



Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace

Advocating Justice

Caring for Creation

Serving Human Needs

BVS ended 2018 with 34 volunteers...

- who served in seven countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Nigeria, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the United States.
- placed in 17 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.



Unit 319, Summer 2018: Volunteers take a group photo in front of the gazebo at Camp Colorado before a work day in the community.

In 2018:

- BVS hosted three orientation units: one at Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo., one at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., and one at Camp Pine Lake in Eldora, Iowa.
- 79 volunteers served throughout the year.

Partners in Service Award

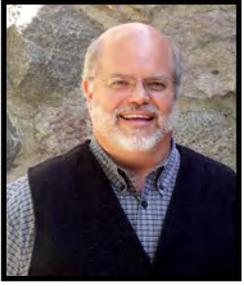
Each year, BVS presents a Partners in Service Award to an individual, group, or organization that has shown exceptional commitment to the work of sharing God's love through acts of service. The 2019 award goes to the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Tochii-ken, Japan.

ARI is an agricultural school that teaches rural community members from Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific how to sustain a living through organic farming and servant leadership. The main mission of ARI is to "build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world, in which each person can live to his or her fullest potential. This mission is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ." In order to do this effectively rural leaders from around the world are invited to participate in a nine month training program where they learn agricultural knowledge and servant leadership. "Through community-based learning they study the best ways for rural people to share and enhance local resources and abilities for the common good." The goal is for these leaders to return home with ideas about how to improve and work alongside their communities. Since 2011, five BVSers have volunteered at ARI working in multiple areas that include, but are not limited to, livestock, cooking, farming, ecumenical relations, and admissions.

The Partners in Service Award will be presented to ARI, July 4, 2019, at the Annual Conference Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon in Greensboro, N. C.

Photos courtesy of
ARI & Mike Shimizu





The End of an Era: Dan McFadden Resigns as Director of BVS

On November 2, 2018, Dan McFadden concluded his time as director of Brethren Volunteer Service. He began his work out of the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., on December 1, 1995, where he worked for nearly 23 years. During his tenure, he spent countless hours supporting more than 1,200 volunteers as they served in BVS.

Dan was a member of Unit 152 in 1981 with 33 other volunteers. He and another volunteer worked with Salvadoran refugees fleeing from war to Honduras. He remembers that they were sent for all practical purposes to a war zone knowing basic Spanish. Despite it being a difficult project, Dan says, "I wouldn't trade it for a different experience." Thus began Dan's love of and commitment to BVS.

Not only was Dan's life impacted by BVS, but also were the lives of his entire family. He met his wife in BVS, and all three of their children have served or are currently serving in BVS.

Dan's impact on BVS and the volunteers he supported is immeasurable. He is remembered by many as someone who would always lend a listening ear and approached people with a non-judgmental heart. Dan also never stopped recruiting for BVS. There is still hope that someone Dan sat next to on an airplane will show up at an orientation some day.

In his next chapter, Dan is continuing his work with people as he returns to the social work field with a private counseling practice.

Emily Tyler has been called to fill the role of director after nearly seven years of coordinating the workcamp ministry and recruitment for BVS. She began her new role on February 4, 2019.



Dan trust falling at an orientation, Dan enjoying time with volunteers, and Unit #152

New Project Spotlight: Good Samaritan Services, Ephrata, Pa.

Good Samaritan Services in Ephrata, Pa. is one of the newest BVS projects, joining the list of over 60 other projects in 2018, and already has two BVS volunteers currently serving with them.

Good Samaritan Services' vision is to play a leading role in the community by preventing and ending homelessness. GSS provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing. It also gives immediate help to people who are experiencing homelessness, and helps those at risk of becoming homeless by providing stability, restoring their hope, and transforming lives. BVSers at GSS work alongside community volunteers to organize donations, provide childcare, and work in the office.

BVS is honored to be partnering with GSS to provide a safe space to the guests in their time of transition. Our volunteers working alongside the community in a space that is faith-centered and committed to leaving a lasting impact through partnership, generosity, stewardship, and gratitude.



Photos courtesy of Judith Black and Julia Bambauer



BVSers at Good Samaritan Services

Workcamp Update

Lauren Flora and Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred are serving as the assistant workcamp coordinators in the BVS office. The 2019 theme is "grow."



Wendy McFadden



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