



Vincetian Service Corps-Central

A Year of Service Makes a Lifetime of Difference

Fall 2009

VSC-Central

Meet the 2009-2010 VSC Volunteers



Aisa

My father, mother, 16 year old sister, 19 year old brother and both sets of grandparents are the reason I am here. It was their great examples of a spirit of service that has taught me to love greatly, search for God in the places the world deems unworthy for God to dwell and to answer God's call to service. Thank you to my family—I love you!

I decided to do a year of service because I felt God call. I hope to grow deeper in my relationship with myself and with God. I want to follow the broad footsteps that Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II have left for us and make them my own. I want to find and see Christ more fully in others and in myself. And I want to open the eyes of my heart. I was attracted to VSC because of its core values of service of the poor—that I may be blessed with the graces to love more deeply and recognize Christ within people; community—that we may

struggle and grow together; prayer and spirituality—that we may grow closer to Christ; simple living and a spirit of humility—that I may die unto myself.

I will be serving at Our Lady's Inn and I love it. When I walked in for the site visit during our orientation week I felt nothing less than welcomed. What I really appreciated was that even though the staff loved Kristina, the VSC Volunteer before me, they don't expect me to be her. They love and accept me for me and are excited about the fact that I am the new VSC Volunteer. I feel scared that I am inadequate and weak but those feelings are overcome by feelings of excitement, joy, strength and love. I am happy and blessed to be serving the women, children staff and volunteers at Our Lady's Inn.

I come from a family of six—two sisters, one brother plus my parents, all of whom I miss. I also left behind a huge Catholic Campus Ministry family at school. I came because this is where God called me. I've been struggling with what kind of non-profit job He is calling me to and His commandment to "sell all you own, give it to the poor and follow me." A year of service is a good way to become acquainted with the social justice world and a less extreme way of obeying that commandment. I chose VSC first, because I knew one of the volunteers from last year and talked with her and read her blog. I also liked the intentional spirituality I saw and the focus on community living. I know I need strong spiritual and emotional support for a year like this one.

I had always placed "middle school" and "teacher" on my "never" list, so I think my call to Central Catholic Academy St. Nicholas School means God wants me outside my comfort zone. Several people have pointed out to me the formative nature of middle school years and I am going to enjoy the challenge of working at this particular school as it enacts some major changes. I have high hopes that God will do great things this year, but I still have no idea what to expect other than joys and challenges.



Beth

VSC MISSION STATEMENT

Responding to the call of the Gospel in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, lay women and men of the Vincetian Service Corps serve those who are poor, while growing in prayer and living in community.

VSC Advisory

Board Members

- Julie Gryskiewicz-Chair
- Sr. Julie Cutter, D.C.
- Claire Ewersmann
- Liz Foshage
- Jason Gray
- Gabriella Hearn
- Fr. Dan Kearns, C.M.

Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors



Deanna

I am the daughter of two awesome parents, Joe & Darlene. I have three brothers and one sister.

I wanted to do a year of service not only to gain experience in social services but also to offer my gifts to those in need. I wanted to better understand my passions in life and how they could relate more closely with serving a forgotten or ignored population.

What attracted me to VSC is their spirit of welcome. At every point of the application process I felt like I was already a member. Also, the spirit of service and the chance to live in community appealed to me. I wouldn't have joined if I didn't think that I would learn about myself at the same time that I would be learning about others (both professionally and socially).

I'm going to serve with the Criminal Justice Ministry and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. My co-workers and directors are amazing and will teach me a lot about this type of service. Also, I know that this population will be challenging but I hope that I will learn even more from them and their needs. In short, I am excited and determined to serve both my co-workers and the poor.

I expect this year to be full of large and small challenges and successes. I expect to learn from everything that I do. I hope to make lifelong friends and lasting mentors. I also expect to better understand who I am and how best I can serve the poor and downtrodden..

Vincintian Service Corps—Central is a member of Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS)

We give special thanks to those who have so generously donated to the VSC Program during this past quarter.

Your support helps the VSC Members in their service to persons who are poor and marginalized.

If you are able to help support the volunteers in their service, please return your donation in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you so much for your generosity and prayerful support.

- Deborah Bean
- Viola Clements
- General & Mrs. Curney Dronet
- Rita & Eugend Esselman
- Matthew & Patterson Ford
- Claire & Gary Gehrki
- Angela Kora
- Laura & Dr. David Thomson

Vincintian Service Corps-Central is sponsored by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of the West-Central Province. www.Daughters-of-Charity.org



Janean

I'm the second oldest of five. My parents raised us to love and serve others and to be aware of others around us. Despite our age differences, we all get along pretty well and I miss my family when I'm away.

I'm honestly not entirely sure why I am doing a year of service. It just felt...right. I can't really explain it. I've been blessed in my life to have enough and with gifts to share. I believe it's my responsibility to do what I can for others. For me, that apparently translated, somehow, into a year of service.

VSC held everything I was looking for—new lifestyle (the city!), many program options and volunteer opportunities, a small community and flexibility and patience as I grappled with the discernment process. Sr. Teresa was welcoming and open and she told me, from the beginning, that even if I didn't end up choosing VSC, I could call anytime and she wished me the best. It was that attitude of acceptance of all circumstances that made me feel welcome and comfortable with VSC from the beginning.

I'm excited about serving at DeSales Child Care Center (part of Guardian Angel Settlement). I get to play with one year olds all day! I've volunteered and worked in day cares before, but every place is different! The staff at the center seem so excited about their work, and the kids—well, kids are always tons of fun!

I hope, and believe, that this year is going to be great! I am hoping to grow in love and understanding of others and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve. The other girls are so nice and I'm looking forward to bonding together. I'm excited for all the exploring and adventures before me. I know that I will change and grow more fully into myself throughout this year.

A Covenant is developed each year by the volunteers and expresses how the community hopes to live together throughout their year of service.

Covenant of the 2009-2010 Vincentian Service Corps—Central Volunteers

May we see the Face of Christ when:

- We work and when we play.
- We serve others and are served by others.
- We are in our house and in the world.

In order to do this, we will strive, with the grace of God, to:

- Invest our whole selves into our ministry and our community.
- Live simply.
- Express our love and receive others' expressions of love, in hugs, laughs, and other forms.
- Spend quality time with our community through faith and fellowship.
- Respect others' need for private time and space.
- Respect all of God's creation.
- Stay connected with our loved ones in other places.
- Be open to growth in our faith.
- Act as Marys as well as Marthas.
- Serve beyond our ministry sites.
- Address conflicts as they arise instead of letting them stew.
- Hold each other accountable for all promises within and outside of this covenant.

"Hunger is my seasoning, fear is my garment, wool is my clothing, the light of the dawn is my heat in winter, the moon is my lantern, my legs are my beast of burden, and the produce of the earth is my food and fruit. I retire for the night with nothing to my name; I wake in the morning with nothing to my name. And there is no one on earth who is richer than I."

-from "Joseph in a Troubled World" by Joseph Girzone

By living the life described here, we will strengthen and grow our relationships with God, with ourselves, with our community, and with those outside our house.



Maggie

My parents are Stan and Beth and I have one older sister and one younger brother.

I have always wanted to do a year of service and VSC felt like the only easy choice. Sr. Teresa made such an effort to support me in any decision I made. By becoming a member of VSC I know I will learn a great deal about myself that my experiences at college could not teach me.

Because I grew up in what some might call a sheltered life, I know there are things out there in the real

world that I have no concept of. I drive to be the best me I can be and I don't think that is possible unless I fully understand all of the ways God has blessed me. I know there are needy people out there and I want to make a difference and as cliché as that sounds, that is the only thing I want to do. I hope to touch someone's life by showing them God's compassion and love for all of His people. Vincentian Service Corps' mission statement speaks volumes about my goals over the next year because I want to grow into the woman I hope to be. I want to better understand the needs of the poor through first hand experience. I want to help a child understand that even though society says you need money to be happy nothing is more fulfilling than a love for one another.

I will be serving at Central Catholic Academy St. Nicholas School with third graders. I am intimidated by their absorbent young minds but the staff seems supportive and knowledgeable.

I hope to be a good example of Christian love to the children I am working with. I also hope to grow closer to God through my community.

I have a wonderful family of six, my parents, Lieu and Loan, and my two brothers and one sister. My eldest brother Tuong, is married to a wonderful woman, Nga, and have blessed our family with my little nephew, Paul. My second eldest brother, Dinh, recently married Jackie, an awesome addition to our family. My sister, Thuy, was a Colorado Vincentian Volunteer in her younger days before medical school and residency. My family have been my strength and support throughout my life, most especially during this time. I love them and miss them dearly!

I have always wanted to commit a period of my life to serving God through the poor, most especially internationally. I considered Peace Corps in college, but God had a plan for me to recognize and serve those within my own nation, and even better, with a Catholic organization.

I loved Sr. Teresa! When discerning where to serve, Sr. Teresa called and was my affirmation in following where God calls. I also loved that VSC was Catholic and had the values of St. Vincent de Paul.

I am excited to serve adults. My previous experiences in the human development field have been with toddlers, children and adolescents. I have always had a soft spot for the elderly and never had an opportunity to care for and serve them. I look forward to meeting some wonderful people and sharing some stories and memories.

My hope is to serve the Lord and please Him. I pray that I always have an obedient servant's heart, with a love and desire to always serve, not only those at my service site, but also within my community of friends and sisters.



Mary

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Vincentian Service
Corps-Central

A Year of Service Makes a Lifetime of
Difference

www.vincentianservicecorps.org

Address Correction Requested

Please join us in prayer this year for the VSC Volunteers:

God of the journey, we believe you gaze upon these young adults
of the Vincentian Service Corps with love.

We believe you will bless them as they come together to live a simple
life in community, to grow together spiritually and to reach out
to those among us who are marginalized and living in poverty.

May they truly see the face of Christ in persons who are poor.
We pray that they will always be an integral part of our Vincentian
Family. May the charity of Christ crucified impel them
to a lifetime of service with others.

God of the journey, we offer this VSC Community and
those they will encounter this year into your loving care.

clockwise from top right:

Maggie, Janean, Deanna,
Mary, Aisa & Beth

May they be abundantly blessed in the name of
God, of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.