

Volunteer Ministries



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Such excitement! Such commitment! Numbers of UCC *Partners in Service* volunteers are increasing. Baby Boomer volunteers are returning to serve in the same sites or to serve in different sites around the country. New volunteers are hearing about opportunities to serve through their congregations and friends who point them toward UCC Volunteer Ministries. Career gap volunteers are serving while discerning new directions in life. Young adults (age 21-30) are considering a new opportunity — Companion Communities. Volunteers in these Young Adult Service Communities hosted in UCC congregations form intentional community, serve in local mission/service sites and in leadership in the local congregation. Spiritual sojourning and faith conversations are integral to the experience.

Thank you for your service.

Congratulations to Cassie, Megan and Molly of Raymond Community Church UCC of Raymond, ME for your interview by Nick News of Nickelodeon television. On September 14, 2008 these participants in the UCC/Disciples F.A.S.T. (Faithful Advocates Serving Together) mission trip program were part of a Nick News segment on “What I Did on My Summer Vacation.” F.A.S.T. was the only mission trip opportunity included in this show that advertises itself as “by kids, for kids.”

**United Church of Christ Mission Trip Opportunities 2009
NOW AVAILABLE**

Use this resource to help discern a site and mission setting.
Choose:

Educational/Immersion Mission Trips

Service-Learning Mission Trips

Disaster Recovery Mission Trips

Then, let us know your mission trip plans or experiences!

Click on the UCC Volunteer Ministries webpage and complete the form. Send your stories and reflections too!

<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/mission-trip-tracking-1.html>

Order your copies of UCC Mission Trip Opportunities and Partners in Service booklet. Call United Church of Christ Resources 1-800-537-3394.

Listings available on-line www.ucc.org/volunteer

These resources are free for your use, thanks to your generous contributions to *Our Church's Wider Mission, Basic Support*

Finding the right match of gifts and service is now easier than ever.

Check out the new look of the 2009 Partners in Service booklet.

**Site listings also on-line. www.ucc.org/volunteer
in "Partners in Service" box**

UCC Partners in Service 2009

Full-time Volunteer Placements in the U.S.
for adults of all ages

Baby Boomer Volunteers

Career Gap Volunteers

International Volunteers through ecumenical partners

Young Adults—New Program in 2009 — UCC Companion Communities: Young Adult Service Communities Applications available on-line soon. Due March 16 with notification of acceptance by mid-April. Companion Communities will begin forming in June of 2009 for 3 months or September, 2009 through May,

Companions with those Served

Accompany people through local ministries in the community of host congregations

Companions in Community

Live in intentional community with others with commitments of service and social justice. Ask hard questions of life. Explore faith together.

ALONG THE WAY... NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS



Meet St. Luke's is a column in the newsletter of **St. Luke's UCC, Ottsville, PA.**

Betz Schwalm was featured in the August/September 2009 issue. Betty Orlemann writes the article in which Betz focuses on mission trips. "I guess I always wanted to do something like mission, even when I was a teen, she explained. First I was too young, then too busy, too many responsibilities, always too something." At first she says she was doubtful that she was eligible for mission work. She thought that it would take special qualifications or training and began to seek out the stories of others who had gone on mission trips. She says that she enjoyed listening to their tales and realized that they were just like her. She has always loved to travel, but she had never gone away without her family. Her first trip to New Orleans was very powerful on many levels. "Mission trips are emotional for me. We can feel God working through us." She describes a powerful "force," "I'm not sure if it is due to being part of something larger, working side by side with others of faith or what, but it is a force."

It isn't all about the work, either. Much of it is about the souls you get to know because you are working with others, shoulder to shoulder. "Our crew in February was amazing." They shared details of their life's journeys and how they got to this place in life. "Words that some of us don't share in a lifetime became 'dinner conversation.' Inspiring. "I am finding that every trip is different, yet the same. The same energy and force takes hold, while the work and environment is different. The tone is different, but the voice always the same. "It isn't about us, it's about giving ourselves up and becoming part of God's plan for a brief moment in our lives. Betz helped to organize an annual trip to Old First Church in Philadelphia to see to the needs of homeless men. St. Luke's people are active in that mission endeavor, too, even our young people who spend the night there. Betz states, "I am thankful to St. Luke's for their support of mission trips and realm of the day when trips are part of our normal schedules." Betz describes going on the mission trips as "an opportunity to serve with a joyful heart."

Partners in Service Alumni on the Move...

Where Are They Now?

Timothy Ahrens is a UCC Volunteer Ministries alum. Today, Rev. Tim Ahrens is senior minister at First Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio. This month he will visit Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT where he will receive the school's William Sloane Coffin Peace and Justice Award.

Congratulations Tim!



Thanks to 'Partners in Service' Volunteers Recently Completing Service

Deborah Bielefeldt, Germany
at La Puente, Alamosa, CO
Zsolt Bonyai, Hungary
at Neighborhood Houses, St. Louis, MO
Kornelia Both, Hungary
at Humane Borders, Tucson, AZ
Timo Bruns, Germany
at Evangelical Children's Home, St. Louis, MO
Elaine Cavanaugh, MA
at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery,
New Orleans, LA
Garrett Cavanaugh, MA
at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery,
New Orleans, LA
Thomas Helmlinger, France
at Religious Coalition, Frederick, MD
Reena Kumari, India at Slumber Falls Camp,
New Braunfels, TX
Stephanie Larson, California at Ryder Memorial
Hospital, Humacao, Puerto Rico
Maggie Miller, Indiana at Brethren Mennonite
Council, Minneapolis, MN
Sarah Cooper Searight, GA
at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia, PA
Susan Sharp, CA at Christ House,
Washington, DC
Alice Scott, CA at Wider Church Ministries,
Cleveland, OH
John Small, Indiana at Owen County Community
Foundation for Disaster Recovery, Spencer, IN
Fabian Thiele, Germany
at Evangelical Children's Home, St. Louis, MO
Fabian Theymann, Germany
at Religious Coalition, Frederick, MD

Welcome New & Returning 'Partners in Service' Volunteers

David Baronio, France
at Neighborhood Houses, St. Louis, MO
Ed Finertie, Nebraska
at Prodigals Community, Winston-Salem, NC
Richard Freridge, MI at South Central Conference
Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Carrie Fry-Miller, Indiana
at Brethren-Mennonite Council, Minneapolis, MN
Kevin Kalfels, Germany
at La Puente Home, Alamosa, CO
Alexander Koerfer, Germany
at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Bill Lincoln, NC
at Heifer Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA
Pat Lincoln, NC
at Heifer Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA
Joshua Lux, Germany
at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Hannes Mangold, Germany
at United Church of Chapel Hill, NC
Seungree Nam, Canada
at St. Paul UCC and Tempko, Marthasville, MO
Darian Packmohr, Germany
at CWS Immigration & Refugee, Lancaster, PA
Rafael Palij, Germany
at Evangelical Children's Home, St. Louis, MO
Pam Small, Indiana
at UCC Midwest Disaster Recovery
Matthias Veith, Germany
at Religious Coalition, Frederick, MD
Bob Waidman, TN
at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Connie Waidman, TN
at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Kevin Waltz, Wisconsin
at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia, PA

UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

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For over 50 years, Volunteer Ministries has provided opportunities for people to share their gifts of service and witness to others. Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices. The logo of the towel and basin remind us of God's call to serve.

Check out the new look
on the website!
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>

PARTNERS IN SERVICE
MISSION TRIPS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SERVICE DAYS