

About Anchorage

Southcentral Alaska is the ancestral home of the Dena'ina Athabascan people, but the city of Anchorage did not exist until the early 1900s, when it was built as the headquarters for the Alaska Railroad construction. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) have served here since 1985.

Anchorage is the sprawling urban center of Alaska, and over half the state's population lives here. It has the largest concentration of Alaska Native peoples, refugees, and immigrants in the state. As the largest city in Alaska, Anchorage holds the bulk of the state's legal, medical, and social services. Even so, the city lacks resources to meet the needs of a rising population impacted by the opioid epidemic, displacement, and homelessness.

As more people flock to the city, the more crucial it is that agencies have the support and assistance JVs provide.



Anchorage, Alaska

Joys of Anchorage

Between university activities and groups, festivals, speakers, shows, concerts, and many free and affordable events, Anchorage offers a variety of options for JVs to pursue their interests. JVs enjoy lots of opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing, camping...you name it! Anchorage has a very active outdoor recreation community. The JV house is a walk from the Campbell Creek Trail, which offers great access to green space amidst an urban setting. JVs can run, bike, cross-country ski, and snowshoe along this trail to many parts of the city—even sometimes to their service sites! The JV house is also within walking distance of a gym, pharmacy, university, and a 24-hour donut shop.

About Ashland

Ashland is a small town among semi-arid rolling hills and open plains near the Tongue River valley adjoining the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations in Southeastern Montana, and a two hour drive east from Billings. With some irony, the National Forest to the east of Ashland is named for US Army General Custer, whom the Northern Cheyenne and Sioux defeated in 1876 in their unsuccessful resistance to being confined on reservations after they were removed from their homelands in the northern Midwest. Jesuit Volunteers served on these reservations with Jesuits based in missions at Ashland, Lama Deer, Pryor, and St. Xavier during 1972-83. The St. Labre mission, founded in 1884 and named for Benedict Joseph Labre, patron saint of the poorest of the poor, is now affiliated with the Capuchin Order.



Ashland, Montana

Joys of Ashland

When you aren't watching deer pass daily through the front yard, you can sit out on the beautiful front porch viewing the rolling hills that surround the small town of Ashland. After eating some of the best indian tacos at Michelle's Munchies, you can walk the short strip of downtown Ashland. You will soon be enveloped in the small Ashland community due to the years of JVs whom came before you. There are plenty of state and national parks to explore in the surrounding area and you are only a hour or so from Wyoming.

About Bend

Located in Central Oregon, where the Deschutes River connects the beautiful Cascade Mountains with the expansive High Desert, Bend and the surrounding area are a complex mix of urban and rural life.

Formerly a small mill town, Bend has grown rapidly in recent years and is now home to just over 90,000 people – and is growing every day. This rapid change has brought many benefits – beautiful parks and trail systems, new outdoor and tech industry jobs, music, arts and culture, a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, and endless outdoor recreation opportunities. It has also brought new challenges to the area, including a major affordable housing crisis, increased inequalities in income, access and resources, dislocation, homelessness and housing insecurity, transportation and environmental concerns, and significant disparities in health. In 2017, JVs returned to Bend to serve the community through healthcare focused placements. The Bend community is a new model for JVC Northwest, where all members' service is focused on improving health access and outcomes with the people they accompany.



Bend, Oregon

Joys of Bend

JVs live near the hospital and public health departments, and are biking distance to a bounty of parks, river trails, coffee shops, and more. The JV support people in Bend are a wealth of resources for outdoor recreation gear and opportunities, spiritual resources, healthcare and social service learning opportunities and connections, local social and ecological justice work, and more! Bend has been called the outdoor playground of the West because of its proximity to nature and availability of year-round outdoor activities.

About Bethel

The Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) delta of Southwestern Alaska is the ancestral home of the Yup'ik and Cup'ik people who established the village of Mamterillermiut on the east bank of the Kuskokwim River. In the 1800s, missionaries facilitated the relocation of the village to the west bank, where Bethel now stands. The first Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) arrived in Bethel in 1965. With a population of 6,500, Bethel serves as the commercial hub for the 56 villages in the YK delta. Like Bethel, these villages are only accessible by plane, boat, or (in the winter) snow machine. Most Bethel residents are Yup'ik or Cup'ik and use traditional subsistence hunting and gathering practices. As the largest populated settlement in Western Alaska, Bethel is a key point of access to services. In addition, climate change is threatening the health of the tundra and disrupting the subsistence way of life. JVs assist agencies serving folks from primarily rural Alaska Native communities, alleviating some of the barriers posed by systemic marginalization, remote locality, and ecological crises.



Bethel, Alaska

Joys of Bethel

Living in Bethel offers a cross-cultural experience in a part of the world known to few outside of Alaska. JVs learn about Yup'ik culture and history, and live very closely with the land. Between the spacious tundra, vibrant sunrises and sunsets, and views of the Aurora Borealis, JVs are surrounded by nature's power and beauty. Each year Bethel hosts the Kuskokwim 300. JVs typically volunteer along the racecourse. Bethel is a dynamic, tight-knit community full of events, groups, and activities. JVs have a wide support and social network, including many Former JVs (FJVs) who still live and work in Bethel. Living in Bethel you will create a strong, steadfast community that will last you a lifetime.

About Boise

Boise, Idaho lies on a swath of green on the ancestral lands of the Newe (Shoshone) and Panati (Bannock) peoples. Boise is a rapidly growing city; the Boise-

Nampa metro area, or Treasure Valley, has a population of 750,000. It's also a hub, with no other metro area for more than 300 miles, people come here for services and amenities. It's a refugee re-settlement community and the home of Boise State University. Boise is "large enough and diverse

enough for many opportunities, but small enough to be able to network and feel like you are contributing insignificant ways." (Melissa Mezo, Terry Reilly, 2020)

Boise is in the middle of beautiful country. The Sawtooth Mountains rise at Boise's northeastern flank, the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and the Givens Hot Springs lie to the south, and the Snake River flows west of town, with high desert and Lake Owyhee past its banks. The Boise River runs through downtown, with accompanying parks and trails, including the 25-mile Boise Green Belt. JVs have been serving in Boise off and on since 2008.



Boise, Idaho

Joys of Boise

Between university activities and groups, festivals, speakers, shows, concerts, and many free and affordable events, Boise offers a variety of options for JVs to pursue their interests and discover new ones. Four seasons of outdoor recreation - hiking, biking, skiing, camping, whatever your pleasure. The network of support people, former JVs, and partner agency staff is tight-knit and committed. Boise JVs have enjoyed perusing art and having their works exhibited in Boise's Freak Alley, an outdoor venue for murals, graffiti, and public art. It is said to be the largest outdoor gallery in the Northwest, and has been a Boise institution since 2002.

About Juneau

The site where Juneau now stands, first called Dzánti K'ihéeni, was a fishing ground for the Áak'w Ḵwáan (Auke) and T'aaḵu Ḵwáan (Taku) tribes of the Tlingit nation.

In the 1880s the city of Juneau was built as a mining camp and later became the capital of Alaska. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) have been in Juneau since 1975.

In the summers the island of Juneau is a bustling tourist destination; its usual population of 30,000 more than doubles in size. In the winters state politicians flock to the city for legislative sessions. Folks from rural towns or villages in the Alaskan panhandle utilize services at agencies operating primarily out of Juneau, the largest city in Southeast Alaska.



Juneau, Alaska

Joys of Juneau

The Juneau JV house is within walking distance of downtown Juneau and an easy bike ride to both the mountains and the beach. It also has a beautiful view of Mount Juneau from the living room window!

Juneau is home to an active art community and many outdoor enthusiasts. It is also a hub for folk music and hosts the annual Juneau Folk Festival. The juxtaposition of mountains and the waters of the sprawling Gastineau Channel contribute to a unique natural beauty described as “the Alps at the edge of the sea.”

About Missoula

The ancestral and current home of the Pend D'Oreille/ Kalispel People, the Ktunaxa People, and the Salish People. Known as "The Garden City,"

Missoula is located in western Montana at the confluence of three rivers. Residing in Bitterroot Valley, Missoula is cradled by towering mountains with the Clark Fork River running through it. About 19.7% of the population lives below the federal poverty line, and due to a lack of emergency housing and supportive services in rural areas of Montana, people with mental illness and people experiencing houselessness often travel to Missoula from across the state of Montana. There is also an ongoing need for shelter services, crisis response, and advocacy for survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. With its population of about 74,000 (2018),

Missoula is one of the fastest growing cities in Montana. Missoula is a hub for culture and recreation, providing ideal conditions for skiing, mountain biking, river floating, and hiking all throughout the year. The city has a vibrant music and arts scene, and lots of opportunities for JVs on a budget.



Missoula, Montana

Joys of Missoula

The Riverfront Trail, along the Clark Fork River and conveniently near the JV house, provides a scenic path for moving your body and connecting with the community. JVs enjoy visiting the Roxy Theater, a community run nonprofit, with first run showings and community events. Free Cycles helps JVs live into the values of simple living and social and ecological justice by learning about bike maintenance and repair and also hosting local bands. First Fridays are monthly nights on the town, where local businesses welcome neighbors in to celebrate creators of all kinds. With plenty of bakeries, coffeeshops, ice creameries, and eateries of all sorts, you'll be sure to find something that suits your fancy and answer the question- Sweet Peaks or Big Dipper?!

About Portland

JVC Northwest has been in Portland since 1971, with a JV house in North Portland and SE Portland. Portland is home to the JVC Northwest office and the headquarters for the Jesuits West Province.

Portland is the largest city in Oregon with 650,000 people. It's a beautiful city with two large rivers, Mount Hood in the distance, and lush parks. Outdoor recreation is accessible and varied- the Oregon Coast, the Columbia River Gorge, and the towering Cascade Mountain Range are all within two hours' drive. The people are friendly as a culture and actively concern themselves with the welfare of their community and environment. Portland feels like a small city, with a vital downtown, excellent public transit, high bike ridership, and a lively civic life. Oregon (and Portland especially) has a history of racism, colonialism, and gentrification, and is currently a hub for services in high demand in the region.



Portland, Oregon

Joys of Portland

JVs have a strong sense of community and networking with JVCNW events through out the year, 2 JV houses in Portland, and a large Former JV population in Portland. JVs take advantage of many opportunities to learn about the 4 values through groups, workshops, events, therapy, etc. The city is bustling with opportunities and resources! Portland JVs enjoy weekend excursions and daily walks and bike rides.

About Seattle

Named after Chief Sealth (Si'ahl in the native Lushootseed language) of the Duwamish and Suquamish Tribes, Seattle is home to two Jesuit Volunteer communities. Mercy House (after Fred Mercy, SJ) and Cherry Abbey (after its location on Cherry Street) are both located in the Central District of Seattle, near Seattle University (a Jesuit university and residence of a Jesuit community). The houses are a ten minute walk from each other, and volunteers can also easily get downtown with a thirty minute walk. As one of JVC Northwest's first urban locales JVs have served the greater Seattle area since 1970.

There is a strong Asian American /Pacific Islander population in the city, as well as many immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who reside in Seattle. *The Emerald City* is a hub for services in high demand in the region, and housing and homelessness are in a current state of crisis in the city. In embracing the complex history of the city, volunteers are asked to wrestle with paying witness and critically contemplating the on-going gentrification of their Central District neighborhood- an historically Black community



Seattle, Washington

Joys of Seattle

A fantastic support network, including many mental health professionals, former JVs who call Seattle home, the Ignatian Spirituality Center that offers spiritual direction and programming, a Jesuit parish, and Seattle University. An abundance of city parks and green spaces, waterfronts in all directions, and the views of Mt Rainier and the Space Needle on clear days never get old. The JV house is centrally located, making it easy to walk to restaurants, bars, and coffee shops, as well as nice foot paths. Seattle is a great place to get to explore the beauty of the PNW, while also getting a big city experience, with thriving social activism & a liberal political environment

About Sitka

Sitka is located on the homelands of the Tlingit people who have lived in Shee At'iká since time immemorial. In 1799, Russian colonizers arrived in Sitka and gained permission from the Kiks.ádi clan to establish a trading post. The Russian trading company quickly violated this hospitality, eventually gained control, and designated Sitka as the capital of

Russian America. In 1867 Russia illegitimately transferred the unceded territories of the Sheet'ká Kwáan to the United States. Sitka (pop. 8,500) is located on an island in the Pacific Ocean. Its main industries are tourism and fishing. People rely on the natural environment both for their livelihoods and to practice subsistence activities. Today about 20% of the population identifies as Tlingit or Haida. Today, the community continues to work to reconcile the harm caused to the Tlingit people and land through colonization. In Sitka, JVs address this through service at social service and environmental agencies- these agencies aim to serve Sitka by meeting direct needs of families and youth, caring for the environment, and increasing resilience in face of threats like climate and economic uncertainty.



Sitka, Alaska



Joys of Sitka

Sitka has an active volunteer and former volunteer community, both from JVC Northwest and from other service programs. The JV house is located right in downtown Sitka, and JVs can walk or bike just about anywhere in the city, including Sitka National Historical Park and Mt. Verstovia. There is an abundance of hiking trails near the JV house! Whale-watching, backpacking, and kayaking are just a few of many ways JVs can explore the natural diversity of this region.

About Spokane

Spokane, "Children of the Sun" in Salishan, is the second largest city in Washington state and known for the Spokane Falls that flow through the heart of downtown. This area is the ancestral and current home of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The City of Spokane was incorporated in 1881, the same year President Hayes formally established the Spokane Indian Reservation. The Northern Pacific Railway brought settlers to the area and established the city as a major trading post for fur, timber, and mining. In the 20th century, the population of the city continued to climb with settlers, and the city became a hub for agriculture and manufacturing. Spokane hosted the first environmentally themed World's Fair in 1974 and held its inaugural Bloomsday Run in 1977. The city continues to make the transition to a more service-oriented economy, and today boasts many beautiful parks, universities, and amazing architecture, while also facing challenges such as scarcity of high-paying jobs, homelessness, and areas of high crime. One out of every 5.2 residents of Spokane lives in poverty.

Spokane is a beautiful home to many, and we welcome you into its rich history and current context.



Spokane, Washington

Joys of Spokane

Spokane is a four-season destination, locally nicknamed the "Lilac City" for the abundant lilac flowers that bloom each spring. Outdoor recreation is abundant with nearby lakes, rivers, mountains, and parks to explore. The city's slogan is "Near Nature, Near Perfect." Spokane is known as the birthplace of Father's Day, home of Bing Crosby, and for hosting the world's largest basketball tournament each summer. JVs often explore the local art scene, festivals, and cheap eats and entertainment in the city. Gonzaga University, a Jesuit institution near the JV house, can be a great resource for the community in addition to the local network of support people.

About St. Xavier

Located on the rolling prairie of Southeastern Montana, St. Xavier is a small community on the Crow Indian Reservation with a population of less than 100. This remote community is 20 miles south of Crow Agency, the hub of the Crow Indian Reservation, and near Little Bighorn Battlefield, making the area rich in native culture and national history. In addition to culture, nearby Bighorn Canyon offers opportunities to explore the scenic area through biking, hiking and other recreational activities.

Throughout history, Montana's allure was resource extraction and exploitation: furs and gold, then industrial, rail, coal and agricultural development.

Today, half of Montana's population lives outside of its cities. St. Xavier's appeal is its claim to be the "last best place" - it is accessible and open, you can have an impact, people are friendly, life is slower and the sky is big. St. Xavier is remote, stark and beautiful.



St. Xavier, Montana

Joys of St. Xavier

Living on a rural property, you have the ability to walk miles around the area and explore nearby rivers and ranches. You may have some companions with you as you explore the area – the local dogs of your neighbors. The town of Hardin, about 25 minutes away, provides thrifting opportunities, one of a kind diners, and some small town high school sporting events! You will be enveloped in a tightknit community at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy and be surprised to find how far that community reaches. You won't be too far from Billings and Ashland, which makes for some great community bonding with other JVs!

About Tacoma

Founded on the ancestral land of the Puyallup Tribe, the Thea Jamba JV house is located in the Hilltop neighborhood close to the city's downtown. Tacoma, the third largest city in Washington state, is nestled in between two neighboring cities- Seattle to the north (the largest city in the state) and Olympia to the south (the capital of the Washington).

Tacoma was one of JVC Northwest's first urban locales as the program expanded in 1970.

Nicknamed "Grit City", it is a port city on the Puget Sound, with two military bases in town; the Puyallup tribe lives on a reservation at the city limits. University of Washington Tacoma is located downtown, near the waterfront. Housing and homelessness are in a state of crisis in Tacoma. Tacoma has also become a hub for services for residents of rural southwest Washington, as its location is more accessible than Seattle.



Tacoma, Washington

Joys of Tacoma

Located on the Tacoma Catholic Worker community's property, with standing invitations to liturgies and dinners. Strong support network, including the Catholic Worker, many former JVs, a residential Jesuit community associated with a Jesuit high school, and the JV house is a short walk to the Jesuit parish. A view of the Cascade mountain range from the Jesuit Volunteer house deck, and of Mount Rainier (called "Tahoma" [where the gods dwell] by the Puyallup people) just a few steps from the JV house.

About Yakima

Yakima, jokingly referred to as the Palm Springs of Washington due to its semi-arid desert climate and 300+ days of sunshine, is a city of 94,000 nestled under large arid rolling hills. It has a typically short history of white settlement and a rich Native tradition (check out the Yakama Nation Museum in Toppenish). Located at the junction of two river valleys which are lushly irrigated and feature orchards and vineyards, Yakima is notable for its vistas of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, its significant Latinx and Native American populations, and its active network of former Jesuit Volunteers. JV service placements afford JVs the chance to serve alongside dedicated local staff to help meet the needs of a very diverse population. The population of Yakima is 46% Latinx, and the city is bordered by the Yakama Indian Nation. JVs have served in Yakima continuously since 1984.



Yakima, Washington

Joys of Yakima

The JV house is close to a number of resources like the library, downtown Yakima, performance venues, brew pubs, various shops and restaurants, and is also close to the Yakima Greenway, which runs 16 miles along the Yakima and Naches Rivers. JVs have taken advantage of the natural beauty of the area to go hiking, camping, rafting, skiing and snowshoeing and, in the Fall, have picked apples at area orchards. Support people help JVs connect with local resources like movie theaters and White Pass Ski Area at low/no cost and with families who offer their mountain cabins for JV community retreats/ get-aways.