

Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2013

Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace Caring for Creation
Advocating Justice Serving Human Needs



Here are a few of the exciting things happening in BVS!

In 2012:

- BVS hosted four orientation units in Gotha, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; and New Windsor, Maryland
- 51 new volunteers entered the program
- 125 total volunteers served throughout the year

Photo by Kendra Johnson



The 2012 fall orientation Unit #299 gathers for a picture at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland, before heading out to work in the New Windsor community.

Currently, BVS has 90 volunteers...

- ranging in age from 18 to 77 years
- placed in 15 different US states and Washington, D.C.
- serving in 12 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, South Sudan, and the USA

2013 BVS Partners in Service Award

BVS is happy to present its 2013 Partners in Service Award to its network of **healing communities**. The award typically recognizes an individual, project, or congregation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment in partnering with BVS to share God's love through acts of service.

HOPEWELL

A therapeutic farm community for adults with mental illness.

BVS currently has project partnerships with three healing communities:

CooperRiis in Mill Spring, North Carolina; **Gould Farm** in Monterey, Massachusetts; and **Hopewell** in Mesopotamia, Ohio. These organizations are recovery-based, therapeutic communities for adults living with mental illness or emotional distress. They provide compassionate, respectful environments and aid the residents in moving toward more independent living situations through participation in meaningful work, recreation, and community life.



Gould Farm, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2013, stands as the longest-running BVS project site, with more than 100 volunteers serving there since the 1960s.

Virgil Stucker, executive director of CooperRiis, will accept the award on behalf of the three communities at the BVS Luncheon to be held July 1 at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Over the past year, BVS has celebrated several milestones. Check out our numbers!

5 Callie Surber marked her fifth year as BVS orientation coordinator in September of 2012. Callie previously served as a BVS volunteer (from Unit #254) for three years, teaching at the EYN Comprehensive Secondary School in Kwarhi, Nigeria.

25 In April of 2012, Kristin Flory celebrated her 25th year coordinating BVS's European program in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining the staff, Kristin was a BVSer in Unit #134 and served for six years in several German and Austrian projects.

40 Current and former volunteers gathered in September of 2012 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of BVS presence in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Roughly 160 BVS'ers have served with over 40 organizations in the region.



Photo courtesy of Kristin Flory

Former and current volunteers gather in Belfast for the 40th Anniversary of BVS in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

65 2013 marks the 65th anniversary since the enactment of BVS by Annual Conference. Approximately 7,000 volunteers have entered BVS since the program began in 1948.

300 In February of 2013, the 300th BVS orientation unit took place at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Florida. Volunteers were called to Japan, Honduras, California, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois.



Photo by Kendra Johnson

Kristin Flory was recognized for her service at the 2012 BVS Annual Conference Luncheon.

She is pictured here with BVS director Dan McFadden and alumni Micah and Lucy Loucks.



Photo by Kendra Johnson

Unit #300 joined the St. Petersburg congregation for worship and a potluck during the winter orientation in Florida.

BVS is excited about the many organizations that have added or returned as projects in the past year:

- Abbé Pierre Emmaüs Center - Esteville France
- Africa Inland Church, - Torit, South Sudan
- Arche Community - Ravensburg, Germany
- Camp Eder - Fairfield, Pennsylvania
- Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad - San Salvador, El Salvador
- Companion Ministries - Kansas City, Kansas
- ENABLE - Richhill, Northern Ireland
- FESCO Family Shelter - San Francisco, California
- Glebe House - Kilclief/Strangford, Northern Ireland
- L'Arche Community - Chicago, Illinois
- National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund - Washington, D.C.
- New Community Project - Harrisonburg, Virginia
- San Diego Friends Center - San Diego, California
- Skyridge Church of the Brethren & Camp Brethren Heights - Kalamazoo/Rodney, Michigan
- Spanish Catholic Center - Washington, D.C.
- Tabor Community Services - Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- Youth Initiatives - Downpatrick/Belfast, Northern Ireland

Six of these projects have BVS'ers currently serving with them!



Photo by Kendra Johnson

BVS'ers Amber Buck (left) and Hallie Pilcher assist Cliff Kindy with the garlic harvest. BVS was excited to spend a few days at the Kindy farm in North Manchester, IN during the 2012 summer orientation.

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

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