How Might My Faith Be Lived Out In LVC?

LVC is an ecumenical ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

LVC is open to people of all Christian traditions and perspectives. This means that volunteers may be Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Episcopal, Baptist, Lutheran or any other denomination. (Generally, about two-thirds of the Lutheran Volunteers have been Lutheran, or come from a Lutheran background.)

There may also be people in the house who choose not to apply religious labels to their spirituality. Some may be feminists, while others may be born-again. Some may be very outwardly disciplined about their religious practices, and others may not.

Because of the diversity in LVC, there are two things of which one can be sure: 1) No one else in the community will have the same beliefs or will express their faith exactly the same way as anyone else, and 2) The LVC community will probably not meet all of the volunteer's spiritual needs. However, with honesty, vulnerability, and openness, the spiritual aspects of your community can nurture, challenge, affirm and deepen your own faith.

Lutheran Volunteers are expected to share their spirituality and faith with one another at least once a month. In the past, people have shared their faith through liturgies, hymn singing, book discussions, prayers, and silent meditations, to name a few of the many ways.

Daily worship is also a part of LVC Orientation and four retreats held during the course of the year. Outside of their households and LVC events, we encourage, but do not require, Lutheran Volunteers to become active in congregations or other faith communities in their cities.

How Am I Supported?

Community living is an important ongoing support base for volunteers. It provides a forum where nurturing, exploration, and understanding can take place. Community members have conflicts, challenges, and differences but they strive to struggle with these.

There are also several other means of support for Lutheran Volunteers. The LVC staff visits the cities six times a year, and each LVC community works with an LVC staff person on community issues throughout the year. Each city has a Local Support Committee of former volunteers, pastors, and other interested individuals to supply information and practical needs, help with worship and community life, and act as a listening ear.

In addition, LVC schedules four regional retreats each year. These retreats provide time for personal reflection, recreation, worship, needed time away from the city, and consideration of issues pertinent to the year.

Can I Defer My Student Loans?

Under the Higher Education Act of 1981, most college loans can be deferred during a year of full-time service in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. If the loan is a Guaranteed Student Loan, deferment forms should be obtained from the lending institution. National Direct Student Loan deferment forms are available through the college or university. Forms should be sent to the LVC office to be completed.

How Is LVC Funded?

LVC was founded in 1979 and is a ministry of Luther Place Memorial Church. It also receives support from many individuals, congregations, foundations and the national and synodical offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LVC is led by a 15-member Steering Committee based in Washington, DC.

For further information, contact the LVC office.

**Lutheran Volunteer Corps
1226 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
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(202) 387-3222**

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS
1990-92 PLACEMENTS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

SOUTHWEST CATHOLIC CLUSTER PROJECT is a parish based community organization which seeks to promote racial and cultural harmony in Southwest Chicago.

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CONGRESS organizes residents and businesses to define and act upon common problems in order to foster a stable and prosperous community.

ENVIRONMENTAL

BETHEL NEW LIFE RECYCLING is a buyback center for recyclable materials which strives to put money back into the community, create jobs, and encourage recycling and environmental awareness.

CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY identifies, demonstrates and promotes strategies to provide affordable, locally controlled means for city residents to meet their needs.

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT works to prevent and fight environmental health threats through research, advocacy, public education and citizen empowerment.

FOOD PROVIDERS

CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK, FOOD CONSERVERS, GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY, & ST. PAUL FOOD BANK work to solicit unmarketable, yet wholesome food from the food industry and distribute it among area charities.

OUR DAILY BREAD operates a large cafeteria which serves free meals to 500 people every day.

GENERAL SOCIAL SERVICES

BREAD FOR THE CITY provides food and clothing as well as referral services.

GEORGETOWN MINISTRY SERVICE provides emergency social services to the homeless and elderly including food, clothing, transportation, financial assistance, and counseling.

HOWARD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER - MATERIAL SERVICES collects and distributes furnishings and other material goods to low-income families.

JUBILEE JOBS OF BALTIMORE provides pre-employment skills training and job placement assistance.

LUTHERAN FAMILY MISSION - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM assists people with emergency needs for food and rental relief by distributing food, sharing resource information, and connecting people to needed social services.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES - REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES assists refugees with their initial resettlement and toward self-sufficiency in their new lives in the United States.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION works with low-income people to bring about positive change in their life and the community through food, clothing, and energy assistance, job training and employment programs, and youth programs.

HEALTH CARE

AIDS INTERFAITH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES provides residential and medical services for persons with AIDS.

BETHEL HOLISTIC HEALTH CENTER provides comprehensive health care addressing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, regardless of ability to pay.

CHRIST HOUSE provides shelter, medical care, food, clothing and social services for medically ill homeless men.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS provides and coordinates health care services for the homeless and seeks to educate the public on the link between health and homelessness.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER is an alternative medical care facility created to provide high quality health care.

PEOPLE WITH AIDS SETTLEMENT PROJECT provides emergency and transitional housing to people with HIV infection and AIDS.

WASHINGTON FREE CLINIC and ZACCHAEUS MEDICAL CLINIC are free primary care medical clinics for adults unable to gain access to the traditional medical system.

HOUSING

FOUNDRY HOUSING MINISTRY provides advocacy for elderly and low-income persons by helping to meet housing and financial needs.

ST. AMBROSE HOUSING AID CENTER works to improve the housing situation of low-income families through programs in home ownership, default and delinquency counseling, emergency repair, and renovation.

TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY builds and renovates homes for, and with, low-income families.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE/OFFENDER MINISTRIES

ALTERNATIVE DIRECTIONS provides incarcerated people with training workshops and other services to support them in their move toward independent living.

LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN is a law firm offering services to low-income clients, especially in the area of family, housing, income maintenance and migrant law.

ST. AMBROSE LEGAL AID seeks to sustain home ownership through assisting victims of home improvement fraud.

WISCONSIN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES provides bail evaluation, a pre-trial release programs, and links community based services to the criminal justice system.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

COMMUNITY FAMILY LIFE SERVICES provides emergency food and clothing, counseling, a tutoring program for neighborhood youth, and an employment transportation program.

HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER serves children and youth in the community by providing programs from daycare to a teen life skills program.

MARTHA'S TABLE serves children with supervised learning activities and nutritious meals and operates a mobile soup kitchen for the homeless. SOJOURNERS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER works to provide neighborhood families with the tools needed for self-sufficiency and direction. The center provides a children's program, food distribution service, and job training.

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER has education programs for children and youth, emergency food distribution, and other support services and programs to fit the needs of the community around.

PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY

CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE advocates for a national health care program and initiates local efforts to end health care discrimination.

CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEE CENTER, founded by Salvadoran refugees, seeks the recognition and realization of the rights of Central American refugees.

CHICAGO NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR works to change U.S. policy in Central America through organizing grassroots lobbying of Congress and a boycott of Salvadoran coffee.

CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS researches and advocates policies to increase available low-income housing and reduce homelessness.

MARYLAND FOOD COMMITTEE lobbies to end hunger through advocacy, public education, and assistance to direct service providers.

MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORT NETWORK promotes understanding between the people of the United States and Mozambique, and works to end apartheid in South Africa.

SHELTERS

BAYARD HOUSE offers shelter, meals, medical care, nutritional counseling, and child birth preparation to pregnant young women.

BETHANY WOMEN'S CENTER is a daytime shelter for homeless women providing meals, clothing, arts and crafts, counseling and other programs.

CHRISTOPHER PLACE is a day and night shelter program for homeless men providing meals, showers, clothing, employment counseling and casework services.

DOROTHY DAY CENTER AND BRANCH III are day centers for the homeless offering meals, social services, education, counseling, and special events.

HANNAH HOUSE is a transitional shelter for former substance abusers which offers food, counseling and advocacy for women.

HARRIET TUBMAN SHELTER is a pre-treatment program providing shelter, meals, and counseling for women substance abusers.

HOPE HOUSE provides emergency shelter, advocacy for the homeless, a literacy program, and a protective payee program for the mentally ill.

HOUSE OF JOSEPH provides sleeping arrangements and meals for employed, homeless men.

LUTHER PLACE SHELTER is a shelter for homeless women, which offers food, shelter and support for its residents.

MARY MOTHER OF HOPE HOUSES I, II, AND III are all shelters for homeless women, some with children. They provide food and clothing, counseling and support.

MY SISTER'S PLACE & PARK AVENUE LODGE provides safe, comfortable day-time shelter for homeless women and also offers information, referral, and medical services.

PROJECT PLASE addresses both the needs of the homeless and the causes of homelessness through housing, direct services and advocacy work.

SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES provides temporary shelter, meals, and social services for homeless families and individuals.

SARAH HOUSE offers a home-like arrangement to homeless women recovering from addictions while providing preparation for employment, medical care and independent living.

SOJOURNER'S PLACE SHELTER is a drug and alcohol treatment facility that takes a holistic approach to the treatment and rehabilitation of chronically homeless men and women.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

ACADEMY OF HOPE is a school for low income adults who have not completed high school, offering classes from basic literacy training through high school equivalency exams preparation.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH is working actively to reach out into its neighborhood through a tutorial program, community organizing, a housing program, and positive activities for youth.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES seeks to prevent abuse by providing parent self-help groups, children's support groups, crisis intervention, and public education.

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY offers tutorial support to neighborhood elementary age children as well as structured homework lab, recreation, children/family activities and advocacy.

DEMICO YOUTH SERVICES is a community based organization which offers a variety of social services including youth and community development programs.

ENGLISH LEARNING CENTER provides ESL, math and GED classes for immigrants and refugees.

HOWARD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER-YOUTH PROGRAM provides much-needed structure and programming for neighborhood youth.

KALEIDOSCOPE offers educational, recreational, and multi-cultural programming to children in a safe, challenging, and nurturing environment.

KINSHIP OF GREATER MINNEAPOLIS matches volunteers to children ages 5-15 of single parent families for a long-term friendship.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY offers short-term foster care, medical care, education and hospitality to youth on the street.

SHALOM HIGH SCHOOL is an alternative high school, founded to meet the needs of students who were failing and dropping out of larger traditional schools in the city.

TEEN LIVING PROGRAMS helps homeless and exploited youth through life skills programs, self-esteem building, and tutoring.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

DC RAPE CRISIS CENTER offers counseling, support groups and educational programs for women and men dealing with the issues of sexual harassment and assault.

SOUTHWEST WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER works to protect woman's fundamental human rights, to expand her options for personal and economic development, and to help her to recognize her potential for herself and the community.



STATEMENT OF MISSION

for the

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

In response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps exists to preserve, nurture, and sustain life.

We believe that working for freedom and justice with those who are oppressed and caring for the earth give witness to Shalom in today's world. We bear this witness by serving congregations and organizations doing this work.

We believe that integrating faith and action is essential to wholeness. A vital part of this integration is exploring a simpler lifestyle, which links the inward and outward journeys and which bears witness to our commitment to the global community. We pledge to help each other grow spiritually, live simply, and do justice.

We believe that sharing life in intentional community provides a way to live justly in the world. We are committed to accepting and affirming diversity in community, working for healthy relationships, and living peaceably with all.

We believe that serving through LVC strengthens all involved for a lifetime of witness and leadership in the Church. We pledge to support the Church as it works for freedom and justice.

Approved 5/31/88