



 *Franciscan*
**COMMON
VENTURE**

2019



Sisters of St. Francis
Dubuque, Iowa

FRANCISCAN COMMON VENTURE

Franciscan Common Venture (FCV), sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, is a volunteer program, which provides the opportunity for persons to contribute their talents, time and commitment in service among people who are poor.

Together, the sisters and volunteers strive to give expression to Franciscan values of conversion, prayer, poverty, minority and community. Motivated by social justice issues, they search for creative solutions and faith filled responses to the problems they encounter.

It is understood that volunteers for any of the sites listed in this brochure are at least 20 years old and would commit themselves for the full time listed. All are asked to contribute a fee specific to the site to help cover food, housing, and program costs, due at the time of acceptance.

Volunteers are responsible for their own travel to and from the site and food costs while traveling.

The service options at each of the sites will be matched with the skills, background, interests, and personal gifts of the volunteer. Programs are well coordinated so as to receive maximum benefit for both the volunteer and for those among whom they are serving.

To apply for any of the programs, return the Initial Application and Reference forms found on pages 12 and 16 as soon as possible. Applications will be processed as they are received. Note the application due dates; fees are due no later than four weeks prior to the start of service. Receipt of payment secures a place on the team. Limited scholarships are available on a case by case basis.

For more information contact:
Franciscan Common Venture Office
Sisters of St. Francis
3390 Windsor Ave.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Email: commonventure@osfdbq.org
Phone: (563) 583-9786

Web: <http://www.osfdbq.org/commonventure>



1

BUSBY, MONTANA THE WILD ROSE CENTER WORK CREW

**April 28-May 4, 2019
6-10 Volunteers • Women and Men •
Age 20+**

Due date to apply is April 1, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$125/person to help cover housing and other costs; plus bring \$50 for food purchase on site.

Community: Volunteers will stay at the Wild Rose Center, a spirituality center for women of Northern Cheyenne and Crow Native American tribes as well as for the local ranching community. Volunteers will be invited to learn the history of the events contributing to the Battle of the Little Big Horn; and explore the Native American culture, including the sweat lodge--a holy place where Native Americans renew their connection to the cosmos and to God. Arrival is on Sunday with departure on Saturday.

Service Needed: The Wild Rose Center is always in need of various tasks in preparing for the upcoming retreat season: cleaning, organizing, minor repairs, yardwork, or some carpentry.

Note: Busby is on a “dry” reservation, which means no alcohol is to be bought, sold, or consumed in the area. Volunteers are expected to abide by this policy.

For further information:
<https://www.wildrosecenter.com/>



2

DUBUQUE, IOWA RESCUE MISSION AND NEW HOPE CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

June 2-8, 2019

2-4 Volunteers • Women and Men • Age 20+

Due date to apply is May 5, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$115/per person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Service: New Hope Catholic Worker Farm offers an experience of gardening, service to the poor, creation care, justice, reflection, and community building. The Dubuque Rescue Mission offers the opportunity to participate in positive solutions to homelessness. Come see the life-giving interconnections!

Community: Some meals will be with the staff and clients. Evening meal is with the Sisters of St. Francis. Accommodations are at a local retreat house. Arrival is on Sunday with departure on Saturday.

For further information: <http://dbqrescue.org>



3

THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONE DAY SERVICE

One each in June, July, August

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$30 to help cover food and other costs. There will be some shared reflection after service is given. *Please note: overnight accommodations are not provided; commuters only.* This may be a great opportunity for a family to serve together for a day – contact Sr. Shell with questions.

June 1, 2019

**Convivium Urban Farmstead, Dubuque, Iowa
2-6 Volunteers • Women and Men or a Family
• Age 20+**

Due Date to apply is May 3, 2019.

Do you want to show your care for creation? Do you want to learn about how to do that in an urban setting? Here is your chance. Volunteers from the Dubuque area will learn about Convivium's Mission of creating community around food — growing, preparing, preserving, and of course, enjoying food, all while assisting with various garden tasks.

July 13, 2019

Gospel Mission and Camp High Hopes, Sioux City, Iowa • 2-4 Volunteers • Women and Men or a Family • Age 20+

Due Date to apply is June 15, 2019.

Volunteers will spend the morning at the Gospel Mission preparing, serving, and sharing the noon meal with guests. In the afternoon, volunteers will assist with various tasks at Camp High Hopes serving youth and adults with various special needs.

August 10, 2019

**Northeast Iowa Foodbank, Waterloo, Iowa
2-4 Volunteers • Women and Men or a Family
• Age 20+**

Due Date to apply is July 13, 2019.

Volunteers will assist in assembling food boxes for seniors, and in tasks in the community garden, while learning about hunger issues and the importance of this ministry.



4

MORTON, MISSISSIPPI EXCEL, INC.

**Summer camp 2019 • One week or more
in June • 1-2 volunteers per week • Women
• Age 20+**

Due date to apply is May 1, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$175/person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Community: EXCEL (Enrichment and Excellence through Community Education Leadership) offers tutoring to children of diverse ethnic backgrounds. There will be opportunities to learn about the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. Volunteers will live and serve with our Franciscan sisters.

Service Needed: Teachers/helpers for reading, language and math, for children grades 1-6 during Summer Camp. Sunday arrival; Friday departure.

Bilingual English-Spanish skills are very helpful but not required.



5

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI EXCEL, INC.

**One week or more in June or July 2019 •
2-6 volunteers per week • Women and Men •
Age 20+**

**Due dates to apply are May 1 for June service
or June 1 for July service. (See “Long Term
Service” on page 18 for longer options.)**

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$175/person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Community: Community life is shared with sisters of several congregations and with the staff of EXCEL (Enrichment and Excellence through Community Education Leadership). There will be opportunities to be immersed in the African American community, to learn about the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi, and to participate in local community activities as they are available. Sunday arrival; Saturday departure.

Service Needed:

In June:

- Teachers/teacher assistants in the Summer Learning Program for Children.

In July:

- Basic maintenance (painting, repairs, etc.)
- Sorting and preparing donated items in One-of-a-Kind resale store.
- Assisting with a variety of senior citizen activities – including wellness activities, bridge, arts and crafts, a coffee shop, etc.

For further information:

<http://excelcommons.com/about>



6

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE

July 21-27, 2019

2 Women • Age 20+

Due date to apply is June 24, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$175/person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Community: The volunteers will live with a Franciscan Sister and share meals and evening prayer together. Arrival is Sunday; departure on Saturday.

Service Needed: St. Margaret's House is a day center committed to the gospel value of hospitality and improves the lives of women and children by providing individual attention to their immediate needs, breaking the bonds of isolation, and helping them acquire skills to better their lives. Volunteers may do a variety of tasks including:

- Work in the play center and do activities with the children.
- Sort donations and work in the clothes closet.
- Help in the computer lab.
- Join the noon meal with the women and children attending the Center.

For further information:

<http://www.stmargarethouse.org>



7

WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL

**August 11-17, 2019
6 Women and Men • Age 20+**

Due date to apply is July 15, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$175/person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Living arrangements: Volunteers will stay in the school (stage area of the gym) and need to provide an air mattress, sleeping bag, linens, and towels. (No private rooms.) Arrival is Sunday, departure on Saturday.

Service Needed: St. Augustine Indian Mission and School, founded by Mother Katharine Drexel, has served the Native American people of the Winnebago and Omaha tribes since 1909 when elders of the Winnebago and Omaha requested that a school be built for their children. Volunteers will assist in the hand harvest and processing of corn to be used in meals for sacred events and rituals. Other volunteer work could include painting, minor repairs, cleaning, and gardening. Possibility of attending a Pow-Wow and other cultural rituals.

For further information:
www.staugustinemission.org



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BUSBY, MONTANA WILD ROSE CENTER

September 8-14, 2019
4-6 Volunteers • Women and Men •
Age 20+

Due date to apply is August 12, 2019.

Cost: Volunteers are asked to contribute \$175/person to help cover food, housing, and other costs.

Community: Volunteers will stay at the Wild Rose Center, a spirituality center for women of Northern Cheyenne and Crow Native American tribes as well as for the local ranching community. Volunteers will be invited to learn the history of the events contributing to the Battle of the Little Big Horn; and explore the Native American culture, including the sweat lodge--a holy place where Native Americans renew their connection to the cosmos and to God. Arrival is on Sunday with departure on Saturday.

Service Needed: Help of any type is welcome, though in September help is especially needed to winterize the facilities and grounds. Landscaping chores, minor repair jobs, organizing supplies, painting, maintenance, construction, and a variety of other tasks as needed.

Note: Busby is on a “dry” reservation, which means no alcohol is to be bought, sold, or consumed in the area. Volunteers are expected to abide by this policy.

For further information:
<https://www.wildrosecenter.com/>

Franciscan COMMON VENTURE testimonials

“Weeks like this are, in addition to a volunteer opportunity, also like a retreat.”

–John Sanders Jones, DBQ Rescue Mission

“Being in Mississippi opened my eyes to other walks of life in God’s world and how everyone needs to care and keep each other in prayer.”

–Mindi McDermott, Morton Work Crew

“I became more knowledgeable about the depths of poverty that exist throughout the country...[It] felt good to get out of my busy career and focus on the truly important things like prayer and serving others.”

–Tim Derr, Okolona, Mississippi trip

“I’ll never forget it or the people I’ve met or the issues that most people would rather ignore instead of start talking about--even in small towns/communities. I’m a different person today than that of 4 days ago!”

–Tina Vondran, Minneapolis trip

“I am grateful to Franciscan Common Venture for enabling me to be part of learning about another culture. I am most grateful to God, for all the gifts I received in this experience: love, commitment, generosity, helping hands, understanding what poor truly means, and listening to Native American stories, their ancestors and traditions – what a wonderful week!”

–Jenise Seewald, St. Augustine Indian Mission



Franciscan
COMMON VENTURE



Franciscan Common Venture

INITIAL APPLICATION FORM

Return this application to:

Franciscan Common Venture Office • 3390 Windsor Ave •
Dubuque, IA 52001 • (563) 583-9786 •
e-mail: commonventure@osfdbq.org •

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Email address: _____

List two sites for which you have a preference:

Dates for which you are available for volunteering:

Beginning: _____

Concluding: _____

Person to be notified in an emergency:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Will your health insurance coverage be in effect during this experience? _____ Yes _____ No

Insurance Company Name: _____

Policy# _____

Group# _____

Policy Carrier _____

Continued on next page

Prescribed Medication: Please list any medication(s) you take on the advice of your physician: _____

Allergies: Please check those to which you are allergic:

___ Aspirin ___ Codeine ___ Penicillin
___ Bee sting ___ Sulfa

Other drugs, environmental, food: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Do you have bilingual English-Spanish skills? Yes or No

Proficiency level: Low ___; Medium ___; High ___

Other language: _____

Immunization Information:

_____ Tetanus / Diphtheria (Valid only if within 10 years)

_____ OR Tetanus/Diphtheria. Acellular Pertussis

Have you ever been or are now being treated for drug addiction or alcoholism? (If yes, please explain)

Is there any chronic health condition or physical limitation that might effect the type of work you do? (If yes, please explain) _____

Do you bring any specific skills to this project? (i.e. playing an instrument, carpentry, etc.) _____

Do you have personal concerns/hesitations about being involved in this project? _____

Continued on next page

Have you served with Franciscan Common Venture in the past? Yes No

If yes, where did you serve? _____

When? _____

I will abide by the directives of trip sponsors and coordinators, and of the local site directors. I realize that participation in this service is contingent upon meeting the expectations which they specify. I do not / will not hold either the coordinators nor sponsoring institutions responsible for illness, injury, or accidents incurred during this time of service.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

On a separate sheet of paper please write a brief description of yourself. Include area(s) of education/ministry; why you are applying; how you see yourself serving at the sites you prefer, etc.

Include a photo of yourself.

FCV T-Shirt information:

If accepted as a FCV Volunteer, you will receive a packet of information in preparation for an orientation with your assigned team. This packet includes a FCV T-Shirt. Please complete the following:

Would you like to receive a FCV T-Shirt?

Yes No

If yes, I require this size: S M L

XL XXL XXXL

Please share with us how you learned about FCV so we can improve our recruiting efforts:

FCV poster FCV brochure Facebook

Church Bulletin Sisters of St. Francis web page

Catholic Volunteer Network Former FCV Volunteer

Other: _____

Franciscan **COMMON VENTURE** *prayer*

Loving creator, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer for the Franciscan Common Venture.

Open their hearts so that they may discern your will and trust you in the choices that they make each day.

Renew their lives so that they may always reflect your love in their encounter with others. Breathe into them a new life so that they may be inspired to bring comfort to the afflicted, justice to the poor, and hope to those in despair.

Bless them with patience and understanding that they may love and care for your people and be attentive to their needs.

And by the strength of your Spirit, may they always be good stewards of your abundant grace. We ask this in your name.

Amen.



Franciscan Common Venture

RECOMMENDATION FORM

2019

Send or give this form to a person who has played a significant role in your life--e.g. teacher or employer, etc. Ask them to return this form as soon as possible to:

Return this form to: Franciscan Common Venture
3390 Windsor Ave • Dubuque, IA 52001 • (563) 583-9786
E-mail: commonventure@osfdbq.org • Fax: (563) 583-3250

(Please print)

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of Reference: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Email address: _____

To the Reference: Franciscan Common Venture, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa, is a volunteer program which provides the opportunity for persons to contribute their talents, time, and commitment in service among people who are poor. Together, the sisters and volunteers strive to give expression to Franciscan values of community, simple living, prayer, service among people who are poor, and social justice.

Franciscan Common Venture seeks mature, well-balanced and spiritually motivated women and men to work with the Dubuque Franciscan Sisters. We count on you to give us an honest evaluation of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses. Omit any section you do not feel qualified to answer. **Thank you** for making and taking time to complete this form.

If you wish the applicant to be considered for Common Venture 2019, please return this form ASAP.

This form can be accessed on our website at www.osfdbq.org/commonventure. For mailing address, fax number or e-mail, see above.

Continued on next page

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. What is your overall impression of this person?

3. What is your assessment of the applicant's ability to live and work with others? What type of influence do you believe he/she will exert? What qualities might help or hinder him/her?

4. Are you aware of any problem--psychological or physical--that would indicate that this person would not be suited to this program? Please explain.

5. Please check the item below that describes your overall rating of the applicant:

- Exceptional, a rare find
- Recommend, no strong feelings
- Good, better than many
- Might be okay, some reservations

Any additional comments?

Franciscan **COMMON VENTURE**

LONG-TERM SERVICE

FCV also offers the possibility of longer term service, year-round, in three sites. Volunteers for these sites must be at least 21 years of age and commit themselves for a minimum of three months and up to a year (or longer) of service.

Volunteers will be expected to come to Mount St. Francis in Dubuque for orientation. Transportation to and from the place of service will be negotiated. Volunteers will receive a stipend, and are expected to contribute a fee to help cover costs. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Service sites may be added or withdrawn, contingent upon circumstances.

MORTON, MISSISSIPPI: EXCEL

1-2 volunteers • Women, age 21+

Preference is for volunteers with some experience in tutoring or working with small groups of children. Bilingual skills are helpful but not necessary.

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI

1-2 volunteers, • Women/Men, age 21+

One-of-a-Kind resale store and/or management of the Mugs On Main Coffee Shop and Bakery.

SUSCHITOTO, EL SALVADOR:

Centro Arte Para La Paz

1-2 volunteers • Women/Men, age 21+

Must have background, skill, and experience to offer workshops and tutor adults and/or children in some form of art or music; or be able to present seminars to promote non-violence and spirituality. Bilingual English-Spanish skills are necessary.

For more information or to apply for any of these service sites, contact Sr. Shell Balek, OSF at:

563-583-9786, or e-mail: commonventure@osfdbq.org

Franciscan COMMON VENTURE *values*

Conversion

The heart of the Franciscan way

- Turning toward God, embracing the call to discipleship.
- Putting on the heart, mind, and will of Christ--an on-going process.

Prayer/Contemplation

Living a reflective life

- Striving to integrate a life of prayer and active ministry.

Poverty

Giving all as gift, generosity of heart

- Being unattached to material excess in order to walk with people who are poor.

Minority

To be humble like Christ

- Reaching out to God's little ones--those who are in need.
- Going into the world as servants, committed to works of charity, mercy, and justice.

Community

Loving relationship with all of creation

- Sharing life and inviting one another to deeper growth.



For more information contact:

Franciscan Common Venture Office

Sisters of St. Francis

3390 Windsor Ave.

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

Email: commonventure@osfdbq.org

Phone: (563) 583-9786

Web: www.osfdbq.org/commonventure