

In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, the mission of the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers is to invite young adults into a process of transformation through companionship with those who are poor and marginalized.

## Learning to build a life that is balanced

### Doing so requires coordinating all aspects of life

By Bailey Brashear  
CVV Year 22 Volunteer

**C**hallenge is something I have always sought, and adventures in new places have always cultivated the environment where challenges are plentiful. In order to grow personally, I recognize my need to be pushed outside my comfort zones and to be encouraged to strive to reach my potential. The houses on Pearl Street are full of community, faith development, stories from a day's work, and, certainly, challenge, offering the balance I need to make this house my new home.

Life in CVV is a balancing act of an intricate network of supportive challenges. My home now includes coffee shared around the breakfast table, days spent building caring relationships with people at work, evenings cooking meals alongside impromptu kitchen dances, and nights exploring topics of spirituality and simplicity.

Amidst all the juggling and balancing day-to-day, the intricacy of my new home extends much further than the walls of this house. Other challenges include balancing time, being present to the new relationships among my house mates while remaining connected to family and old friends. As hard as the practice of balancing life is, it is made easier when I



▲ Clara, left, a member at Senior Support Services, with Bailey Brashear.

can allow the authentic me to be vulnerably present in each and every moment, whether that is in a phone call telling of my day at work or in voicing my opinion during a house meeting.

During the first week in Denver, balance took shape as much figuratively as literally. Twenty feet high in the trees, I was harnessed and clinging for dear life to a platform; but even in fear, I managed to find myself laughing hysterically, muscles twitching, alongside my new house mate and now meaningful friend.

Regardless of the feelings of discomfort, we found balance leaning on one another, pushing each other further and supporting each other without limits. That prepared me for each challenging day to come. Now we as community fill our home with engaging dialogue, sharing our unique

**This community encourages me to build a home that is faithful, adventurous and dynamic.**

experiences of social injustice and broken systems. We laugh until we cry as we complete yet another puzzle with John Denver scratching softly from a record. Heck, just a month into living in Denver, my community challenged me just enough to complete a "14-er" (hiking one of the 14,000-foot peaks in the Rocky Mountains)!

Even when the house feels as though it is bursting at the seams with life, there is just enough room for more intricacy to be woven in. As we share this home we are building together, CVV alums, friends, and family bring balance to the joyful chaos, whether we are hosting loved ones for a long weekend, welcoming them to crowded conversations around the table, spending time as caring companions at work, or simply sharing Mass as a community of believers. Each of these experiences is emotionally, spiritually,

and physically woven together.

The physical address of my CVV home is 1732 Pearl St., but the work it takes to find balance in the interwoven experiences goes far beyond that. Whether I'm panting on a mountainside, crying tears of laughter at a challenge course, receiving postcards from old friends, or listening to a woman share her experiences in the shelter system, this community encourages me to build a home that can accommodate these challenges, a home that is faithful, adventurous and dynamic. A home that we continue to build together. ↑

*Bailey Brashear works at Senior Support Services.*

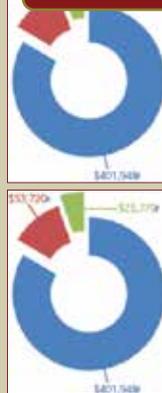
▼ Bailey Brashear, center, with the whole CVV 22 class.



### Inside

### Annual Report

These funny-looking graphs look more like donuts but they explain how we managed our year financially.





▲ Marco Ordoñez, second from left, with some of his Annunciation students.

## A humbling lesson

By Marco Ordoñez  
CVV Year 22 Volunteer

*'I will have traveled close to 1000 miles once I arrive at Denver ...'*

An interesting thought that occurred to me as I was leaving the skyscrapers that make up the concrete jungle that is Chicago:

*'I will be leaving the comfort of the familiar: Watching sunrises over Lake Michigan; people watching at Cloudgate and watching Chris Bryan line-drive a home run out of Wrigley Park!'*

Chicago. A place I called home for a part of my life. You see, I justified leaving all this and more behind for a year by telling myself that I will be making a greater impact in my work site than if I stayed in Chicago.

The thought originated from a good place but I later learned that I could not have been more wrong!

Working at Annunciation Catholic School made me realize how arrogant I was coming into this year. No matter how much I give to the school, I always end

up receiving much more.

For example, I wake up every morning around 6 o'clock and bike to work -- a humbling, two-mile bike ride that has really made me appreciate the morning dew as much as the cheery faces that I pass.

Every day at Annunciation is diverse.

I usually start in kindergarten, where Mrs. Leon-Lytle and Mrs. Brigida have worked so hard helping them transition into the classroom. Last week we were learning the alphabet and hearing their little voices in unison was heartwarming.

The second half of my day is usually spent helping the seventh- and eighth-grade science classes. Being a biochemistry major, I feel most useful in this environment.

As they enter the classroom, all they need is to be scientifically stimulated and instantly that eureka moment is accompanied with an eager raised hand. It is comforting to see the eyes of the scientists of tomorrow light up with fervor and interest.

And yet, the most meaningful part of my day is lunch and recess duty. This is the part of the day that consists of miniature kindergarten hands dribbling a basketball half their size, or 12- and 13-year-old boys and girls hiding their feelings by

teasing each other.

It is here where the students feel comfortable enough with me to disclose certain hurts in their lives. Two weeks ago, a young boy of 7 told me a story about walking into his father's bedroom after he had committed suicide. My jaw dropped and I was immediately filled with sympathy. But before I could say anything, he took off running ... smiling and chasing a few girls around the gym.

It was then that I realized that most of these kids are hurting inside, whether they show it or not. And yet, they are not consumed by it.

Annunciation is in the Cole neighborhood, one of the most ethnically diverse and sometimes dangerous parts of Denver, where daily shootings are normal and the struggle for food is real.

This is where they live, their reality. And they make a home here at Annunciation, running in the gym, learning in science class, sharing their lives on the playground. Here they feel at home, safe. Life doesn't stop for a moment; rather they and I wholeheartedly keep stepping, one foot in front of the other, into our futures. ✚

Marco Ordoñez works at Annunciation School.

## Learning to live simply is all-day prayer

By Anna Lawler  
CVV Year 22 Volunteer

As I stepped into the WOHO backyard on August 6 I was completely unprepared for the immensely intense spiritual journey I was entering into.

In the process of discerning my place at CVV I knew that I would be living in a community committed to deepening and supporting individual and communal spiritual growth, but I wasn't sure what that was going to look like.

In the opening days of orientation the presence of prayer was evident, but I was curious to see how as a community we would delve deeper into our spirituality. Trusting the process and letting myself go freely and openly into this beginning experience is at times a challenge.

However I have found that one of the best ways to challenge my spirituality is to do activities

with my community members.

Sometimes this means going to Mass together on Sunday mornings or taking time to go to yoga with another. I best challenge my spirituality when I witness how others are challenging their own spirituality.

Particularly when I witness my community members' actions and prayer styles, I am challenged to approach my faith life, my prayer life differently.

Never before have I arrived at Mass and taken the extra time in the beginning before Mass to pray. In my family this is the time where we talk to those around us or with one another, but in witnessing my community members center themselves before Mass in prayer, I decided to try this.

Since then I have found that I am more attentive and aware during Mass in a way that I was missing before.

Another way in which I hope to challenge my spiritual life is through greater and deeper practices of simplicity. In listening and speaking with Jennifer (a woman in the Denver Catholic Worker Community who shared her view of prayer and simplicity), I was drawn to her idea of simplistic detachment: physically, emotionally, spiritually detaching yourself from objects, topics, or anything that is blocking you from loving more.

In entering into this year I have already found myself detaching from the things that prevent me from creating more space for God's presence. I have allowed myself to step away from habits that close me off and to limit the physical items in my life so that I may be present to my community, my work, and my relationship with God.

I am still not sure how I am going to prioritize my faith and



▲ Anna Lawler, left, with her prayer family.

spirituality especially as our day-to-day routines become increasingly busier, but I am excited to surrender myself to simplistic detachment, to new limits, to the process of the journey. ✚

Anna Lawler works at Lutheran Family Services.



Kaela (CVV21) working at the Grow Haus.



Nancy and Jeanette (Kaela's mom and grandma)



Heart and Soul Concert, June 2016 with Okee Okee Brothers



Volunteers worked full-time in 18 worksites, including Kristen, right, at Senior Support Services

## Annual Report

**P**icture if you will a small chapel in a public hospital filled with 19 companions of a young woman, Kaela, filling that room with

tears and hope and pleading. And in the hospital room a few yards away, Kaela was filling us with her lessons of living and dying as fully as she could, fighting for life, but yielding to

the God who had called her to fight for justice.

Picture a man who is homeless, Gary, who finds a place to sleep on the sidewalk between our two houses. Gary arrived to give us a hug and to say, "I'm so sorry about your friend. I want you to know I'm thinking about her."

Picture a mom and grandma, seeing Kaela fighting for her life, a mom and grandma who came into our hearts because family is where Kaela first learned who she is and who she was called to be. A mom and grandma who knew that God was and is in the midst of all of this tragedy.

Picture a dad, two sisters and two brothers who love Kaela. A dad who shared, "I can't think of a single person I've met with Kaela's strength of character and her selflessness."

And picture those 19 young adults joined by a church filled with other young adults, CVV alumni and friends, prayer families, supervisors, coworkers, donors, board members -- all came to honor Kaela and her

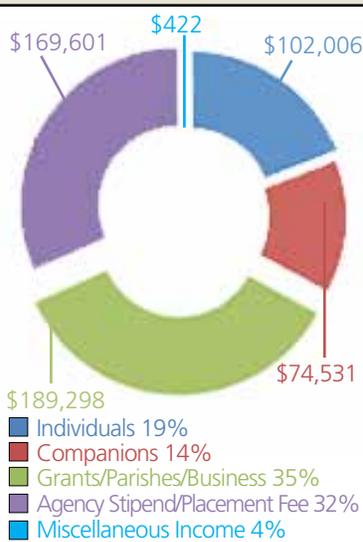
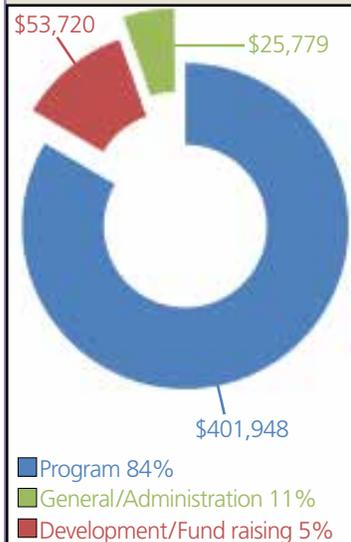
choice to love God with her whole heart, whole soul, whole mind, giving up everything to follow God's call.

It is hard to imagine a community of love. It is unimaginable to put into words what it meant for that community to lose a young volunteer who died by a terrible bicycle-truck accident. And it is mystery to know of God's love in the midst of all of this. That's what we all experienced as the CVV community this past year.

This is a picture of a community that responds to a mission of transformation – transformation that happens through companionship those who are marginalized, through community life, through reflection and prayer, through the vision that keeps hope alive. This CVV community lives in deep gratitude for all who embrace that same vision and who keep hope alive for us.

Gratefully,

*Bill and Mary Frances Jester*



These numbers include 20 volunteers in Direct Service to 18 local agencies, Volunteers' Community (housing, food, insurance, travel, miscellaneous); Spirituality (retreats, workshops, border immersion, etc.)

Colorado Vincentian Volunteers receives financial support from many sources. Thank you for companioning CVV. A large portion of the excess income came from a grant for new roofs at 1732-1738 Pearl St.



Escondido, California is home for **Bailey Brashear**, who graduated from Creighton University with a degree in Psychology. It's so heartwarming to know that Bailey is so zealous about working with seniors. That makes Senior Support Services the perfect

place for her to learn and to serve this year. Maybe it's her red hair (but most likely much deeper than that), but Bailey has a "sunny glow" about her that draws us in, reflected here in her own words.

***"Being optimistic allows us all to face obstacles knowing we are better than our inherent weaknesses."***



**Kristina DeMeis** joins us from Staten Island, N.Y. Kristina's open and honest sharing encourages others to do so as well. She brings her great New York "tell-it-like-it-is" attitude to community and to her work with seniors and with children at three sites of Archdiocesan Housing. She graduated from St. John's University in N.Y. with a degree in Sociology.

***"To embody simplicity means to remain honest and discrete in everything I say and do."***



**Brigid Demko** arrived here from Kulpmont, Pa. via N.Y., where she attended Syracuse University, majoring in Advertising and minoring in Anthropology. She is working at Mount St. Vincent's with children who have behavioral and emotional challenges due to mental illness, trauma, abuse, or neglect. Brigid's ability to empathize and to show compassion will touch the lives of these children and her community.

***"I was reminded again that self-less action is the only way forward."***



Arrupe Jesuit High School is pleased to have **Sammy Eckrich**, who received her degree in Biological Research from Loras College in Iowa, a state she also calls home. Sammy's work is with economically disadvantaged students involved in college-prep education.

Sammy is reflective and very intentional about her life journey, offering her community a caring spirit.

***"Each of my life experiences is God nurturing my small seed-of-a-soul."***



It's always great to have a nurse in our community, and this year, **Mackenzie (Mack) Feehan** has already offered her expertise. Mack is seeing low-income and homeless patients at the Stout Street Clinic. Her home is Brewster, N.Y., and her nursing degree is from Boston College. Mack is a risk-taker who shares a great light-heartedness with us at CVV.

***"Seeing and feeling something that was deeper and more powerful than myself in the relationships that formed throughout the year introduced me to a new way of looking at the world."***

## Twenty volunteers



**Kalyn Flierl** is a positive person who truly wants to deepen her faith. She brings great listening skills to her work at Metro Caring, a food resource center in the heart of Denver. Kalyn's intentionality about life and learning is a great gift to all as this community integrates their encounters with those in the margins into their spirituality and their future lives. Kalyn studied Social Work at Creighton University and she calls Denver her home. ***"Throughout my time working and serving my eyes have been opened to the complexity of our world and the issues we all face."***



**Abby Fritsch** joins us from Fairfield, Ohio. She studied Health Services Administration at Xavier University. Abby understands learning from many perspectives, having spent time in Uganda which helped to form her. Her sense of humor and her active nature contribute to a community in action. She is working at The Gathering Place with women experiencing homelessness. ***"I'm a firm believer in the concept of teaching a person to fish, not just feeding them. If any progress is to be made, the support we give others has to be sustainable."***



St. Francis Center is pleased to have **Nolan Goubeaux** as a Vincentian Volunteer this year. Nolan is a grounded person whose awareness of others is evident in his hospitable approach to each relationship. He leads by example. Nolan is from Cody, Wyo., and he received a degree in Communications and a Master's in Public Administration and Environment from the University of Wyoming.

***"It is easy to become caught up in tasks and neglect being a light for others, which is often the best gift you can give."***



**Katherine Hayes** is a great addition to the group. Having grown up in Minnesota, studied in Chicago and Kentucky, Katherine has lived in different cities, and is now ready and willing to embrace all that is before her in Denver, including her work at Dominican Home Health Agency. Katherine has a servant heart and a simplicity that helps her to embrace her work and each person she encounters with reverence. ***"Relationships can be as short as a greeting and as long as a lifelong friend. Heart is what people give to the situations that they are placed in."***



Gahanna, Ohio has been home for **Brian Igel**, and he attended Xavier University where he studied Theology and Philosophy. His understanding and passion for social justice serve him well at Denver Urban Matters, where he responds to his and their mission of meeting basic needs and increasing self-sufficiency. He definitely has a lighter side and loves to joke with others in his community.

***"Many people are dehumanized by systems of oppression and power; therefore, it is our responsibility to restore them to be human again and recognize the face of God within them."***



## ... CVV Year 21!



Anna Lawler came to CVV from Wilmette, Ill., and she majored in Theology and Religious Studies at John Carroll University. Anna has a deep desire to give all that she can, and has already jumped into her work at Lutheran Family Services with both feet. She works with refugees there and is learning much about the crisis we face today. Her enthusiasm and generosity are contagious.

***"I try to make sure God is at the center of all my actions. I try to let God inspire my actions and my words."***



Sewall Child Development Center is the site for Maggie Loughran, who studied Communications and English at Loyola Marymount. Maggie is from Astoria, Ore., and is at home with the children at Sewall.

Maggie is joyful, playful and simple, all qualities needed for being with preschoolers during the day and her CVV community in the evenings. One of her values is love, as she interpreted what she heard from a spiritual mentor.

***"If this love is a movement, and I believe it is, it should not remain stagnant, but rather should be shared freely with the world."***



The GrowHaus responds to a specific neighborhood, and Miranda Madrid is sharing her education in Environmental Science with that community. Her degree is from Notre Dame, but she calls Fort Worth, Texas her home. Miranda's quiet presence and reflective nature contribute depth to her interactions with others. She enjoys simple things in life like drinking a cup of tea or reading a good book.

***"Reminding people of the hope and beauty that exist in this world will fuel the generations moving forward to seek justice at all costs."***



Theresa Marten joins CVV from Lombard, Ill., via Nativity House, a Catholic Worker House in Illinois. She studied English and Theology at Lewis University in Illinois. So coming to Colorado and working with youth experiencing homelessness at Urban Peak is a

new leg of her journey, one that will continue to support her passion for justice. Theresa shares great enthusiasm and joy with her community. ***"I believe laughter and a fun attitude is what can bring strangers together, help make terrible situations manageable, and a way for us to express our joy."***



Annunciation School is a great place for Marco Ordoñez, who enjoys sharing his cultural heritage with children from several cultural backgrounds. Recent home for Marco is Woodstock, Ill., and he received a degree in Biochemistry from Loyola in Chicago. Marco's

sociable nature and willingness to listen to many perspectives offer gifts and insight to his community. ***"I believe one of life's purposes is to be of service; whether that is through our actions, the fulfillment of favors or to be responsive to our friends/family, we are meant "to do" and serve those around us."***



Shrewsbury, Mass. has been home to Teresa Ryan, who recently graduated with a degree in Psychology from Anna Maria College in Massachusetts. Teresa's work is with people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities at Laradon. Her sensitive and inquisitive nature leads her to seek her own full potential as she helps those at Laradon seek theirs. And if you hear someone singing praise songs, it just might be Teresa.

***"I believe that it's all about love and showing that to everyone and anyone, loving them where they are and really acting like Christ."***



Molly Seifert is from Lisle, Ill., and she studied Biology at John Carroll University. She now works at the Stout Street Clinic, serving in many capacities. Among Molly's gifts are thoughtfulness, responsibility and a hard-working nature. She listens attentively and responds from an inner quiet place.

***"Loyalty strengthens relationships especially if it's reciprocated by both parties. Loyalty promotes trust and lets people know you'll be there for them."***



Having graduated from John Carroll University with a major in Biochemistry, Emily Seiter has decided to bring together her science background and love of kids by working with children at Guardian Angels school. We and they will most often find Emily smiling and excited about work, about community, and about life, great gifts to share as she embarks on this year of learning more about herself. She is from Victor, N.Y.

***"Experiences have shown me that although people may be materialistically poor, they have been the most welcoming, generous and kind people I have come to know."***



Wausau, Wis., is home for River Simpson, who studied Psychology and Anthropology at Loyola in Chicago before coming to Denver. River's leadership abilities rest in his empathy for those he companions. This will serve him well as he tends to the needs of youth seeking alternative education through Urban Peak. It's good to take the time to listen to some of River's unique insights.

***"Faith gives me hope in a better tomorrow, empowers me to act to achieve that better tomorrow, and consoles me when I fail in that endeavor."***



Strong motivation drives Beauclarine Thomas to do the work of CVV. She is a determined and strong young woman whose belief in justice for all contributes to her work at the Harm Reduction Action Center. Beauclarine was born in Liberia but has lived in Mounds View, Minn. for many years. Her degree is in International Studies from DePaul University in Chicago. ***"My experiences working with those marginalized have led me to a greater understanding of the human condition and pushed me to do more justice."***

## Update: CVVers Year 21



Front row, L to R: Lynne, Gianna, Chuck, Coleen, Michelle, Alex, Kristen, Katharine, Clare, Kate, Karli, Loren. Rear: Kaela, Jess, Mary, Tommy, Cat, Natalie, Brian, Alison

By Lynne Bauman  
CVV Year 21 Volunteer

Each year, CVVers are asked to share in the lives of the marginalized, to walk with people who have experienced unimaginable trauma, poverty and isolation. To witness so much raw, real suffering was uncomfortable, unsettling and often heartbreaking.

However, it was through this that God began to build a community unlike any I have experienced. Through kitchen dance parties and games of *Mafia*, community meals and spirituality nights, weekend hikes and retreats in the mountains, the Holy Spirit

brought us into authentic and true relationships with each other that brought forth so much joy. These are the people who walked with me through so many real moments of vulnerability. Even though we no longer live on Pearl Street, my community members continue to inspire me:

- Still in Denver, **Ms. Mary** teaches 5th grade at Annunciation and **Kate** leads Fine Arts classes at Laradon. **Tommy** continues to accompany the guests at St. Francis Center, **Chuck** brings his nursing skills to University Hospital, and **Brian** ministers to students at Regis University. **Gianna** is also in the campus

ministry world, but our Colorado gal took herself all the way to St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. **Karli** just wrapped up working at The Gathering Place and joins **Clare** (currently a barista!) in the Denver job search. **Natalie** and **Allison** work at the Juvenile Assessment Center and at National Jewish Health, respectively, and are roommates with **Katharine**, who decided she just didn't get enough of CVV last year and fills the large shoes of Katie Cassady on staff. Despite the inevitable panic that will overwhelm the CVV22 cooks when all these people show up unannounced for a Monday night Mass and dinner, I'm sure they'll realize how lucky they are to have so many of our community so close.

The rest of us are all over: **Alex**, **Michelle**, and **Kristen** are back in the classroom as students (medical school/social work/pastoral ministry). **I'm** back in Indiana with my family, coaching a 7th grade volleyball team, attending as many Notre Dame football games as possible, and tutoring while I discern where my next steps will take me. In New York, **Loren** serves families and children as a Family Specialist as **Coleen** continues to be the sweetest nurse you'll ever meet. **Aunt Cat** enjoys quality time in the Midwest with her family and friends before seeking a job in adult education. **Jess** returned to a farm in Georgia and serves refugee families, no doubt sharing her passion for the earth as well as for ketchup. Finally, I believe **Kaela** is watching over all of us with a big smile on her face, winking as we continue to discover all the ways that God has shaped us through each other this past year. ✦

## Jackpot: Roommates share joy and pain

By Kalyn Flierl  
CVV Year 22 Volunteer

**D**enver is not a new place for me. I was born here, my family lives here and these streets hold many cherished memories.

The CVV community is one of a kind and has already made Denver all the more special to me. I am so honored to be a part of a community of young adults who each hold a unique set of gifts, interests and life experiences; yet share a common purpose of being in solidarity with those who are poor and marginalized.

I hope that everyone has the opportunity in their life time to experience a community like this: Authentic, intentional relationships that take time and are risky. The vulnerability required to enter into such friendships is not as common in society as I believe it should be.

Rather, we are taught to be individualistic and fight for our own wellbeing. However,



Kalyn at Metro Caring Hunger Prevention Organization

the Bible tells us that we are made to be in community and it is community that helps us to grow and develop.

To become who we are supposed to be, we must submit ourselves to others and become inter-dependent on one other for support in the struggle that we call Life.

Real friends are those who believe in what we are becoming and encourage

us to dive deeper into our passions and appreciate the present moment.

What is special about the CVV community is that we are all experiencing different situations at our individual work sites but we share a common reality of sorrow and heartache for the pain and struggles that exist in the lives of those we meet. Coming home to a group of individuals who can support

you through that is a blessing, one that I appreciate.

Our lives this year may be challenging but they are also unbelievably rewarding for it is not all serious here in the CVV community. From exploring Denver, to community meals, to outdoor concerts, to hiking mountains, to volleyball games in the park, to spirituality nights, to movie marathons and much more; we have so much fun that there are days that I feel as though I hit the jackpot and am dreaming.

Not many can say that they live with nine other people who make them laugh and inspire them to be better versions of themselves every day. This home is one of warmth and pure joy.

I truly believe that providence has brought us together and I am unbelievably happy it did. We are an eclectic group of individuals and my heart is full because the love is palpable in this place. ✦

*Kalyn Flierl works at Metro Caring*

# Helping all people find a place that is safe and accepting

By Abby Fritsch  
CVV Year 22 Volunteer

Everything about this year encompasses newness for me. From the beautiful landscapes of Colorado, to the intentionality behind community living, to budgeting, or being far away from home, familiarities are few and far between.

With a background in health care and most of my volunteer work in domestic and international education, even my work site embraces a new social justice issue for me.

The Gathering Place is a day shelter offering services that address the systemic and daily needs of the population we serve. There I serve as a Resource Advocate with others on the Community Access Team (CAT – we like to call ourselves the kitties).

An important question to ask oneself is, ‘Why do you do the work that you do?’

As homelessness is a new issue of interest for me, I have been asking ‘Why?’ quite often. Why is it that we receive 10-20 new members a day? Why have some women been here for years? And why am I so lucky?

I love my work site. I get to interact with



Abby Fritsch at The Gathering Place with one of the members she serves.

the women constantly and there’s something new going on every day, in an environment that incorporates community and acceptance. The welcoming and safe environment is one of the most influential aspects of my work site. We call the people who receive our services “members,” rather than a term that creates separation between us. We don’t allow men on the property so all the members can have a safe place to be for the day without fear of domestic violence.

It’s a place free of drug and alcohol temptations, which for some is essential to their survival. We call members the pronouns they want to be called, rather than the labels that society gives them.

And most importantly we offer services that can change their days and lives. Working at TGP for just a month caused me to reflect on the daily needs that I’ve taken for granted – taking a shower at will, transportation to the doctor, affordability of feminine hygiene products, and even having a mailing address.

It’s satisfying to know that TGP as an organization works to respond to those needs and to create systemic changes in combating homelessness by offering counseling,

lawyers, GED classes, and a social enterprise through their art programming.

Despite the love I have for the organization, days can be exhausting. With homelessness, come many mental health issues and a natural tendency to be aggressive and defensive. My patience is tested and sometimes I want to snap back when a member is rude. However, I try to walk in their shoes, or lack thereof ironically, and embrace empathy. But what outshines the frustrations is when a member shares that she was offered a job or the joy on one’s face when she realizes she won the lottery for a week’s stay in a night shelter. Roles are reversed when a member says to me, “Hey you’re new. Welcome to The Gathering Place.” This brings a smile to my face. Yes, what outshines the frustration is sincere gratitude for services, or a member simply saying, “Hey, thanks for coming in to work today.” There’s no place I’d rather be than The Gathering Place, doing the work I was called to do. ⬆

*Abby Fritsch works at The Gathering Place.*

## Introducing: CVV Year 22

Abby Fritsch	Fairfield, OH	The Gathering Place	Mackenzie Feehan	Brewster, NY	Stout Street Clinic
Anna Lawler	Wilmette, IL	Lutheran Family Services	Maggie Loughran	Astoria, OR	Sewall Child Development
Bailey Brashear	Escondido, CA	Senior Support Services	Marco Ordoñez	Woodstock, IL	Annunciation School
Beauclarine Thomas	Mounds View, MN	Harm Reduction Center	Miranda Madrid	Fort Worth, TX	GrowHaus
Brian Igel	Gahanna, OH	Denver Urban Matters	Molly Seifert	Lisle, IL	Stout Street Clinic
Brigid Demko	Manhasset, NY	Mount St. Vincent’s	Nolan Goubeaux	Twin Falls, ID	St. Francis Center
Emily Seiter	Victor, NY	Guardian Angels School	River Simpson	Chicago, IL	Urban Peak GED
Kalyn Flierl	Newport Beach, CA	Metro Caring	Sammy Eckrich	Solon, IA	Arrupe Jesuit High School
Katherine Hayes	Westlake, OH	Dominican Home Health	Teresa Ryan	Shresbury, MA	Laradon Hall
Kristina DeMeis	Staten Island, NY	Archdiocesan Housing	Theresa Marten	Lombard, IL	Urban Peak

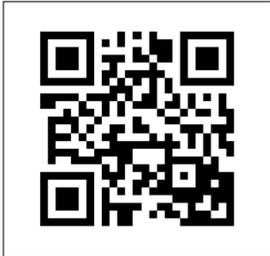
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**Colorado Vincentian Volunteers** EST. 1994

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"Only the Spirit of God, dwelling in your sacred person, could unite justice with charity."

St. Vincent dePaul

**Thank you!**

CVV is so grateful to:

- ☞ Summer cleaning crew **Diane, Lorie, Margaret and Annie**
- ☞ **Board of Directors** and committee members, **Heart and Soul Planning Committee**
- ☞ Monthly and individual **donors, coupon clippers** from the summer mailing and **anonymous donors**
- ☞ **Prayer Families** who pray for each volunteer
- ☞ **Spiritual directors**
- ☞ Building repair crew **Rick and Dan**
- ☞ **Melanie Simonet and Julie Hutchinson**, graphic arts and design.
- ☞ Spinelli's Market
- ☞ Wheat Ridge Cyclery bike repairmen
- ☞ **Egan Family Printing**
- ☞ **Janet Johnson, John Oldani and Blue Ribbon Home Warranty**
- ☞ **MaggieGeorge Foundation**
- ☞ **Donald Lynch Family Foundation**
- ☞ **Priscoll Foundation**
- ☞ **Parishioners and staff at Good Shepherd, Holy Family, Most Precious Blood, St. Elizabeth of Hungry, Spirit of Christ, St. Frances Cabrini,**

**St. Thomas More, St. Joe's Golden, St. Vincent DePaul, St. Dominic, St. Jude**

- ☞ **Franciscans of the Holy Name Province**
- ☞ **May Bonfils Memorial Trust**
- ☞ **Andy and Lisa Nowak**
- ☞ **Raskob Foundation**



**Needs:**  
Regular family coffee pot  
Food processor



Special thanks to **Katie Cassidy!** Katie has decided to spend time at home with their beautiful little girls, Hannah and Bridget, after working with us for five years! What a gift Katie has been to us! You can check out her wonderful reflection on our Facebook Alum blog! Not to worry ... she and Joel are still around and they will definitely be involved. Thanks, Katie!



Katie Cassidy

Welcome to **Katharine Montemurri**, our newest staff person. Katharine served as a CVVolunteer at Lutheran Family Services last year and is acting as Community Coordinator for one of our houses this year.



Katharine Montemurri

She grew up in Michigan and graduated from Marquette in Wisconsin, and she brings great organizational skills along with her passion for working with young adults! We are happy to have her with us!

**Carla Frenzel** has served CVV well in so many ways, and she is now leaving our Board of Directors. Luckily, we don't have to say good-bye to her. Rather, we'll still enjoy her pickles, her banana bread, her prayers and her great insights in new ways! Thanks, Carla. And welcome to our newest Board members: **Isabel Sanchez**, from GrowHaus, who is representing our agencies; **Kara Schmitt**, an alum and Consulting Partner for Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change; **Nikki Murillo** an alum and Educational Counselor for Denver Kids. We are excited for the ways they will add their voices to our wonderful Board of Directors.



*Bill and Mary Frances Jaster*