



Holy Trinity Parish Grant Report

We are grateful for the \$2,000 grant from Holy Trinity Parish, intended to focus on recruiting DC Service Corps Members to support nonprofits in the DC area during this particularly challenging time. We achieved the goal of increasing the number of DC Service Corps volunteers from 7 to 8 and to increase recruiting efforts among Persons of Color. FMS recruited, trained, and retained a record 8 DC Service Corps volunteers in the midst of the pandemic. We are one of few volunteer programs which was able to move forward without programmatic changes (apart from increased safety regulations) and with an in-person Orientation/Formation. In addition, we actively increased the number of volunteers of color from 14% of the class to 38% of the class.

Some highlights of their ministry this year so far include:

- Each Tuesday, DC Service Corps (DCSC), participates in Tuesday Formation Sessions. As part of this initiative, the DCSC volunteers partnered with Hope and a Home, the Father McKenna Center, and Holy Trinity Catholic Church to pack groceries for 24 local DC families. Tuesday's service was a great change of pace for the DCSC volunteers working in the FMS office. Communications Associate Bekah Galucki, expressed, "I enjoyed getting to be the hands and feet of Christ. By no means was it a walk in the park, but I am so grateful to partake in this work so worth doing. It reminded me of the quote 'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.'" The volunteers enjoyed sharing in the opportunity to contribute to their community with great love and humble service.
- We placed three DCSC Members this year at the Father McKenna Center (FMC). We are pleased to



Figure 1: DCSC Members at Heart and Home

report that last year's DCSC Member, Michael Broughton, was hired to be a full-time Assistant Case Manager at the end of his time of service. This is a great example of how this program provides increased capacity for the nonprofits we serve and opportunities for leadership development among the young adults who serve in this program.

Michael follows Nayeli Garcia, who is also an alumna of FMS and who continues in her second year as Volunteer Coordinator at the FMC. They will continue to work for structural change for those in poverty.

One of the continued challenges of this year has been the impact of COVID. For example, while usually the DCSC Members take the bus to their service sites in order to be in solidarity with those whom they serve, we had to change this strategy for their safety while DC is in the middle of a second upsurge of case numbers. Although they were willing to take the bus and did so for a few months, it became clear that as the case numbers increased that it would be safer for them to drive. This changes some of the expected expenses as well.

We continue to be inspired by these young adults working amid these challenging circumstances. Thank you so much for Holy Trinity's support, and please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director Elizabeth Hughes at liz@franciscanmissionservice.org or 202-832-1762, ext 3 with any questions or for more information.