



Franciscan Community Volunteers

1600 11th Avenue S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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Did you know?

Over the past four years, a total of 21 young adults have served as Franciscan Community Volunteers here in the St. Cloud area. Those FCVs have served in 15 nonprofit organizations, donating approximately 28,000 hours together in their service positions. Wow!

Franciscan Community Volunteers

4 years

21 young adults

15 non-profit organizations

28,000 hours of service

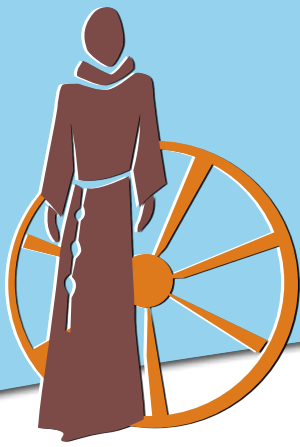


Catholic Volunteer Network



Together AmeriCorps and the Catholic Volunteer Network declare a National Day of Service over the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. As CVN AmeriCorps members, Franciscan Community Volunteers honored this group service day together on January 26. They worked with other community groups at Kids Against Hunger of Central Minnesota. The goal was to pack 100,000 meals for kids in Jamaica, which was accomplished with the help of 160 people throughout the day. The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls generously donated funds that helped pay for some of the food that was packaged for this event. What a meaningful way to serve together!

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Franciscan Community Volunteers

February 2013

Connecting names to homelessness

Philip Lomneth, 2012-2013 Franciscan Community Volunteer

I am cold. My toes are numb and my face feels frozen. No matter how much I try to warm my hands, the cold makes them ache just to move. And yet, I am fortunate. No, more than fortunate. I walk in silence with over a hundred people and carry the name of David, 53, North St Paul. People doing their Christmas shopping downtown pause and look at this strange parade of silent, frozen faces carrying the memory of all the people without a home who died in the past year.

We marched for at least an hour and a half, a pale-faced, larger than life puppet leading us forward, announcing our presence to all those around. When first seeing the figure, people seemed excited, but the longer they looked and as they read the names, the faces of excitement turned solemn. Some people looked away or rushed to pass us by; others could not stop staring. As we walked, a person would occasionally thank us or begin crying at what they saw. Did they know someone? A friend? A sister? A brother? Themselves? At one point, I heard two men debating: was this real? Did that many people in homelessness really die in Minnesota? Look how long the line is. No, Minnesota is a rich state...



Kaitlin Depuydt, Shannon Hagerty, Lisa Yanzer, Philip Lomneth, Sister Joanne Klinnert and Kristine Origone prepare for the 28th annual Homeless Memorial March on December 20 in Minneapolis.

Did that many people in homelessness really die in Minnesota? But Minnesota is a rich state. Look how long the line is. Yes, well over a hundred people without homes or who were formerly homeless died in Minnesota this past year. Yes, Minnesota is a wealthy state. But look at how many people are left out of that wealth.

So now what? I marched with people to raise awareness about homelessness in Minnesota, but the problem still exists. I still walk down the street and see people without

homes, shelters are still far too full, and far, far too many people have no safe place to live. So what can I do about it?

Whenever I approach this question, I always feel the answer is twofold. The first part I can answer best with Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." The problem of homelessness demands immediate action, demands that we give directly

(continued on page 3)

How to build a Minnesota snowman: A reflection by a California-native FCV

Kristine Origone, 2012-2013 Franciscan Community Volunteer

The creation of a Minnesota snowman was much different from anything I have experienced from the central valley out in California. After 11 inches of snow fell in December, Shannon, Andy (her boyfriend) and I decided to go out and make a snowman. As we put on our snow gear, Andy asked, "Have you ever made a snowman coming from California?" Of course I had, as we often traveled just a few hours north to Lake Tahoe. As we entered the backyard, I finished putting on my water proof gloves, of which I had to borrow (insight to my level of preparedness), and began my way toward the center of the yard. Looking up I saw Shannon diving into the ground. "Wow!" I thought, "She must really like the snow!" Her hands crushed the snow in front of her as she crawled toward the center. Seeing her excitement, I could share in this joy, but I turned to Andy and asked, "What is she doing?" He so plainly responded, "Making a snowman— didn't you say you've done it before?"

Not quite understanding, I looked up to find some kind of clarity, when a giant ball preceded Shannon as she crawled along the grass, the snow disappearing. "What?!" I was in awe! Not quite processing this new concept, I had to verbally ask... "Did she roll that?" Yes, roll it she did! My mind flashed through all the cartoons which depicted this scene, but I dismissed as the accuracy of Hollywood. Completely entertained by this new concept, I recorded the act as evidence. The ball was huge! I could not believe it, and once at the center of the yard, they started all over for the second level. Though this one we had to lift onto the first. "Well, being snow," I thought... "no problem!" as the 11 inches we received equated to a mere inch of rain. I could lift this much in ice, or probably water, but how wrong I was! We rolled this snow ball up Shannon's back and pushed it onto the first giant ball. Then finally the smallest "little" ball on top.

In sharing my very different



California-native Kristine Origone now knows all about snowman-making, thanks to her community!

experience with making a much smaller snowman, I was educated on the variance of snow... the hard and clumpy kind won't stick together, the soft and slushy kind will just melt right away. I don't know that I will be able to identify the perfect snowman-making snow, but my education and extensive display of various snow forms has me wondering each day: "Is this the right kind of snow?"

Save the date

Taste OF ST. CLOUD



Monday

May 6, 2013

4:30–7:30PM

Tickets: \$25
(\$30 at the door)

We are collecting empty baskets for silent auction items for this May event. Please save and donate baskets to us if you are able.

Ways you can support the FCVs "Taste of St. Cloud":

- Purchase tickets online at www.fcvonline.org
- Invite friends or family to join you at the event
- See if your employer will become a sponsor or can donate silent auction items
- Create a themed basket of items for the silent auction



FCV Philip Lomneth and Site Supervisor Anne Buckvold of GRIP/ISAIAH, the Great River Interfaith Partnership. GRIP is working on the *Our Faith Our Future* campaign with 19 area churches. A recent retreat for members of those parishes used this statement in gathering people of faith for this campaign. "People of faith are recognizing that our polarized and divisive politics have paralyzed us and the fabric of our community is at risk. It is time to reclaim our values and begin to move from divisiveness to working together and healing."



In an effort to save energy resources, all the windows in the FCV community houses get an extra layer for the winter. (Pictured at left) FCV Kristine Origone and Welcoming House handyman Stan McElhone finish the clean-up from the window project.

Many Thanks to FCV Donors for financial support since our last newsletter!

Bob Barni
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Connecting names, continued

and exactly that which people need. Yes, it is as simple as that.

The second answer to what you and I must do requires another question. It requires us to ask why people are homeless in the first place. The answer to that question is as multifaceted as the people in homelessness, but that does not mean we can shy away from it. There are structures we participate in that keep people in homelessness, and we are called to change those systems. I do not believe we can nor we should change those structures on our own. I believe it a matter of pride to think that we can do so alone. If we wish to change the structures in our community that push people down, then we must join with other people to push back for change. Groups, such as the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, work to address issues like affordable housing that directly affect people in homelessness. And several other organizations here work to address structural poverty and inequity. If we truly wish to live in a more just world, I believe we must collaborate with these groups of people to bring about justice. If we won't stand for one more person dying on the streets, if we want to stand for God's justice, then we must stand alongside other people.

Some of the 160 names that were submitted of those who have died while homeless in Minnesota in the past year.

