

Partners in Service



What Motivates You to Serve?

What Motivates You to Serve? Annual Long-Term Volunteer Gathering

1

Serving Together — Sharing Stories — Spending Time With One Another

During January 25-29, Partners in Service Volunteers serving terms of 9 months or longer came together in Daytona Beach, FL for our annual Long Term Volunteer Gathering. We met each other in person, shared stories of our placements and participated in a disaster ministries project on site in Daytona Beach. Always one highlight of a year of service!

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Work together

Play Together

Reflect on What It means to Serve....



**Applications for Summer and Fall Placements now being received.
Tell your friends!**

UCC Volunteer Ministries



2007 Summer Opportunities



Partners in Service offers opportunities for service in a variety of types of settings within the United States and Puerto Rico. The program is open to adults 18 years and older. The following are some opportunities available during the Summer of 2007. A more thorough description and available website addresses for these placement sites can be found in the *Partners in Service* booklet at www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer in "Volunteer Opportunities."

Application available to print: www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer

- **F.A.S.T. (Faithful Advocates Serving Together)**, Alderson, WV — Internship Opportunities to coordinate mission trip groups with hospitality and economic justice reflection activities
- **No More Deaths**, Tucson, AZ— Volunteer Coordinator for Ark of the Covenant Camps providing water to people in the desert.
- **Heifer International**, Perryville, AR or Rutland, MA — Help provide hands-on education experiences and farm work that promote sustainable solutions to global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.
- **Florida Conference, UCC Disaster Ministries Team** — Help coordinate disaster recovery work groups.
- **Jubilee Partners**, Comer, GA — Be part of intentional community to welcome and host international refugees
- **Koinonia Partners**, Americus, GA — Participate in intentional community committed to nonviolence and reconciliation and be part of a working farm
- **Camp Courageous**, Monticello, IA—Serve in camp setting with children and adults with physical and/or mental disabilities.
- **Emmaus Homes**, Marthasville, MO — Assist in the recreation department with residents with developmental disabilities
- **Prodigals Community**, Winston-Salem, NC—Ministry with ecumenical Christian community that provides vocational training, accountability and spiritual and emotional structure for residents with chronic substance abuse problems.
- **Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico**, San Juan, PR— Maintenance work on seminary grounds.
- **Ryder Memorial Hospital**, Humacao, PR—Patient care and HIV/AIDS Community programming or child care program assistant
- **Pineros y Campesinos Unidos de Noroeste (PCUN)**, Woodburn, OR—Community organizing activities with farm workers. Spanish required.
- **South Central Conference, UCC Disaster Recovery Ministries** — Help coordinate disaster recovery work groups in New Orleans

UCC Outdoor Ministries Sites, throughout the United States—
Program coordinator, counseling, kitchen staff, maintenance, lifeguarding

Send completed application and ask 3 references to mail forms to:
Office for Volunteer Ministries
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Application
Deadline:
April 1, 2007

For more information contact:
Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Executive
blaufusm@ucc.org
UCC Volunteer Ministries
Phone: 866-822-8224 ext. 3214

Highlighting Volunteer Placement Possibilities:

Alderson Hospitality House — Hospitality people sought for this placement in Appalachian region of Alderson, WV. Alderson Hospitality House provides a place for families to stay while visiting mothers and wives in the Women's Minimum Security Prison located in Alderson (recently made (in)famous by the stay of Martha Stewart). A great ministry of hospitality.

Open Door Community — Volunteer for 1-2 weeks. Perhaps return for a longer placement. The Open Door Community consists of volunteers who serve with the homeless, poor and prisoners in Atlanta, GA.

F.A.S.T. 2007



Are you committed to issues of economic justice and have experience working with church groups? F.A.S.T. interns provide hospitality, work alongside groups doing housing rehab, and lead daily reflections for this mission trip experience in Appalachia.

Apply to be a summer host/intern for F.A.S.T.

Deadline: April 1

or whenever position is filled

Check Out A New Site Listed in Partners in Service 2007

Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida/Coalition of Immokalee Workers

— Live and work among farmworkers and allies in attempt to improve wages and working conditions in the Campaign for Fair Food.

Continued Need for Volunteers with Construction Skills for 3-12 month assignments in **New Orleans, LA and Biloxi, MS with Disaster Recovery.**

See the complete booklet at www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer

ALONG THE WAY...NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS



In November/December, 2006, members of a group from the Reformed Church of France became part of the disaster recovery effort in New Orleans.

Tim Rose , a UCC/Disciples of Christ Global Ministries missionary working with the Reformed Church of France, accompanied the group. He shared the following account:

From November 25th to December 5th, a group of 11 volunteers from the Reformed Church in France and a group of American volunteers from the United Church of Christ in Chapel Hill, North Carolina traveled to new Orleans, Louisiana to assist in the disaster recovery program, helping residents who are trying to rebuild their homes and lives—14 months after Hurricane Katrina.

Housed at the suburban UCC parish of Little Farms the group spent its days working primarily to clean out damaged homes. Many people who fled during the hurricane are now living far from the city and find themselves without enough resources to even start to repair their homes. The city of new Orleans and the State of Louisiana seem to be overwhelmed by the size of the recovery work to be done, and federal government aid is bogged down in bureaucracy. The group witnessed entire neighborhoods still basically untouched. Houses missing roofs, interiors covered with mold and mildew, and housing rats, roaches, spiders and even frogs, and hundreds of people living in government given trailers on their front lawn.

For the group, French and American alike, entering into a once flooded house was an emotional experience. Working to clean out a jumble of waterlogged and rotting furniture, cookware, clothing, toys, books and personal items accumulated over a lifetime, was extremely difficult, both physically and emotionally, as the lives of people and families passed through their hands and into the garbage heap. After removing everything, work continued with the tearing out of rotten walls, ceilings, carpeting and cabinetry. By the end of our demolition, the empty homes which were taken down to stud walls became signs of hope for families who can now begin the process of rebuilding. The idea of trying to look ahead to a promising future was felt by everyone.

The members of the parish of Little Farms, welcomed the group with open arms. The parish organized two Sunday services in both French and English and it's members introduced the French and North Carolinians to Cajun cooking via a church potluck...mmm mmm good! The disaster recovery coordinators also did an amazing job of organizing the teams' stay and work.

It was clear, as each one, American and French, said their "au revours," that the trip was indeed a powerful one. Barriers and stereotypes were knocked down and the gospel message of Christ was evident as people came together to work, pray and play.



UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

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For the past 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.

We're on the web!
www.ucc.org/ministries/volunteer

PARTNERS IN SERVICE
MISSION TRIPS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SERVICE DAYS