



Yearning for Justice by Timothy Huegerich, Washington, DC

"I haven't played this game before either," Mr. Simms reassured me as I sat down to play my first game of Bid Whist, a 4-player card game popular among some of the residents at Jeremiah House, a long-term residence for formerly homeless men. But in a few minutes I was laughing out loud as Mr. Simms, a resident at Jeremiah House, slammed down the winning cards one by one and my partner and I realized he hadn't been quite straight about his previous experience.

"There are often daunting obstacles to successfully seeing through just policy changes, so it is important to keep in mind the big picture...the coming kingdom."

I soon thereafter learned that Mr. Simms is adept at much more than Bid Whist, and he has actually played a central role in getting a city government provision changed to enable the residents of Jeremiah House and similar places to more easily obtain housing vouchers which would allow them to move into their own places. As a member of Citizens About Real Empowerment (CARE), a resident advocacy group in DC, he helped identify the problem that was preventing residents from being granted vouchers, he presented his proposal for changing it to the authorities, and with others, he convinced them to make the change.

It is stories like these that give me hope in my work at the National Advocacy Center, where the changes that we advocate for often seem far off, and even more so recently. There are often daunting obstacles to successfully seeing through just policy changes, so it is important to keep in mind the big picture, to keep in mind the coming kingdom. It struck me



Tim serves at the National Advocacy Center as well as Jeremiah House in DC. He lives in community with SOME (So Others Might Eat)

recently that Jesus tells us to learn from the "dishonest steward" who uses clever (though ethically questionable) methods to get what he wants. Jesus points out that "the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." (Luke 16:8) Instead of merely wishing for a more just world, we are called to creatively and persistently work for the just world we yearn for.

Welcome New 2004-2006 GSVs!



(From left to right)

Front row: Tiara Silva (St. Helena's Residence), Janet Iafrate (PS 27 Red Hook), Michelle Rader (McMahon Services), Lisa Johannimgmeir (Collier High School)

Second row: Michele Gilfillan (GSV Staff), Monica Kiefer (Good Shepherd Shelter), Jennifer Griffin (Lima, Peru), Beth Thornton (Good Shepherd Shelter), Corrine Ochipinti (Good Shepherd Shelter)

Third row: Megan Massett (Marian Hall), Meg Dominick (Euphrasian Residence), Joyana Jacoby (León, Mexico), Chrissy Lemmon (León, Mexico)

Back row: Jimmy Haws (St. Germaine's Residence), Tommy Hollywood (GSV Staff), Mary Helldorfer (GSV Staff), Amy Jo Flaherty (McMahon Services), Chrissy Harris (HandCrafting Justice), Judith Widmer (Good Shepherd Shelter), Tim Huegerich (National Advocacy Center), Casey Dave (Euphrasian Residence), Elisa Bresba (Collier High School), Jenna Mueller (Collier High School)

Embrace the world...

Good Shepherd
Volunteers
Mission Statement

Good Shepherd
Volunteers is a service
association
of women and men
which exists to express
the gospel values of the
Good Shepherd in
today's world.
The Sisters of the Good
Shepherd and
the volunteers share
the same work and
values in this
collaborative project.
The basic elements of
the GSV philosophy are
exploration of simple
living, working towards
social justice, the
development of
community bonds, and
attentiveness to the
spirit.

From the Director

Dear Friends,

"How happy we are, who are co-workers with Christ in his mission of love and friendship for each person." ~St. Mary Euphrasia

As the season changes in the east coast, I reflect on these words of St. Mary Euphrasia, foundress of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. I am so incredibly humbled and blessed to be a part of the GSV family, a family dedicated to sharing Christ's love in the world.

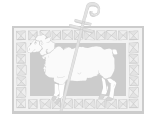
I stepped into the new role of director of GSV in late August as our orientation began for our 2004-2005 volunteers. We welcomed 17 new domestic volunteers. In addition, we welcomed 3 new international volunteers who will serve for two years, one in Lima, Peru, and two pioneers who are serving in our newly established program in León, Mexico. We are all thankful for the many gifts and talents each volunteer brings to their communities and to those they will come to know and love throughout their time

of service. Please continue to pray for each of them, and our three international volunteers who continue their second year of service in Paraguay and Peru.

As I continue to witness God's grace through our volunteers, our alumni, my colleagues, and my mentor and our GSV foundress, Maureen, I pray for a challenging and hope-filled journey with GSV. I am strengthened with joy and inspired with the words of St. Mary Euphrasia as I begin my new adventure with GSV.

We are quickly approaching the season of Thanksgiving, and I want to share my appreciation and gratitude for your prayers, your generous spirits, and your support. May you continue to be inspired with zeal and the courage to embody Christ's love and friendship with all those around you.

In Peace,
Michele G. Gillfillan



Simply Loving by Jennifer Griffin, Lima, Peru

"Wah-wah", the day begins! I walk into a small day care center that cares for twenty-six babies. The babies range from two weeks to two years old. I am greeted with goos and gaas, but also with the name "Tia" (Aunt) from those who are learning how to speak. Reina de la Paz day care center in Lima, Peru is not only a place for education and growth, it is a home of love and nourishment.

"These mothers have left behind their families and everything normal to them...to find a safe place where they can live and love their children."

For many of the children we are the only family that they have ever known, besides their very energetic mothers. Reina de la Paz is a home for single adolescent mothers who are between eleven and sixteen years old. Many of these young mothers have traveled days to find this refuge, this loving space. These mothers have left behind their families and everything normal to them in order to find a safe place where they can live and love their children. I have embarked on a wonderful journey of simple living with these mothers by simply living a life full of love. This journey is defined by being present to the mothers and children by listening to their stories and by sharing a life together.

Life for me at Reina de la Paz is either smothering the babies with kisses while I am changing their dirty cloth diapers, accompanying the moms and their children to the overcrowded health clinics, or just sharing meals, laughs, and hugs with the beautiful mothers. Life here is not just simple living because the children wear cloth diapers that are forever being hand-washed, and are dressed from head to toe in clothes their mothers have knitted for them. The community that I love at Reina de la Paz lives simply by simply being present to the current moment with open hearts.



Jenn Griffin at orientation with Mexico GSVs, Joyana Jacoby and Chrissy Lemmon (l to r)

Alumni Corner

We wish much joy and love to GSVs who are engaged to be married: **Gretchen Edrozo '97** to Tim Van Der Perren, **Andrew Crook '02** to Carley Cutler, **Christella Short '03** to Jeffrey Villasenor, and **Kathleen Wurth '99** to Lance Yeager.

Congratulations to GSVs who are currently working on their Masters degrees: **Stephanie Bell '01**, who is competing her MSW with a mental health concentration at the U of Houston and **Sarah Faehnle '04** who is beginning her MSW at the U of Texas at Austin. Congratulations to **Anne Marie Ruppert-Wills '01**, who just completed her MA in Pastoral Studies in London.

Many thanks to '04 GSVs who are continuing their work for Good Shepherd: **Karen Bulthuis**, as staff at HandCrafting Justice and **Peter Markovics**, who is a recent employee of both St. Helena's Residence and Barbara Blum Residence in New York.

September Gathering

On September 16, GSV hosted a dinner for all NYC area volunteers. Thirty-five volunteers from 7 programs came together to share a meal, prayer, and experiences as new volunteers. According to Marian Hall GSV Megan Massett, "To meet other members of this one body of Christ is such a gift... especially when those members are *aware* that we are one body. We were able to share a delicious meal, heartfelt prayer, and insightful experiences."



Thirty-five volunteers from a variety of programs met for dinner and to build new friendships

Journeying Towards God

by Janet Iafrate, Astoria, New York

My community members and I are jam-packed inside a mini-van, surrounded by a dozen suitcases, duffel bags, and about fifty pounds of generously-donated food. We have just concluded a week-long retreat in Nyack, NY, and are anxious to see our new home in Astoria.

"We are discovering that our relationship with God cannot be restricted to our churches or to the thanksgiving we offer before meals."

For the past seven days, we have been asked to pray together in the morning, before every meal, and in the evening. We have prayed quietly to ourselves, prayed



Janet Iafrate volunteers at PS 27 in Red Hook, Brooklyn

with our hands outstretched to one another, prayed for one another's families and friends and personal intentions. We have had little contact with anyone besides fellow GSVs. We have not seen a billboard, watched a commercial, or checked our email in one week. Surrounded by trees, woods, hills and the beautiful Hudson River, we have easily discovered and re-discovered a relationship with our Creator. We feel well-prepared for the

challenges our spirituality might face in the upcoming months.

And then the mini-van pulls out of Marydell Faith and Life Center, and the Creator laughs, saying to herself, "Just you wait."

Our challenge, we have found, has been to find our spirituality in even the most stressful of moments, to find the face of God in even the most difficult children with whom we work. We are discovering that our relationship with God cannot be restricted to our churches or to the thanksgiving we offer before meals. We are learning that our spirituality does not stand alone. Rather, it is in communion with the equality we are working toward, with a thirst for justice, with a desire to know the Creator we knew during our seven days together in Nyack. Our spirituality has become a path, and we are striving to view our challenges in our work not as stumbling blocks, but as that which will strengthen our journey.



The Astoria Community came together for the GSV Orientation in August

Growth of Community

 by Amy Jo Flaherty, Washington Heights, New York

What is community and what does it mean to be in one? Before my start as a Good Shepherd Volunteer, I had never thought twice about what defined a community, community was just always there. I was part of a family community, a Christian community, a college community, a work community, and a neighborhood community.

As one of the four pillars of Good Shepherd, what does it mean to be living in an intentional community? During my last six weeks as a volunteer, I've learned what a blessing and what a challenge community is. It is more than living in the same apartment, sharing groceries or living together as roommates. Intentional community is like a family; sharing prayer, experiences in a new place, pooling resources to meet everyone's needs and acting as a shoulder to cry on when times are tough. It is communicating, compromising, sharing and growing together. Community does not just happen; it must be formed and continually worked on.



Amy Flaherty, Chrissy Harris and Michelle Rader (l to r)

Living in community was one of the main reasons I wanted to volunteer. I knew that this opportunity would expose me to a multitude of new experiences and provide a chance for increased personal growth. In thinking that, when I applied to volunteer, I had no idea how much work community would be. It really is a continual process, a blending of a group of people that did

not know each other before becoming Good Shepherd Volunteers and a compromise of each individual's expectations. Although community can be challenging especially in its infancy stages, the rewards are many.

“Intentional community is like a family; sharing prayer, experiences in a new place, pooling resources...and acting as a shoulder to cry on when times are tough.”

I enjoy the quirks of my Washington Heights Community. The way in which my roommates have recognized that I take a long time to eat a meal or the way one of my roommates would like to have her life set to music or another roommate wanting things “just so” when arranging stuff around the apartment. We are all very different people brought together for a common purpose. With each new hurdle that we encounter and overcome, we become a stronger and more bonded community with a greater understanding of one another. I look forward to the continual growth, and ups and downs of my own community as we journey together this year.

Amy volunteers at McMahon Services, a Foster Care and Adoption Agency in the Bronx, NY



Good Shepherd Volunteers

337 E. 17th Street
New York, NY 10003
Ph: 888-668-6GSV x780
Fax: 212-979-8604
E-mail: gsv@goodshepherds.org
www.gsvolunteers.org

Michele G. Gilfillan—Director
Mary Helldorfer—Assistant Director
Tuleisha Signs—Administrative Assistant

Mail To:



We are very pleased to welcome Michele G. Gilfillan to the GSV staff as Director. Michele earned her Masters in Non-Profit Management at the College of Notre Dame in MD. She comes to us from Catholic Relief Services.

*Embrace the world!
14 years of service*



Welcome Michele!

Experience GSV again or for the first time with the new website:
www.gsvolunteers.org

“Peace, love and unity and above all zeal to help each person know God’s saving love and friendship. These are our goals.”
St. Mary Euphrasia

