

Beyond MU – Lifelong Learning Deepen Your Jesuit Roots Through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Questions + Answers

Q: My city does not yet have an IVC presence. How is IVC established in new locations, like Madison, Wis?

A: IVC welcomes conversations about establishing a presence in new cities. Please contact:

Becky Ehrman

Vice President of Programming and Regional Development

behrman@ivcusa.org

Q: Could I join IVC in a city within driving distance?

A: Absolutely! All IVC regional offices welcome conversations with eager volunteers. Please go to <https://www.marquette.edu/alumni/volunteer-ignatian-volunteer-corps.php> to learn more about operations in Milwaukee, Chicago and other regions around the country, or contact:

Becky Ehrman

Vice President of Programming and Regional Development

behrman@ivcusa.org

Q: With the current virus lockdown, how will volunteers continue their service out in the community during the upcoming 12-18 months, especially with so many IVC members in the high risk (60+) age range? What restrictions/challenges has IVC faced with volunteer activities requiring direct (in person) involvement?

A: IVC's priority is the safety of its members. During times of quarantine, many IVC service corps members are serving in remote capacities. IVC is mobilizing members into online tutoring and mentoring service opportunities, for example. IVC members also are assisting human service organizations by helping to contact people who need food, medical supplies, or an opportunity to have conversation.

Q: Is IVC financially self-sustaining? What are IVC Milwaukee's on-going fundraising activities, and how are operational costs covered?

A: IVC is financially and spiritually supported by a combination of individuals, foundations, Jesuit Provinces, and cost sharing fees from nonprofit partners. To discuss fundraising efforts at IVC Milwaukee, contact:

Monica Meagher
IVC Milwaukee
mmeagher@ivcusa.org

Q: Do volunteers need to pay a fee to join?

A: No. There is no fee to be involved in IVC.

Q: Has Dick Sibbernsen developed a curriculum for his prison inmate program, and is that available for others to use? Does he recommend books for inmates to read and reflect on?

A: Yes. Dick would be happy to share his materials. Please contact:

Dick Sibbernsen
IVC Chicago
rdsibb@att.net

Q: Does a volunteer have to be Catholic?

A: No. All faith traditions are embraced and welcomed.

Q: How is Ignatian Volunteer Corps different from the Jesuit Volunteer Corps/Encore?

A: The Ignatian Volunteer Corps is distinct as another Jesuit founded apostolic lay organization. IVC is nationwide and serving in all Jesuit provinces. JVC and the Encore program are not affiliated with IVC. Encore, which requires a participation fee, appears to be centered in the Northwest region of the country. Please refer to their website for further details.

Q: Are IVC placements based only (or mostly) on your professional background, or can you express a desire to do something completely different?

A: Individual placements are determined through a thoughtful discernment process with the regional director. Gifts and talents that meet pressing community needs could be drawn from professional, personal, or other volunteer experiences.

Q: Is the spiritual formation piece offered only in a group format, or can individuals opt for one-on-one spiritual direction, as well? Who facilitates the spiritual formation?

A: While each region has its own approach to spiritual formation, in Milwaukee, for example, there are three components: a monthly group reflection meeting; one-on-one meetings with a trained spiritual reflector, and two retreat days. A four-person formation team, including a Jesuit chaplain and three Ignatian spiritual directors, plan and facilitate formation meetings and events. All IVC members are encouraged to take full advantage of all these enriching opportunities.