



At A Glance

Headquartered in Baltimore, MD, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national non-profit organization with regional programs in major metropolitan areas across the country. IVC is men and women, most age 50 and better, sharing their skills, talents, and life experiences with organizations that directly assist people who are poor, or address issues related to poverty. Ignatian Volunteers serve people in need, work for a more just society, and grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

The organization was founded in 1995 when two Jesuit priests, Jim Conroy, SJ, and Charlie Costello, SJ, gathered a small group of retired men and women right here in Washington, DC to explore ways to minister to those who were materially poor while also gaining spiritual growth through service.

*Chair, Board of Directors: Chuck Krambuhl
Executive Director: Mary McGinnity*

The IVC Difference

What makes the Ignatian volunteer opportunity different from others?
The reflection experience.

Ignatian Volunteers are guided through a reflection process based on The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. This process helps Volunteers discover the deeper meaning of the work they do, and to see Christ more clearly as they labor among their brothers and sisters who are poor. Reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition — individually and communally — deepens the experience of service, and is a unique feature of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

Volunteers reflect on their service experience by:

- Keeping a journal
- Meeting individually each month with a spiritual reflector
- Meeting as a community each month with local Ignatian Volunteers
- Gathering periodically throughout the year for an overnight retreat or day of reflection

From Experience to Service:

How We Do Our Work

Ignatian Volunteer Corps taps into the nation's greatest resource – women and men age 50 and better. Although IVC is a national organization, volunteers deliver its program locally by working in their own communities.

Community organizations commit to a partnership with IVC, providing meaningful service opportunities for Ignatian Volunteers and supporting the IVC program through a modest annual administrative fee. These partnerships help ensure that IVC's unique program of service and spirituality will continue and grow for years to come.

"Our partnership with IVC has been a tremendous blessing to Friendship Place. We'd be hard-pressed to find a volunteer with (Tom's) level of expertise elsewhere, and we couldn't afford to pay for the help he gives us. His contribution helps us serve more than 400 homeless men and women a year on a shoestring budget."

Jean-Michel Giraud
Executive Director
Community Council for the
Homeless at Friendship Place
Washington, D.C

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Volunteer Opportunities

The Ignatian Volunteer experience is ideal for women and men that are retired or semi-retired and desire to make use of their gifts, talents, and experience in service to others. Ignatian Volunteers commit to serve two days a week for 10 months a year. Volunteers spend their time working at local service sites for community organizations also known as IVC partners. These organizations either provide direct service for people who are materially poor or work to address the structures that affect people who are poor.

Ignatian Volunteers tutor, advance literacy skills, help find jobs and housing, provide healthcare and companionship, and work to overcome poverty. They may also engage in counseling, administrative tasks, fund-raising, and more. Care is taken in matching a volunteer's talents to an organization's needs, but often volunteers discover and develop new skills when they choose to work at projects unrelated to their former job experience.

According to a recent study, "The Impact of Service on Spirituality: A Survey of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps," conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, IVC is making a real difference not only to the people and organizations it serves, but also to its volunteers. In fact 93% of the volunteers surveyed stated that they feel they are spending their retirement in a fulfilling way while 89% said they feel that they are making a difference in peoples' lives.

Financial Support

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) depends on individuals, corporations, and foundations to support Ignatian Volunteers working in community agencies and programs that provide housing and shelter, emergency assistance, education, child care, immigrant and refugee services, healthcare, hospice care, counseling, job training, and personal support to children, families, and adults who are poor and marginalized.

IVC spends \$4,500 per volunteer per year to recruit, train, place, and support Ignatian Volunteers. And IVC currently has 279 volunteers working at 203 community partner organizations. These men and woman provide 153,000 hours of service each year at a value of \$3.4 million*— a definite high return for donor dollars! (**hourly rate courtesy of Independent Sector*)

Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and accepts donations by check or cash as well as estate and stock gifts. To donate to IVC, please go to our website: www.ivcusa.org or call the national office at 888-831-4686.

Our Regional Offices

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a growing national organization with regional programs in 16 major metropolitan areas across the country. IVC's regional offices are located in Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New England, New York, Northern Virginia, Omaha, Philadelphia, San Diego, St. Louis, Syracuse, and Washington, D.C./Metro Maryland.

For More Information

For more information, please call (410) 752-4686 or (888) 831-4686 or visit www.ivcusa.org.

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