



# BVS PROJECT HANDBOOK

A guide to becoming a BVS partner to receive year-long volunteers.

## Benefits of Having a BVS Volunteer

- ✓ Quality help at your organization
- ✓ Volunteers are full-time staff
- ✓ Volunteers are eager to learn and serve
- ✓ Often volunteers stay for longer than one year or get hired as an employee



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## About BVS

Brethren Volunteer Service is a full-time volunteer program that pairs adult volunteers with non-profit organizations in the United States and abroad. These placements are for at least one year. Started in 1948, BVS is one of the oldest volunteer organizations in the United States. While BVS is connected to the Church of the Brethren, volunteers come from all faith backgrounds.



**“Brethren  
Volunteer  
Service was a  
life-changing  
adventure.”**

HOWARD L.  
FORMER BVSER

## BVS Goals are to...



Serve  
Human  
Need



Advocate  
Justice



Care for  
Creation



Work for  
Peace





# HOW THE VOLUNTEER PROCESS WORKS

1

Volunteers apply to enter BVS. They must provide references, complete an interview, and have a cleared background check.

2

Volunteers participate in an orientation that equips them for their time of service and matches them with projects.

3

During the placement process, project sites interview potential volunteers and have final say on who joins their team.

4

After orientation, volunteers are sent to an organization for one to two years of service, working 40 hours a week.

5

Projects cover the basic living expenses of their volunteer. This varies and is typically around \$12,000-15,000.

6

BVS staff support volunteers during their time of service with check-in calls, continued learning opportunities, and a mid-year retreat.



# WHY BVS? ::::

- ✓ BVS offers year-round support for our volunteers and partnering projects
- ✓ BVS is able to place volunteers anywhere in the US and many locations abroad
- ✓ Partnering projects have direct access to the the director of BVS, who personally gets to know each volunteer and project
- ✓ BVS has a nearly 100% retention rate of volunteers staying their full term!
- ✓ BVS works with projects to understand what type of volunteers they are looking for
- ✓ Project sites get to interview potential volunteers and have final say on who joins their team
- ✓ BVS attracts capable individuals who are driven to make a difference

**“We have loved our experience with BVS volunteers and we hope to place a few more here in the fall!”**

BVS PROJECT - FERNCLIFF



# COST OF HAVING A VOLUNTEER



The cost of having a volunteer includes an annual placement fee (see below), a monthly stipend paid to the volunteer, housing, food, daily commute to and from the workplace (i.e., company vehicle, bus/train pass, bike, etc.), transportation to and from the BVS mid-year retreat, and transportation for the volunteer at the end of service. The total cost for projects typically averages \$12,000-\$15,000 per year. Details on these costs are on the next page.

Brethren Volunteer Service covers a volunteer's transportation to your organization, health insurance, training, and ongoing support.

The annual placement fee is paid to Brethren Volunteer Service in return for providing a volunteer. Projects are only required to pay the placement fee when they have a volunteer placed at their site, which is based on a project's budget as follows:

Project's Annual Budget	Cost/Volunteer/Year
Church of the Brethren related projects	\$3,150
\$0 to \$500,000	\$3,400
\$500,001 to \$1,500,000	\$3,900
\$1,500,001 and higher	\$4,400

# COST OF HAVING A VOLUNTEER ...continued

Item	Cost	Notes
Housing	TBD	Dependent on living situation
Food	\$100 - \$300 per month	Based on \$25 - \$75 per week
Stipend	\$250 per month	\$300 and \$350 for second and third year volunteers
Transportation	TBD	Dependent on type of transit
Flights to mid-year retreat	\$300 - \$450 (one time cost)	Prices may fluctuate
Flight at end of service	\$200 - \$300 (one time cost)	Prices may fluctuate
Project fee	\$3,150 - \$4,400	Based on annual budget



# HOW TO BECOME A PROJECT

1

Email [bvs@brethren.org](mailto:bvs@brethren.org) to start the conversation.

2

Chat with the BVS director to get to know each other, ask questions, and see if partnering with BVS may be right for your organization.

3

Fill out some paperwork, including the BVS covenant, information about your organization, and what you're looking for in a volunteer.

4

Sit back, relax, and BVS will do the rest. BVS will be in touch when new volunteers are ready to onboard. You're always welcome to message the BVS staff with questions!

**We look forward to partnering with you!**



**For more info:**  
[bvs@brethren.org](mailto:bvs@brethren.org)  
[brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://brethrenvolunteerservice.org)