

OVC | MARCH 2024



PROGRESS

Updates on the progress of Orthodox Volunteer Corps



Here at the beginning of March, we are full of gratitude for all that is happening at OVC. Get a glimpse.

Full-Time Program

We're pouring into Orthodox young adults—and the broader community—through our full-time service program. Our Corps Members are working at a free medical clinic, homeless shelters, after school programs, and a full-service community center. They are managing patient care, organizing volunteers, writing & delivering curricula, and tracking finances. They are meeting and staying close to their neighbors—translating for a refugee family that is learning the bus system; teaching a lesson to kids while right outside a man is being arrested; and visiting those without shelter in encampments, the hospital, and jail.

Midyear Retreat



We held our Midyear Retreat at St Basil Academy in Garrison New York, reviewing the first five months, planning for the next five, and spending time in prayer & fellowship together. Huge thanks to National Philoptochos, who supported the retreat, to the staff of St Basil Academy for their overflowing hospitality, and to the OVC Corps Members who are living their faith day to day.

OVC Reach

A new part-time OVC offering for young adults in Pittsburgh

In October, we launched a part-time program. Over 25 young adults have signed up for OVC Reach, which meets monthly at parishes in Pittsburgh for fellowship, faith formation, and service opportunities. We got things started by creating a list of volunteer events; now Corps Members are adding to the list through their parish and nonprofit connections. And we have been blessed by tremendous speakers, including Fr. Paul Abernathy (NRP), Katrina Bitar (YES), Christian Gonzalez (OYM), and Dean Triantafilou (IOCC). See photos below from OVC Reach.



OVC Sunday



On January 28, we held our first official Sunday designated by the Assembly of Bishops—OVC Volunteer Sunday. Parishes from Cape Code to Dallas, Texas celebrated with us. We're thrilled to deepen our ties to the Church.

OVC on the Move

We have been traveling to share the word about OVC. Since our last newsletter, Kyra, Michael, and one of our alums, Evan Roussey, have gone to Birmingham, Chicago, Columbus, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St Paul, Philadelphia, State College, Urbana, and Washington, DC. We'd love to visit you, too!





We are excited to share that we received a capacity-building grant from the Leadership Education initiative at Duke Divinity School!

This year we are focusing on building our capacity in communications and recruitment. We're grateful for this timely support as a new and growing organization.



Up Next for OVC!

We're reading applications and interviewing candidates for 2024-25. We are thrilled with the interest we've seen in OVC among young adults across the country! We continue to lay the groundwork for expansion to Boston. We're planning more travel for spring and summer. And we're trying to be faithful every step of the way.

Please pray for the Corps Members ... for those with whom they serve, for our board, and for us.



THANK YOU!

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

