

OVC| AUGUST 2026

PROGRESS



Updates on the progress of Orthodox Volunteer Corps



**“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”
(1 John 4:12)**

We just concluded another program year; in it, we saw love made complete. That completion is a mystery we can not explain (certainly not in a newsletter), but we can report glimpses of it through the service of over 100 Orthodox young adults who participated in OVC. Below please see quotes, numbers, description, and story; all of it points to the beauty of completed love.



In the words of our 2025-26 Corps Members...

- “OVC has profoundly impacted my faith, my understanding of service, and my relationships with others.”
- “OVC has softened my heart towards my neighbors. It has awakened in me a desire for lifelong service.”
- “OVC challenged me and then held me when I failed.”
- “It has been an answered prayer ... truly life giving and has restored my hope. That is what OVC is, hope.”
- “OVC has been one of the most transformative experiences that I've ever taken part in. Service has never been so informed or so personal to me.”



By the Numbers: Our Past Year

- Two cities
- Four Programs
- Over 100 participants
- Over 8,000 Hours of Service

Our Work at a Glance

OVC facilitates a year of immersive service for young adults with the most vulnerable and rooted in the Orthodox faith. We do that through four programs—a full-time and part-time program in each city where we are based (Pittsburgh and Boston). The full-time program is smaller and more intensive—we recruit young adults from across the country to live for a year in Pittsburgh or Boston; they work 32 hours per week at service placements, participate in a weekly full-day seminar on Orthodoxy and service, live in community with other OVC Corps Members, and get embedded in local parishes. The part-time program is larger and less intensive, engaging young adults already living in Pittsburgh and Boston, providing monthly meetings for community & formation and regular service opportunities.





Serve, even when it's tough

Nina grew up in the Orthodox church, studied Public Health in college, and came to Pittsburgh for OVC. Her service placement was in the community support department of an Orthodox ministry, the Neighborhood Resilience Project. She met people from a low-income neighborhood who had hit rock bottom. Some struggled with addiction; others with mental illness; others had trouble paying their rent or utilities. In some ways, they were profoundly different from her—in race, income, and background. At some times, those differences seemed insurmountable. One woman was repeatedly abrasive, dismissing Nina as an outsider and untrustworthy.

A hallmark of OVC is the length of service, a year. Healing and learning, for those who serve and those who are served (in truth, we all are both), takes time. Nina kept serving when it got tough. She got support from her fellow Corps Members. She attended daily noon prayer. She studied the lives of the Saints. Eight months into her placement, a small miracle occurred. Nina turned 24. Her OVC housemates had a celebration for her. So, too, did the community members at her service placement, including the woman who had been at odds with Nina. The woman gave Nina a birthday card in which she expressed, simply, her love.

Both Nina and the woman had come to understand the truth of Paul's Epistle to the Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (3:28)

Our Part-time Program is Growing

OVC Reach, which we first launched in Pittsburgh in 2023, expanded to Boston this past fall. There we forged a partnership with the Telos Center, a thriving Orthodox ministry of young adults. In both cities, we were struck anew with the simple power of bringing people together, sharing meals, reflecting on Orthodoxy and service, and practicing service. A few highlights:

- One evening, 50 young adults came to hear Fr Paul Abernathy speak about Orthodox service on the margins.
- Another evening, Fr Mark Roosien shared insights from his graduate studies on St Maria of Paris, the patron saint of OVC.
- We held service projects at local Orthodox parishes, an Orthodox social service ministry, and an Orthodox school—not to mention other service projects beyond our Church.

Reach is strengthening, in Boston and Pittsburgh, a community of Orthodox young adults, eager to dig into their faith, support one another, and serve their neighbors; in that way, they are showing the world that when we love one another, God's love is made complete in us.

We are profoundly grateful that you are a part of this sacred work. Thank you!

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

