

Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2012



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



BVS retreat for domestic volunteers from Units 293 and 295 held at Dickson Valley Camp in spring 2012.

BVS currently has 73 volunteers

- 55 in the US
- 6 in Northern Ireland
- 3 in Germany
- 2 in the Republic of Ireland
- 2 in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 3 in Japan
- 1 in El Salvador
- 1 in South Sudan

In 2011

- 59 new volunteers
- 4 orientation units
- 137 volunteers total

Today

- volunteers from age 19 to 68
- volunteers in 8 different countries
- volunteers in 15 different US states and Washington, D.C.

EIRENE named BVS's 2012 Partner in Service

EIRENE (Greek for peace) International Christian Service for Peace based out of Neuwied, Germany, is the recipient of BVS's 2012 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. EIRENE is an ecumenical peace and development volunteer service program. Through BVS's partnership with EIRENE, young adults from Germany have come to the United States for a year of voluntary service as an alternative to serving in the military. EIRENE is also partnered with organizations in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Belgium and Canada.



EIRENE was started in 1957 by the Brethren Service Commission, the Mennonite Central Committee and International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Since its creation, 260 volunteers have served in BVS in the US through EIRENE and 1,983 volunteers have served throughout the world. Currently, there are 14 volunteers in BVS who came to the US through EIRENE.

Global Mission and Service reorganization

During a program and staff reorganization in September 2011, Brethren Volunteer Service, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Workcamps and Material Resources were pulled together under Roy Winter's leadership as the Associate Executive Director of Global Mission and Service. In this new alignment, BVS will be working more closely with Brethren Workcamps.

Emily Tyler, of Peoria, Arizona, was hired this spring and will join the Church of the Brethren as staff for Workcamp Coordinator and BVS recruitment. She will begin her work June 27th. Emily is a music and choir elementary school teacher and has taught in the public schools for the past five years. She is a member of the Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren, Phoenix, Arizona. Emily was one of the three BVS coordinators of the 2006 National Youth Conference. She comes with a rich experience in church and youth leadership.

The workcamp coordinator's primary role will be to give leadership and oversight to Brethren workcamps. Emily will supervise the two BVS workcamp volunteers. Next year, these positions will be filled by Katie Cummings of Weyers Cave, Virginia, a member of the Summit Church of the Brethren, and Tricia Ziegler of Sebring, Florida, a member of the Sebring Church of the Brethren. In addition, Emily will coordinate BVS recruitment efforts under the supervision of Dan McFadden.

Brethren Volunteer Service and Global Mission and Service welcome Emily, Katie, and Tricia to the Church of the Brethren staff.



Photo courtesy of Emily Tyler

Emily Tyler, the new coordinator of workcamps and volunteer recruitment.

Current Project Locations

- **US (67)**
- **Latin America (7)**
 - **El Salvador (3)**
 - **Guatemala (2)**
 - **Honduras (1)**
 - **Brazil (1)**
- **Africa (4)**
 - **Nigeria (3)**
 - **South Sudan (1)**
- **Haiti (1)**
- **Japan (2)**
- **Europe (24)**
 - **Northern Ireland (7)**
 - **Republic of Ireland (3)**
 - **Germany (6)**
 - **France (2)**
 - **Bosnia-Herzegovina (3)**
 - **Belgium (1)**
 - **Hungary (1)**
 - **Croatia (1)**

BVSers marry 52 years after their service together

Many volunteers say they got more out of their experience than they gave. This is especially true for Darle Good and Ray Leckrone. Below is their story as they met in BVS, went separate ways for over 50 years, and then reunited.

In the 1950s, the West Side Christian Parish in Chicago was one of several BVS inner-city projects in the United States. We were assigned to the Parish during that time. BVSers worked with youth clubs and assisted the Parish group ministry with worship services, church school classes, counseling services, technical assistance programs and administration. Darle worked as an administrative assistant in the office. Ray worked in the technical assistance programs and as a youth club advisor. After our shared service time of about seven months in 1958 and 1959, our lives took separate paths for the next 52 years. We were both widowed when we met again in 2011. In November we were married and currently live in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. BVS deserves much of the credit for bringing us together.



Photo courtesy of Marie Willoughby

Darle (Bomberger) Good and Ray Leckrone at the 2011 National Older Adult Conference.