

# faithWORKS

Connecting People, Transforming Lives

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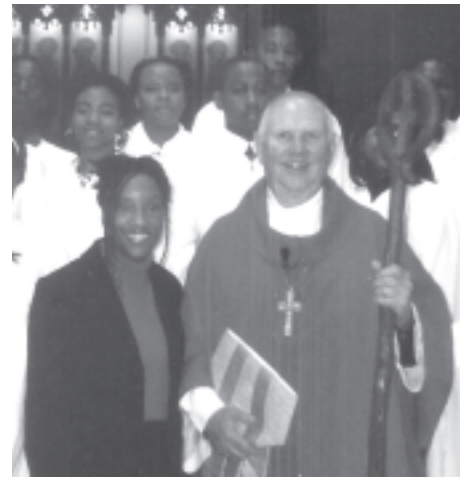
## On the Frontlines of Diversity

CNVS was pleased to devote this year's National Conference to the issue of diversity. CNVS offered participants various unique perspectives on the topic including that of former volunteers. We had the opportunity to speak with two former volunteers, Lovancy Ingram and Lou Serna, about their experiences.

According to our most recent Membership Survey, only 7% of the more than 10,000 volunteers who serve in our member programs are African American, while 4.5% are of Latino descent. These numbers are well below the general population, and CNVS and our members are actively trying to encourage non-traditional volunteers to serve in faith-based programs. This is what makes Lovancy's and Lou's experiences all the more compelling.

### An African-American Perspective

Lovancy is African-American and grew up in a family that continuously promoted service to the disadvantaged. Her home parish, Shrine of the Sacred Heart, is an urban church which African-Americans, Latinos, whites, and Asians from all different walks of life, rich and poor, call their spiritual home. She picked up her first copy of RESPONSE, CNVS' directory of faith-



Lovancy Ingram and Archbishop William Borders

based volunteer opportunities, while attending college at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and upon graduation, she decided to serve with Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps.

As a volunteer, she served as a youth minister at St. Ambrose parish, a predominantly African-American inner-city parish in Baltimore. Lovancy was the only African-American in a community of five volunteers. Aside from the usual tensions of community life when people from different backgrounds come together, difficulties in the house were minimal. Lovancy's biggest challenge was to relate to the mostly African-American kids who came from

*"I was willing to deal with potential conflict, because you never know what kind of positive impact you can make."*  
- LOVANCY INGRAM



## Our New Year's Resolution

Happy New Year! This past year was a busy one for CNVS. In November, we held our annual National Conference in San Antonio, Texas, where we explored the issue of diversity in our volunteer programs. And in this issue, we feature stories of two former volunteers who spoke and shared their experiences.

Yet, it was also the day-to-day things that kept us busiest—from recruiting potential volunteers at college campuses across the country to printing and distributing thousands of copies of our RESPONSE directory of volunteer opportunities. In fact, compared to this time last year, there have been 65% more requests for RESPONSE.

What great news! This means that more and more people are becoming aware of faith-based volunteer service. And we owe it all to you, those of you who have requested RESPONSE for yourself and for others.

Our 2007 New Year's resolution at CNVS is to put RESPONSE into the hands of even more people. But we cannot accomplish our resolution unless you make it your resolution as well. You've already helped us so much this past year; help us do even more in 2007 by sharing RESPONSE with someone you know or directing them to our website.

Help us make 2007 a year in which even more people learn about faith-based volunteering.

Peace,



Jim Lindsay  
Executive Director

*Continued from front page*

very different backgrounds than herself. At St. Ambrose, she sought to provide them with a safe place from the often dangerous influences around them.

When Lovancy reflects on her own volunteer experience she notes, "I was willing to deal with potential conflict, because you never know what kind of positive impact you can make."

To reach more minority volunteers, Lovancy suggests reaching out to non-traditional places including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and also to neighborhood community centers. She recognizes that financial concerns may be a greater concern for a lot of African-Americans and Latinos considering devoting a year of their lives to volunteer service.

Today, Lovancy works in an after-school program and promotes service to young children. She does so because, "At some point, someone reached out to us and encouraged us to serve."

### **A Latino Perspective**

One year after graduating from St.

Edward's University in Austin, Texas, Lou Serna decided that he wanted something more. He turned to a campus minister for guidance and found himself called to serve as a full-time volunteer with

the Holy Cross Associates. He served as a volunteer at Ecumenical Social Ministries (ESM) in Colorado Springs assisting low-income individuals with job training and placement. One thing that Lou immediately noticed was how different Colorado Springs was from Texas. In his hometown of San Antonio, he grew up in a vibrant largely Mexican-American community where Latinos are everywhere including

in political and corporate leadership positions. In Colorado Springs, that was not the case—there were Latinos but for the most part they were recent immigrants working in the service sector.

After completing his volunteer year and working in Colorado, Lou returned to Texas. Now as a campus minister at his alma mater, he is in a position where he promotes volunteer service. He shares with students about the challenges of living in community and putting your faith into action in service to the poor. Because of Lou's efforts, St. Edward's now sends at least three members of its graduating class to serve in CNVS member programs.

One of the biggest challenges Lou identifies in recruiting more Latino volunteers is cultural. While economic concerns are also important, Lou notes that often families have no idea what lay volunteering is and thus may not be particularly supportive or understanding of a child who wants to volunteer for a year in a different city far from home. Lou himself recalls that his family responded



*Lou Serna*

with disbelief when he told them he was leaving Texas to serve as a volunteer in Colorado.

While CNVS continues to recruit people from diverse backgrounds to serve in our volunteer programs, Lovancy and Lou are a testament that faith-based service is an option open to everyone.

# New Board Members and Board President

CNVS welcomes three new members to our Board of Directors, James Alexander, Kim Smolik and Brian Walsh. Both Jim and Kim represent CNVS member programs.



*Jim Alexander*

Jim is the Executive Director of Inner City Teaching Corps (ICTC). Prior to joining ICTC, Jim was Executive Vice President at National-Louis University in Chicago and chief business and administrative officer at Governors State and Illinois State Universities prior to joining National-Louis.

had coordinated Augsburg College's Mexico internship program. She herself has served as a volunteer both domestically and internationally.

Kim is the Program Manager of Catholic Charities Volunteer Corps based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has served in that position for the past three years. Previously, she



*Kim Smolik*

Brian is the president and principal of Warfield & Walsh, Inc. Warfield & Walsh works with non-profits and advocacy organizations and is one of the top direct marketing fundraising firms in the country. Brian is also the founder and president of Faith Direct, Inc. Faith Direct has quickly evolved into the leading firm providing complete electronic offertory services to Catholic parishes nationwide.



*Brian Walsh*

At the CNVS Board meeting on November 13, Mary Frances Jaster, co-director of the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers, was chosen to be Board President. The staff and member programs of CNVS congratulate Mary Frances and look forward to working with her and all of our Board this upcoming year.



*Mary Frances Jaster*

As we welcome our new members, we would also like to acknowledge our outgoing members, David Kasievich, Bro. Jim Moore, Sr. Maureen McGowan, and Maureen Connors. Thank you all for your many years of service!

## CNVS Celebrates International Volunteer Day

As part of events to celebrate the United Nations' International Volunteer Day on December 5, CNVS Executive Director, Jim Lindsay, spoke at the Brookings Institution's International Volunteering Leadership Forum. The Forum initiated its campaign to double U.S. volunteers in international service and enhance the impact of international volunteers over the next five years. Also participating were government, corporate, and university leaders and representatives from numerous non-governmental and faith-based organizations. Jim spoke about recognizing the important contributions faith-based volunteers who serve internationally make.

The Brookings Institution is a world-renowned think tank based in Washington, DC.

## You Can Promote Volunteer Service

Order a CNVS RESPONSE 2007 poster for your parish, campus ministry or career placement office and help promote faith-based volunteer service. The poster includes tear-off cards with our website and contact information. As students get ready to graduate, this poster is a great way to get them thinking about service.

Call our toll-free number (1-800-543-5046) or e-mail [cnvsinfo@cnvs.org](mailto:cnvsinfo@cnvs.org) with "Poster" in the subject line to get your free poster. Quantities are limited, so order now!

## Matching Funds Challenge

The Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities has generously provided CNVS with a conditional matching grant of \$16,000 to expand our recruitment efforts. CNVS must raise an additional \$17,000 in order to receive the funds. You can help CNVS reach out to more potential volunteers by making a gift to CNVS and designating it "Raskob Matching Funds" and sending it to us in the enclosed envelope by no later than April 15, 2007.





*Salesian Lay Missioner, Amy O'Rourke, working with street children in Mexico City.*

# Highlights from our Annual Membership Survey

**10,380 volunteers served in total.** This is the third consecutive year that more than 10,000 volunteers have served in CNVS' member programs.

There were 9,474 domestic volunteers, with 4,396 serving nine months or longer (46%).

There were 906 international volunteers, with 639 serving nine months or longer (70%).

**Nearly 70% of long-term volunteers were between the ages of 21-25, an increase of 14% from last year.** Clearly faith-based volunteer service continues to engage young people in their faith and service to others.

Our reporting programs ranked the **University of Notre Dame** as their top school for recruitment.

**1,283 volunteers served as AmeriCorps members in 99 CNVS member programs.** Over \$4.8M was made available to these individuals in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards.

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Faith Works is a quarterly publication for friends of Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS). To subscribe, e-mail Shane Yost, Editor at syost@cnvs.org. CNVS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization connecting full time volunteers with Christian service programs. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Text may be reproduced provided proper credit identifying Catholic Network of Volunteer Service as publisher is included. © Copyright 2007 Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, Takoma Park, MD.



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