

Mission Messages

A publication of the St. Joseph Worker Program of Orange

Summer 2021



Building a Future on Experiences

The drama and trauma of the pandemic exposed new understandings of self, the good and the bad, and opened eyes to what is important for the future.

Workers found ways to connect with Sisters in spite of quarantines and social distancing. They came to serve the community and discovered that they were actually the ones being served, finding a deep sense of accomplishment and joy.

Community life moved from virtual gatherings to rich and sacred encounters. Whether learning to express opinions on important matters or being humble and just listening, decisions based on the good of the community strengthened bonds and deepened relationships.



Service Experiences, Professional Skills

I've learned to adapt to many different projects and teams and this has been one of the most valuable skills I've learned this year to bring to my career. I've loved being a part of a mission that spreads awareness and prevention of domestic violence, while helping women and families in those situations. I've enjoyed working at the CSD and getting to know more sisters! I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with multiple amazing organizations!

I love each of the women in my community and I am so grateful for this opportunity as it led me to meet and encounter them and live life with them during this challenging year. We relied on each other and became a team and a family and I think that's been the best part of this year. I've grown more confident in myself as a leader and someone who can uphold the values of Justice, Leadership, Community and Spirituality in my everyday life now.

- Annie, 2020-2021

Be Humbled by Community Stories

During this year of service, I have been working at Mission Hospital's Family Resource Centers. My role is to listen to the community. This year of service has had a learning curve with the pandemic, but one of my biggest takeaways has been that while we are here to serve the community, we are actually the ones being served. As St. Joseph Workers, we serve by giving our time, energy and resources to the community, but the highlights are the relationships - laughing, talking, and crying with people you would normally would never talk to. At Mission Hospital I learned how to advocate for my community, to be humbled by their stories, and to listen.

“While we are here to serve the community, we are actually the ones being served.”

- Soyeon, 2020-2021





Biggest Challenges, Biggest Accomplishments

I will never forget my feelings of anxiousness and fear prior to and at the beginning of this year as a St. Joseph Worker. I was stepping into a world of unknowns. Little did I realize how much knowledge, growth, fun and memories those unknowns would bring into my life. As this year ends, I am filled with a deep sense of accomplishment and joy. In the past 9 months, I have learned more about myself than in the 9 years prior to beginning the St. Joseph Worker Program. Some of this learning came from reflecting about how I am seen through the eyes of God during program events like sharing of the Heart and retreats. This gave me a totally new perspective about who I am as a person.

“I am filled with a deep sense of accomplishment and joy.”

Over the year, I have realized my biggest challenges paved the way to my biggest accomplishments. Speaking up can be uncomfortable, so can being required to take an active leadership style when you are most comfortable leading passively. The program gave me a comfortable environment to practice these uncomfortable skills, aiding tremendously in my personal growth by making me a more well-rounded and confident individual among many other things. For this I am extremely grateful.

- Tricia, 2020-2021

An Eye Opening Moment

Before coming to this program, I was feeling lost and I didn't know what to do with my career or life. After taking a domestic violence course it was an eye opening moment. I realized I want to help others here in my home country by creating an organization to rescue people, even babies, and help survivors. For me, this helped me to connect more with God and be truer to myself. I really want others to open to these types of programs because they change so much and so many perspectives of your life.

- *Beatriz,*
2020-2021



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Sacred Encounters

During my year of service, I volunteered at St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers. As a health advocate, my main role was to act as a bridge between patients and healthcare professionals, to ensure patients received the best treatment possible that could effectively improve their overall wellbeing and preserve

their hope. What I found the most rewarding about my work was every single opportunity I got to engage with patients and create sacred encounters. I really enjoyed talking with patients even if it was mostly through the phone because I was able to learn more about their stories and their struggles. I would try to help them the best that I could, but when something was out of my scope, I would connect them to other staff that could better assist them and provide them the resources they needed. One of my greatest accomplishments was creating a new women's health tracking system, so providers can

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better follow up with patient's mammograms, pap smears and well woman exams.

- Betssy, 2020-2021



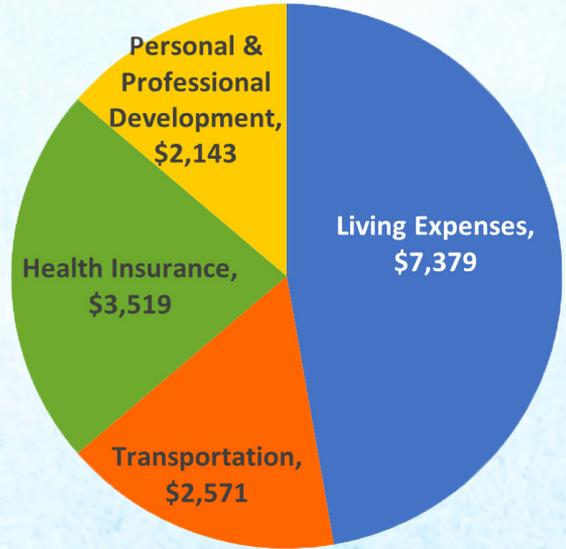


We Need Your Support!

Every day is a day of service for our workers. They hold onto each other for strength and support. We rely on your strength and your support to help us meet their needs. We welcome any amount to help us cover these expenses for one St Joseph Worker:

*Whatever I do next,
I'm striving to
work with the most
vulnerable or those
needing to be
shown dignity,
compassion, and
self-empowerment.*

Annie Voegele, 2019-2020



With Gratitude

Please consider a gift. Donations are graciously and gratefully accepted:



Online at
sjworange.org



By mail to St. Joseph Worker Program
440 S. Batavia St., Orange, CA 92868



Mission

Empowering women to respond to the needs of the times in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Vision

We create a year-long service opportunity for women in preparation for a life-long commitment to social change and personal transformation. Individual growth and development is built on the values of leadership, spirituality, social justice and intentional community grounded in living simply and sustainably. Rooted within the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Workers live the mission: “Love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction.”

You're Invited

We invite women aged 21-35 to become St. Joseph Workers from August to June.

Contact

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