



September 2025

In late August, we at **Orthodox Volunteer Corps began the fourth year of our full-time program.** First, we held a week of orientation at All Saints Camp in Northwestern Pennsylvania. It's a hidden gem of the Orthodox Church, tucked away among rolling hills, deciduous trees, and the winding Allegheny River. We held sessions on the theology of service, preparation for community living, and logistics for the program and service placements. We held one-on-one meetings with each Corps Member to underscore our commitment of mentorship and support. We prayed together in a beautiful chapel. We shared meals; we took a hike. We ended the week an hour down river, in Pittsburgh, with a commissioning prayer service, a visit to an Orthodox nonprofit (the Neighborhood Resilience Project), and a special gathering where local alumni welcomed the new cohort to the OVC family.

Since then, we have settled into the year. Four days per week, Monday through Thursday, Corps Members work at their nonprofit placement. **They are doing beautiful, varied, challenging, and rewarding work.**

They are serving at homeless shelters, youth programs, medical clinics & nutritional initiatives, a legal aid center, a pregnancy & parenting program, and more. Then on Friday of every week, we meet all day for our seminar. Seminar focuses on five themes for the year: Our City, Our Community, Faithful Service, Strategic Service, and Vocation & Career Development. In short, with seminar we seek to help Corps Members serve as Orthodox Christians and with excellence. As they do service and seminar, Corps Members also live in community. That provides a critical system of support and it's a great training ground for service. Finally, **the Church grounds everything we do.** One way that we practice that early on is to visit different parishes together for the first few Sundays of the program.

In addition to our full-time program, we also have begun another year of our part-time program, OVC Reach. Young adults, 21-29 years old, meet every month for fellowship and formation, focused on service. In addition, they sign up for service opportunities. **This year we expanded OVC Reach to Boston, and at our first session had 36 people attend.** OVC is growing overall. We began programming in fall 2022 with 6 Corps Members in one city. Three years later, we have over 70 participants in our full- and part-time programs across two cities, Pittsburgh and Boston. **Want to join in our growth? Here are ways to get involved.**

