

Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2011

Sharing God's Love through Acts of Service

Working for Peace
Advocating Justice

Caring for Creation
Serving Human Needs



Here are a few of the exciting and important things happening in BVS

In 2010 BVS had . . .

- 72 new volunteers
- 5 orientation units
- 131 volunteers total

Currently, BVS has . . .

- volunteers from age 19 to 79
- volunteers in 10 different countries
- volunteers in 16 different US states and Washington, D.C.



BVS Retreat for domestic volunteers from Units 289 & 291 held at Dixon Valley Camp, Ill. (Spring 2011)

Brethren Volunteer Service earns award for Volunteer Group of the Year



(Left to right) Dan McFadden, BVSer, Rebecca Rahe, & FAC exec. dir., Kathy Reid

The Family Abuse Center, a domestic violence program for six counties in central Texas, awarded BVS the 2011 Volunteer Group of the Year. BVS currently has two volunteers serving at the center located in Waco, Texas, and has had 6 volunteers serve there since our first volunteers arrived in August of 2009. In May the director of BVS, Dan McFadden, was honored to accept the award on behalf of Brethren Volunteer Service at the center's annual banquet. BVSers volunteer as resident advocates, the "front line" service providers at the 24-hour shelter. The volunteers assist men, women, and children that are victims of domestic violence, who need to have a safe and healing environment in the shelter.

BVSers also answer 24-hour hotline crisis calls, provide meals, and cover the front desk as needed along with various other duties in the shelter. The center provides three meals a day, individual and group counseling, case management, legal assistance, and access to community resources that empower the survivors to start new lives.

The Family Abuse Center contacted BVS in July of 2009 when their new executive director, Kathy Reid, asked to start the partnership. Kathy Reid, a past employee of the Mission and Ministry Board, and past executive director of the Association of the Brethren Caregivers, says that FAC "Loves our BVSers!"

Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



The BVS team: Back row: Dan McFadden, Jeremy McAvoy, and Don Knieriem
Front row: Katherine Boeger, Dana Cassell, and Callie Surber

BVS team gets fresh faces

The BVS team has recently added two new members to its numbers: Katherine Boeger and Jeremy McAvoy. Both Katherine and Jeremy began their positions in early 2011. Together, they make up the new recruitment team for BVS. Katherine Boeger began her new position as coordinator of recruitment and service advocacy for Brethren Volunteer Service and Global Mission Partnerships on February 15. Katherine comes from Oroville, Calif. She is a graduate of San Diego State University where she achieved a B.S. in business administration with an emphasis in human resource management and a minor in psychology. Katherine brings over 15 years of experience in a variety of fields including marketing and sales, human resource management, and farming. She is a member of Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren in Live Oak, Calif., where she has been actively engaged by serving as a delegate for Annual Conference, on the church's search committee, and as the chair of the nurture commission on the board.

Katherine has been a dedicated member of the Church of the Brethren since 1980 and has worked with Brethren Disaster Ministries in Citronelle, Ala., and Lake Charles, La., responding to Hurricane Katrina as well as working with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Colombia. Katherine also has volunteered at a work camp in Nigeria.

Jeremy McAvoy joined the team as the Volunteer Assistant for Recruitment on March 7. This is Jeremy's second year with BVS after serving for a year with Brethren Disaster Ministries, where he rebuilt houses in northern Indiana. Jeremy studied at Butte College in northern California. He has been a member of Live Oak Church of the Brethren for 10 years and served on the steward's commission during that time.

Katherine and Jeremy have been encouraging others to experience the blessings of service. They also have been asking Church of the Brethren members to lift others up in this ministry as well, by sharing BVS with their home congregations. Their beginning recruitment efforts have been concentrated within the church, in hopes that BVS will provide an outlet for all Brethren to serve.

New projects in BVS over the past year

- *Mendenhall Ministries, Mendenhall, Miss.*
- *SnowCap, Portland, Ore.*
- *East Belfast Mission, Belfast, Northern Ireland*
- *Sisters of the Road, Portland, Ore.*
- *Highland Park Elementary School, Roanoke, Va.*
- *Reconcile International, Juba, Sudan*
- *Asian Rural Institute, Tochigi-ken, Japan*
- *Immanuel Baptist Church, San Salvador, El Salvador*
- *The Abbe Pierre Emmaus Center, Esteville, France*
- *Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing-(DISH), San Francisco, Calif.*

WFC named BVS's 2011 Partner in Service

The World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan, is the recipient of BVS's 2011 Partners in Service Award. The award recognizes an individual, project, or congregation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment in partnering with BVS to share God's love through acts of service.

The World Friendship Center has been serving and advocating for peace since 1965 and has been a BVS project since 1982. BVSers have been serving as co-directors, managing and operating international guest services since 1982. English classes are taught and peace is promoted through a variety of community based peace activities, classes, and stories from Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors). Through their efforts, peace is encouraged and bridges of international understanding are built. BVS is proud to recognize the World Friendship Center for its non-wavering commitment to service and peace.



Photo courtesy of JoAnn Sims

Current BVSers, Larry and JoAnn Sims (center), at a press conference on behalf of the World Friendship Center

Brethren Volunteer Service is a Ministry of the Church of the Brethren
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