



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS
NORTHWEST

JVC Northwest

2021-2026

Strategic Directions



INTRODUCTION

Since the first Jesuit Volunteers started to serve in Alaska more than 65 years ago, the mission of Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest has been to respond to local community needs in our region by recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers who provide value-centered service grounded in the Jesuit Catholic tradition. Guided by our four core values over the decades since our birth, JVC Northwest has grown into a movement that exceeds a year of community service. Our work has become a movement for simplicity, a movement for justice, a movement for intentional community and radical love.

The signs of the times beckon us to adapt and change for our next chapter. These strategic priorities will guide our work over the next five years.

CONTEXT

The current planning work is responsive in two significant ways: First, we listened and reflected on several global, national, and local dynamics, that we read as signs of the times. Second, the planning flowed from a few deep internal conversations about who we aspire to become, which have been on-going for several years. Those elements of context include:

- ▶ *The Reality of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation*
- ▶ *An American Reckoning for Racial Justice*
- ▶ *The Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus*
- ▶ *Trends of National Service*
- ▶ *Our Recent Equity Studies and Research*
- ▶ *Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,*

and

- ▶ *Our Philosophy of Service:* JVC Northwest recruits, places, and supports individuals interested in engaging with a *service that does justice*. Led by the communities and individuals with whom they serve, volunteers utilize and build on their skills to address pressing social and ecological needs across Northwest locales. The JVC Northwest volunteer experience is grounded in the *Ignatian* tradition of *praxis*; while volunteers serve alongside and accompany communities, they also rigorously reflect on and analyze social structures and cultures that contribute to inequity in order to co-create a more just and equitable world. Intentional community, spiritual nourishment, and authentic relationships enrich the JVC Northwest volunteer experience. Our volunteers transform into lifelong agents of change within their spheres of influence where they continue to work for a just and equitable future.





- **Our Philosophy of Partnership:** JVC Northwest invites partnership with organizations and communities that respond to local needs in the Northwest. Our partnership provides value-added service, capacity-building, and accompaniment to agencies, particularly those invested in deepening their diversity, equity, and inclusion lens and practices. Through their service, volunteers contribute to the mission of each of our partners. JVC Northwest and partner organizations share collective power to co-create structural and cultural change needed for true equity.

The sum of our efforts is the plan that follows. We hope the goals and objectives outlined here will guide us as we recruit and support those who seek solidarity with those on the margins and who might be transformed by the experience.

"The path we seek to follow with the poor is one that promotes social justice and the change of economic, political, and social structures that generate injustice; this path is a necessary dimension of the reconciliation of individuals, peoples and their cultures with one another, with nature, and with God." –Father General Arturo Sosa's letter, Society of Jesus Universal Apostolic Preferences 2019–2029

GOAL 1: REIMAGINE THE MOVEMENT

- **Objective 1a:** Forge new and strengthen existing partnerships with agencies aligned with our four values and philosophy of service, emphasizing racial and environmental justice, and healing work in local communities.
- **Objective 1b:** Broaden our program models to pursue our mission in new ways.
- **Objective 1c:** Recruit diverse cohorts of volunteers poised to grow and transform into people with and for others who are committed not only to meeting the basic needs of their communities but also engaging in systems change through solidarity with those on the margins.

MODELS - PARTNERSHIPS - VOLUNTEERS

"Reimagining our movement involves trying new program models and continuing to seek values-aligned community partners and volunteers..."

"That means increased investment in recruitment and evaluation of partners' justice and healing work in communities as well as consistent communication about our values and activities with partners..."

"Appreciation of diversity is at the core of our Jesuit identity that seeks to understand spirituality and justice with the belief that the Divine can be found in all things and in all persons."



GOAL 2: DEEPEN THE MOVEMENT

- ▶ **Objective 2a:** Share our Jesuit values through the formation of staff and volunteers.
- ▶ **Objective 2b:** Invest in preparing and supporting our volunteers to serve with enhanced knowledge of local issues, through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- ▶ **Objective 2c:** Engage former volunteers in life-long commitment to the four values.

VALUES - PRIORITIES - FORMATION

"We see our Jesuit and Ignatian identity as a set of values and way of proceeding that invites and welcomes anyone who shares our similar hopes for our world, rather than a set of beliefs required to serve..."

"With the help of our wider community, we aim to provide pathways for our volunteers to listen to the stories and voices of the marginalized communities they serve, so that their presence is informed and aligned in ways that promote solidarity rather than saviorism."

"JVC Northwest will be a source of community and inspiration for our volunteers as they continually explore their vocation in the world..."



GOAL 3: SUSTAIN THE MOVEMENT

- ▶ **Objective 3a:** Recruit and develop a diverse staff and board, committed to our Jesuit, Catholic identity and our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- ▶ **Objective 3b:** Leverage technology and various models of organizing to empower staff and former volunteers to recruit, fundraise, and support our programs.
- ▶ **Objective 3c:** Strengthen our financial stability and ensure our future responsiveness.



TALENT - TOOLS - RESOURCES

"To sustain the movement, we seek to steward our talent, tools, and resources in such a way that we can remain responsive to what the world asks of JVC Northwest, not only now and in the next five years, but whatever that becomes beyond then in the future..."

"Through new technology and ways of organizing our former volunteers, we believe we can build greater momentum in recruiting and fundraising for our programs..."

"As we build our own stability, we can keep costs for those partners low and support their missions with passionate, talented volunteers..."