



Community Connections

FCV 10!

By Pat Flicker, FCV Director

As I enter my sixth year of companionship with the young adults, I realize that God works in and through each and every one of us. From the people who support us financially and prayerfully and by spending time with the volunteers and sharing their passions. Many times the young adults who come to the program have no idea what their calling is in life and leave with a deeper understanding of who they are and where God is calling them to use their gifts and talents.

FCV has intentionally gone deeper in the area of discernment of gifts. As the job market gets stronger, it is easier for new graduates to find employment. Yet, many of them are not satisfied with their jobs or do not feel they are using their talents in the way God is calling them. This program helps sift through the many gifts and talents they have to see what God has planned for them. In doing so, the volunteers can see more clearly at a younger age where they are being called. I chuckle, because it was at age 50 for me when I started with FCV that I truly, for the first time in my life, felt I was exactly where God had called me. I fit, and that feeling has never ended. So, blessings to all the new FCVs! May God guide you this year and help you discover your gifts and talents as you move forward.

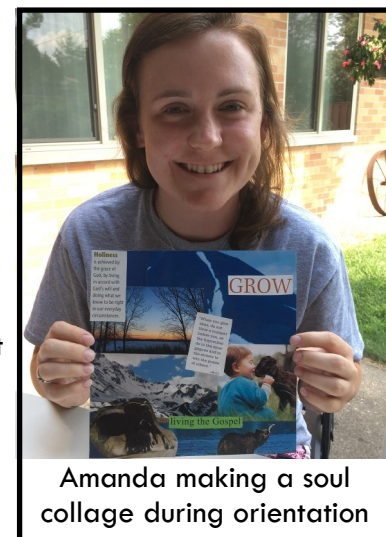
Trusting God!

By FCV Amanda Harrod

Quickly approaching my graduation from Carroll College in Helena, Mont., I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do after college. Earlier that year I had a plan for my life, taking comfort in the control I had to choose my own path. I am certain God got a kick out of my stubbornness. Entering my senior year at Carroll these plans disintegrated so quickly that I was left questioning where they had come from in the first place. I realized that I had made these plans based on what I wanted rather than what God needed of me. I decided then that I would offer a year to a service-related program. I meticulously looked through nearly every program in the Catholic Volunteer Network booklet. After narrowing it down to a handful of programs, I interviewed with three different directors. My last interview was with Pat and Sister Michelle on a Friday morning. This interview awakened a sense of certainty in my heart that FCV was where I needed to be. Unlike many of the programs I had considered, FCV offered a spiritual and communal structure I knew was going to provide me with the clarity I was longing for. After committing to the program, I emptied myself of the things that I controlled in hopes of, instead, trusting in God to guide me during my year. Now that I have settled in, I am sure that I made the right decision in choosing FCV.



L-R: Sister Jan Kilian, Heidi Hoslet, Amanda Harrod, Pat Flicker, Kiera Reynolds, John-Caleb Vacheresse, Sister Rose Mae Rausch, Sister Michelle L'Allier



Amanda making a soul collage during orientation

Where have the Franciscan Community Volunteers come from?

By Pat Flicker, FCV Director

Each year I am amazed at how people from all over the world apply to FCV.

FCV belongs to the Catholic Volunteer Network, part of which allows thousands of people interested in volunteering each year to search through its database of programs and connect to one that fits their passion and education.

Most of our volunteers find us through this network. They can post their information on the site, which allows us to connect with the volunteers we feel match our criteria and areas of service.

It is, at times, tough to “sell” coming to a smaller community in Minnesota for a year, yet each year we are blessed with amazing young people who are our future. A few of the reasons people choose FCV is the fact that three Franciscan Sisters live with the volunteers, creating a different atmosphere than most programs. We also spend an intentional year searching for the gifts and talents of each person, their authentic self that God made them to be. What better place to explore this than with the FCV family? FCV also offers a \$5,000 education award—one of the very few programs that still does this. It is critical for most people graduating from college to have the award to help offset their student loans.

Through the process of people exploring their gifts and values, we have journeyed with many people who have gone on to be in formation for religious life, physicians, dentists, community leaders, faith formation directors and program directors for nonprofits. In addition, on Associate Commitment Day, we will be adding our fifth and sixth FCV alumni to the Franciscan Associate Relationship! What an amazing mutual gift—the volunteers are able to learn and grow in their Franciscan faith and way of life, and the Franciscan family is blessed with young adults who will continue to share the Franciscan charism with all they meet! Welcome to the new associates: Isaac Vacheresse, Ann Anosike, Anna Taylor, Stephanie Luna and coming in October: John-Caleb Vacheresse and Alison Swoboda.



Arkansas 1	Alabama 2	Arizona 1	California 6	Florida 1
Georgia 3	Hawaii 1	Iowa 2	Illinois 3	Kentucky 1
Maryland 2	Minnesota 11	Montana 1	North Carolina 1	North Dakota 1
Nebraska 1	New Hampshire 1	Ohio 2	Pennsylvania 1	Texas 4
Wisconsin 3	Sydney Australia 1	Managua Nicaragua 1	Total = 21 States and 2 Add'l Countries	

Welcome to Franciscan Community Volunteers



Amanda Harrod is from Polson, Mont. She has her degree in Public Health & Health Science from Carroll College, Helena, Mont. Amanda will be serving homeless youth at the Youth House - Catholic Charities St. Cloud Diocese. Amanda is excited to learn more about where God is calling her throughout this year.

Companions: Tom and Cathy Rudolph
Sister Companion: Sister Maurita Bernet
Praying Sister: Sister Anita Jennissen



Heidi Hoslet is from Saugus, Calif. She graduated from CSU Northridge with her degree in Kinesiology and will be serving at the St. Benedict Senior Center. Heidi is excited to be a part of an intentional faith community, to grow in her faith and deepen her understanding of how Jesus wants her to live her life.

Companions: Roger and Sue Linz
Sister Companion: Sister Paula Pohlmann
Praying Sister: Sister Mary Lou Eltgroth



John Caleb Vacheresse (JC) is from Birmingham, Ala. JC was with the FCV program two years ago. He studied art for the past year and will be serving back at the Boys & Girls Club-Southside, bringing his amazing talents to the youth in the program. JC hopes to stay on at the Boys & Girls Club and help make a difference in the lives of those he serves.

Companions: Gary and Jo Hennen
Sister Companion: Sister Karen Niedzielski
Praying Sister: Sister Ruth Lentner



Kiera Reynolds is from Durham, N.C. She has her degree in Psychology and Spanish from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., and will be serving at Anna Marie's Alliance in the daycare center. Her goal is to go back to school and obtain a master's degree in Social Work and become a licensed clinical social worker. Kiera is excited to see where God takes her this year.

Companions: Sven and Judi Larsen
Sister Companion: Sister Audrey Jean Loher
Praying Sister: Sister Joan Tuberty



Bonfire and s'mores during orientation



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TASTE
OF ST. CLOUD

An illustration of three people in medieval-style clothing cooking together. One person is stirring a large pot over a fire, while the other two are looking on. The scene is set in a kitchen with a large pot and a fire.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

MAY 6, 2019

Looking ahead

- Sept 23 FSLF Donor Days - FCV presenting!
- Oct 3 Transitus in Little Falls
- Oct 4 Feast of St. Francis
- Oct 14 John-Caleb Vacheresse & Alison Swoboda become Franciscan Associates
- Nov 2-5 Fall retreat at Motherhouse - Please keep us in prayer
- Dec 2 Sunday 2-4pm Christmas Open House at the Welcoming House

Green tip

Did you know you can receive this newsletter electronically?

If you would like to save some trees, go to www.fcvonline.org.

On the right hand side of the homepage, you can enter your name and e-mail address to receive our newsletter electronically instead of through the mail.

Franciscan Community Volunteers is based on three pillars: meaningful service, intentional community living and Franciscan spirituality. Volunteers make a year-long commitment to work full time in local nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of those who are poor and marginalized while accepting the challenge of living simply and in accordance with Gospel values.