

OVC| SEPTEMBER 2022

PROGRESS



Updates on the progress of Orthodox Volunteer Corps



We Launched!



^Corps Members at their kitchen table

On August 29, six young adults from five states arrived in Pittsburgh to become the inaugural cohort of Orthodox Volunteer Corps. They met briefly at the OVC House before traveling together to the Antiochian Village Conference Center for a week-long orientation. They prepared for their year of service, formation, community, and Church. They established commitments for communal living, explored their roles in nonprofit placements, and reviewed logistics of the year. Most of all, they prayed.



Corps Members speak to "Why OVC?"

"So much has been given to me. I want to give back."

"I wanted to integrate my faith with my passion for service."



"To serve Christ and work for the upbuilding, strengthening, and increase of His Church in North America and in all the world."

"I knew it would be a transformational experience...I feel like it [OVC] was gifted to me by God for my transformation."





A snapshot of their experience:

Serving at Nonprofits 4-days a week

- Neighborhood Resilience Project
 - Community Support
 - Free Health Clinic
- Oasis Project
 - After School Program
 - Communications & Development
- The Pittsburgh Project
 - After School Program and Volunteer Development
- Shepherd's Heart Fellowship
 - Homeless Outreach



Living in Community

- Thanks to numerous in-kind donations and additional contributions, the house is fully furnished
- The Corps Members created a shared-values pledge for their house and community life





A snapshot of their experience:

Engaging the Church

- Vespers, Liturgy, and a meal with St Moses the Black Antiochian Church
- Outdoor liturgy and picnic with St. Nicholas OCA, McKees Rocks
- A visit with the Clergy Brotherhood of Pittsburgh at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
- Liturgy, speaking opportunity, coffee hour, and GOYA visit at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.
- House Blessing with Bishop Andrei, Bishop Thomas, and a representative from Metropolitan Savas.

Learning Together

- We meet every Friday in an all-day, interactive seminar.
- We have been digging into the following subjects:
 - Theological framework for the year
 - Adaptive leadership
 - Asset-based community development
- We have toured the city and their neighborhood to better understand their context for service





Recruitment for next year!

We are beginning recruitment for our second cohort! If you know any young adult ages 21-29 who would be interested in OVC, [please nominate them using this link.](#)

Applications are due February 6, 2023



THANK YOU!

With love in Christ,
Michael Sider-Rose & Kyra Limberakis

