

***Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest***  
***A Year of Service, A World of Difference***  
*Discernment Packet, Covenant, Service Interest Form, and Alcohol & Drug Policy*

We are excited that you have completed your application with JVC Northwest. JVC Northwest invites you into a period of intentional discernment to consider the challenge and grace of living in solidarity with marginalized people and vulnerable places for the upcoming year.

JVC Northwest Mission Statement

Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest engages women and men in a transforming experience of full-time volunteer service. Jesuit Volunteers work for a year or more in solidarity with persons living on the margins of society and with vulnerable places in the Pacific Northwest.

Rooted for over fifty years in the Jesuit Catholic tradition emphasizing spiritual openness and depth, Jesuit Volunteers in the Northwest examine and act on the causes of social and environmental injustice to promote peace and structural change. Jesuit Volunteers live in communities that commit to simple living embodying a healing and sustainable presence on the Earth.

Discernment Packet

Ignatian discernment is a thoughtful and intentional way of making decisions. In order to discern if JVC Northwest is where you envision yourself next year, we invite you to pay close attention to the thoughts and feelings that arise as you consider life as a Jesuit Volunteer. This discernment packet offers a summary of the four values of JVC Northwest, and additional materials to help you better understand our organization and mission. Please read these carefully, and use them in whatever way will be beneficial to you in your discernment, whether that's through meditation, prayer, conversation, journaling, etc. We hope you find the packet helpful in your decision making process.

The following format may help with your reflection:

- Set aside some uninterrupted time for each value. Take some time to center yourself and focus.
- Read the materials, paying attention to the feelings and thoughts that rise up in you as you reflect.
- Consider how you already live these values or desire to live these values and why.
- Share these thoughts and feelings in your journal, in a conversation, or in prayer.

After a section on each of the four values, you will find a Placement Section, which includes a **Service Interest Form**. Please complete this form and return it to the JVC Northwest office prior to your interview.

Toward the end of the packet, you will find a copy of the **JVC Northwest Covenant**. The Covenant of JVC Northwest is a relational commitment that all Jesuit Volunteers enter into with each other and JVC Northwest at the beginning of the JV year. The Covenant provides a communal foundation for living out the year in the context of the four values and outlines the agreements around which JVs and JVC Northwest communities form and shape their lives together. Please take some time to review the Covenant and consider your ability to make this commitment.

The final pages of the discernment packet include the **JVC Northwest Alcohol and Drug Policy**, which outlines the expectations regarding JVs' use of alcohol and illegal drugs during their JV year.

We ask each applicant to sign and return the Covenant and Alcohol and Drug Policy **after** she/he has been accepted into the JVC Northwest program. We include these documents in this packet for your own discernment, to help you better understand the expectations of the program.

Again, we look forward to getting to know you and helping to guide you through this discernment process. Blessings on this journey!

## The JVC Northwest Placement Process

You review and reflect on the materials in the Discernment Packet. You select areas of interest from the Service Interest Form and complete the Pre-Interview Questions on the reverse side of that form, returning it to JVC Northwest prior to your interview.

A JVC Northwest staff person reads your application and contacts you for an interview to:

- a) Get to know you better
- b) Answer your questions
- c) Help you discern joining JVC Northwest

Soon after your interview, you and your interviewer will have a conversation. If the program feels right for you and you are right for the program, the staff member will welcome you to the program and discuss your placement interests. Your interviewer will let you know when to expect a phone call with a placement match.

A JVC Northwest staff member will contact you with a specific placement opportunity that matches your interests with the needs of our agencies. Staff will send your relevant application materials to the potential placement agency and the agency will have one week to review your application and contact you for an interview. The interview is a chance for you to ask questions about the placement, as well as a chance for the agency to ask questions about you. You may also have the opportunity to speak with a current volunteer.

After your agency interview you will call the staff member to let him/her know if you feel it's a good fit. If the agency agrees it is a match, the applicant is officially placed.

If the match is denied, go back to box #3.

When placed, the staff member contacts you and the agency to confirm the placement acceptance.

**Welcome to JVC!** In the weeks ahead, you will receive further information regarding your arrival in Portland for Orientation. Your commitment begins **August 2, 2010**.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

*God is Love. Love casts out fear. Even the most ardent revolutionist, seeking to change the world, to over turn the tables of the money changers, is trying to make a world where it is easier for people to love, to stand in that relationship to each other...There can never be enough of it.*

- Dorothy Day

Jesuit Volunteers in the Northwest work for peace and justice through service to those living on the margins of our society, by addressing the root causes of social and ecological injustice, and by becoming aware of how our attitudes and behavior affect others. We understand our calling to transform attitudes and structures to eradicate poverty, create justice, and support a sustainable relationship with the earth.

*The following references and readings are provided for you to reflect more deeply on the meanings of social justice. Please choose whichever materials you feel drawn to explore.*

### **Scriptural References to Help You Prepare for Your Interview:**

Luke 6: 20-47 – Sermon on the Plain

Jas 2: 14-26 –Faith and Works

### **Reading to Help Prepare You for Your Interview:**

“Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break the Silence” Martin Luther King, Jr.

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>

“Multiplying our Impact” video by Van Jones

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-ZzCAsaDeI&feature=related>

### **Reflections from Volunteers and Jesuits**

I have come to a place thousands of miles from my home, one that is often ignored by the rest of the country, to work with people who are often forgotten about. I am the Client Advocate with the Alaska Public Defender Agency here in Bethel, and I work almost entirely on civil cases, with parents whose children have been taken into state custody. I walk with my clients as they maneuver the intimidating and complicated legal system, and try to offer them the tools and emotional support they need to overcome their issues of alcohol abuse, domestic violence, etc, so that their families can be reunited. Ultimately, we work together to get them to the point where their attorney can prove that their children are no longer in need of aid and can return to the home.

Each day, I feel privileged to be welcomed into my clients' lives the way I have. These people have different backgrounds, different stories, and different realities than I do, and yet they share their experience with me. Through my clients, I am shown the beauty in the both the difference and universality of human experience that exists in this country. I am shown the importance of hope and the reality of struggle. Most importantly, I have practically seen the beauty of working for the individual and for human relationship over ideas.

Maura Toomb, 2008-2009 Bethel, AK

“Justice is a manifestation of goodness and truth, which we perhaps understand, but it also intercourses with beauty, removing all blemish, irregularity and unevenness. It’s about harmony and pattern. Justice,

for example, is beautiful because it always recognizes persons above things. Capital punishment is unjust because it is disordered, ugly and degrading to killer and killed. It just isn't fair to human society on any level. It sets up a dissonance. It's the same with racism, sexism and ageism; they all mar truth and deface beauty.

We fail our own humanity when we allow fear to shy us away from the chaos and collisions that surround our journey through life. Rather, let's see it all as a challenge to dare, to risk, to jump in and participate, mind and heart, soul and strength, in the awesome flowering forth of absolute truth, goodness and beauty. Dance the dance of justice, sing its song, sculpt its lines, do her portrait in brilliant color. Justice is God's call to walk the royal road to integrity. Beauty, harmony, integrity and justice are all one."

~Jack Morris, SJ, cofounder of JVC

### **Reflection Question on Justice:**

Reflect on an experience you have had working with people who are poor or marginalized. Out of this experience, share an interaction you have had in which you recognized your own preconceived ideas about another person's race, age, sexual orientation, gender, or socioeconomic status. What did you learn about yourself through that interaction? What did you learn about the other person? How did this experience change you and your relationship with this person?

## COMMUNITY

*There can be no vulnerability without risk; there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community. ~M Scott Peck*

JV's live in intentional communities, sharing material resources, spirituality, recreational time, and the joys and struggles of daily life. Community life in JVC Northwest is much more than living together in the same house or sharing common space with others of like interests or like mind. Life in this program calls the individuals in each community to make a commitment to personal and social transformation. This means that conflict and discomfort are welcomed as invitations to spiritual growth. JVC Northwest is fundamentally interested in how your encounters with others facilitate the unfolding of your deepest self.

Community can provide the strength to reach out to those we serve and challenge us to be open, compassionate, and willing to change. We expect all applicants to demonstrate the interpersonal skills necessary for creating and sustaining a vibrant community life. When these skills are faithfully practiced, the community experience is one where you learn to engage and love the profound imperfection of being human.

*The following references and readings are provided for you to reflect more deeply on the value of community. Please choose whatever materials you feel drawn to explore.*

### **Scriptural References to help you to prepare for your interview:**

Matthew 18: 15-35 – Communal Life

John 13: 1-20—Washing of the Feet

### **Readings to help you prepare for your interview:**

“Tragic Gap” video by Parker Palmer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq0aeKCB41g>

“The Invitation” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

<http://www.oriahmountaindreamer.com>

### **Reflections from Former JV's**

“JVC [has] begun to open my eyes, heart, and spirit to the true meaning of community. Through the relationships I am forming with my fellow Sitka JVs with whom I share the joys, blessings, challenges, and struggles of living in intentional community...all of whom teach me daily the skills and art of healing and of opening the self to being healed. It has become clear to me within these past few months as never before how essential it is for the human family to come together in light of – rather than in spite of – our differences.”

~Ryan McCafferty, JV Sitka 2003-2004

“Community drew me out completely – in the sense of wholly. I could see clearly my unsavory qualities side by side with my admirable characteristics, and watched everyone else in my community doing the same. In our own ways, each of us confronted that within us, which was most lovable and most worrisome, and both were easier because it was done together. We faced our own failings because the rest of the community was ready to accept us unconditionally, and we could love ourselves better because the other five already did.”

~Julie Weiskopf, JV St. Louis 2001-2002, JV Portland 2002-2003

## **Reflection and Questions on Community:**

Why are you choosing to live in intentional community for a year? How do you think living in community will challenge you? What do you think will be exciting or fun about living in community? What are some needs you have regarding community that are important to you?

***Conflict and Conflict Resolution** are a normal part of relationships and community life, and everyone responds to conflict differently. Many of the ways we react to conflict do not actually help us come to a healthy resolution. As outlined in the Covenant, JVC Northwest community life invites the JV to live honestly and openly, lovingly bringing conflicts out into the open in a safe and non-judgmental environment, so that conflict can be resolved and relationships can heal and deepen.*

Please describe a situation in which you were hurt or angered by someone. How did you react? How was the situation resolved? Give an example of a time when you needed to ask someone for forgiveness. How did you feel? How was the situation resolved?

## SIMPLICITY

*“The best things in life are the nearest: Breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of right just before you. Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life’s plain, common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things in life.”*

*~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

Simplicity is the emptying of self for the sake of personal transformation, presence to others, living in sustainable relationship with the earth, and service to marginalized members of our society. JVC Northwest expects all applicants to demonstrate the ways in which their use of time, money, and resources embraces the value of simplicity. In this technological age of cell phone and computer overuse, we invite JV’s to be mindful of how these things distract us from the fundamental wonder and richness of life.

*The following references and readings are provided for you to reflect more deeply on the meanings of simplicity. Please choose whichever materials you feel drawn to explore.*

### **Scriptural References to Help You Prepare for Your Interview:**

Mark 6: 6-11 – Mission of the Disciples

Luke 12: 13-34- Parable of the Rich Fool

### **Reading to Help You Prepare for Your Interview:**

“A Garden of Simplicity Is Growing in the World” by Duane Elgin

[http://www.simplicityforum.org/files/Garden\\_of\\_Simplicity-1.07-Elgin-1-14-07.pdf](http://www.simplicityforum.org/files/Garden_of_Simplicity-1.07-Elgin-1-14-07.pdf)

“Peaceful Simplicity: How to Live a Life of Contentment” from Zen Habits

<http://zenhabits.net/2007/08/peaceful-simplicity-how-to-live-a-life-of-contentment>

### **Reflections from Former JV’s**

“Also this year I’ve learned what my non-negotiable essentials are. I can live without the Internet in my house. I can live without a latte everyday from the coffee shops around town (hard, though!). I can live without a perfectly warm house. By shedding away the parts of our lives that are extraneous, such as getting plastic bags at the store (we try to reuse our own canvas bags instead), we find out what is most crucial. We reuse the containers we have. We use the leftover food in the fridge instead of buying more. We ask the baristas at Starbucks to make our drinks in our own mug instead of using a disposable paper cup. This elimination of non-essentials allows us to enjoy the reality of life, where happiness lies. Happiness lies in simplicity of heart, which can be cultivated by creating an environment free of unnecessary objects.”

~Karen Harmeyer, Seattle Cherry Abbey 2006-2007

“Living on the reservation has made me view \$80 in a completely different way as well.

Though an \$80 monthly stipend does not go far in our modern consumer society, I now recognize how many people would consider themselves lucky to have \$80 after paying for rent, food, gas, and other necessities. Yet, even though money is tight for many people on the reservation, they are still incredibly generous. The richness in their lives does not often stem from money, but from familial and community ties. I have learned immensely from this different perspective.”

~Megan Reilly, Hays 2005-2006

**Reflection Question on Simplicity:**

How does your present lifestyle reflect, or not reflect, the value of simplicity? Please refer to your use of time, money, material objects, technology, and/or travel.

JVC Northwest encourages volunteers to consider not bringing along their cell phones, laptops, or any other technology that may hinder their experience of fully being present to their communities. We ask that you push yourself to discern what is truly necessary during your year. What would factor into your decision to bring a cell phone or laptop to your JVC Northwest year?

## SPIRITUALITY

*“Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.”*

– Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Spirituality moves through the depths and heights of each human person. It is how we name and encounter the Divine Presence – that which is beyond us. How we imagine God is a very personal truth. How we respond to that image reflects our experience, our hopes and fears, and the tradition in which we participate.

Rooted for over fifty years in the Jesuit Catholic tradition emphasizing spiritual openness and depth, Jesuit Volunteers in the Northwest examine and act on the causes of social and environmental injustice to promote peace and structural change. Spiritual expression and reflection are important elements of the JVC Northwest experience. We welcome applicants from all traditions and denominations, as well as those fully engaged in the questions of their faith.

*The following references and readings are provided for you to reflect more deeply on the meanings of spirituality. Please choose whichever materials you feel drawn to explore.*

### **Scriptural Reflections To Help You Prepare for Your Interview:**

Mark. 12: 28-34 – The Greatest Commandment

John 9: 1-41—The Man Born Blind

### **Readings to Help Prepare You for Your Interview:**

Excerpt from “Illuminata, A Call to Prayer” by Marianne Williamson

<http://www.spiritsite.com/writing/marwil> --Please click on Part One of the Illuminata on the left side of the page.

Excerpt from “Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith” by Henri Nouwen

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/excerpts.php?id=15919>

### **Reflections from Former JVs:**

On participating in a Native family’s Sweat House: “I have really enjoyed this spiritual opportunity. It is a purification ritual in the actual sweating, but it is also purifying/simplifying the thoughts that are running through you. It clears my mind from all the other distractions of the day, and helps me really listen to the other women and the spirit moving within myself. It is also nice to speak what is usually kept in the silence of my heart. I find that I have so much to be grateful for, as I have lived a very good, positive life, and in the Sweat House I have heard that not everyone is as blessed. The Sweat House has been a wonderful experience of being welcomed.”

~Allison Scanlin, Omak 2005-2006

“The heart is my image of God. It is central to our being, without it we could not live, and it is when you truly connect with another person, on a heart-to-heart level, that you can feel the presence of God and you feel it in your heart. That day, and every day, Jo was Christ for me. She helped me to feel a deeper connectedness to my job and to why I’m here.”

~ Kelsey Yorks, Anchorage 2006-2007

### **Reflection Question on Spirituality:**

Share two or three key moments on your spiritual path thus far.

## JVC Northwest Placements Section

Jesuit Volunteers bring energy, personal caring, a fresh perspective, a strong educational background, and a sense of purpose to the agencies and people they serve. They are well supported in their local communities and by the JVC Northwest staff. JV's work full-time for social and ecological justice in placements serving those marginalized in our society, including people who experience poverty, hunger, disabilities, and abuse, as well as in advocacy and environmental justice organizations. JVC Northwest enjoys a long standing reputation of placing talented, committed, and well supported volunteers in necessary work for over 50 years.

*JVC Northwest serves agencies in the following ways:*

**DIRECT SERVICE:** Volunteers work directly with people who are marginalized by society or with issues of ecological justice and sustainability. Witnessing injustice transforms the volunteers, inspiring them to live in solidarity with the people and places they serve.

**STRUCTURAL CHANGE:** Volunteers reflect upon and act against oppression and injustice on the institutional level, helping to empower the local community, and assisting people to become actively aware of the societal and environmental injustices that exist in their lives, neighborhoods, and country.

Jesuit Volunteers work 40 hours per week, receiving a modest stipend, room and board, valuable work experience and supervision, and health insurance in return. In addition, JVs may be eligible for a **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, pending government approval**, up to \$5,350, which may be used to pay back student loans or towards future education. JVC Northwest hopes to be able to offer the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award in 2010 to all JVs who meet the eligibility criteria (US citizen or resident, has not received an AmeriCorps award more than twice previously) and are placed in service sites that qualify (does not include advocacy or religious ministry positions).

*\*\*Please see our Job List available on our website and fill out the **Service Interest Form**, included in this packet, prior to your interview. We ask volunteers to consider a number of placement options and to be open to the possibility of becoming passionate about work you may not have imagined. Once an applicant is accepted, staff is committed to finding you a placement that fits. JVC Northwest staff honors the experience and enthusiasm of each applicant, while balancing your desires with the deep need of people and places in the Northwest.*

# JVC NORTHWEST SERVICE INTEREST FORM

Please fill out both sides of this form and return to the JVC Northwest office as soon as possible.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIME TO REACH YOU BY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER AND TIME ZONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRE-INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When at work, I prefer a pace which is (*fast-paced, methodical, slow and steady, etc.*).
  
2. I work best in an environment which is (*structured, highly stimulating, relational, etc.*)
  
3. I get the most energy doing tasks which are (*relationship-building, detail-oriented, problem-solving, networking, etc.*).
  
4. Do I work best individually or as part of a team? Am I a self-starter or do I prefer to be given tasks?
  
5. I prefer a supervisor who is (*informal, directive, readily available, hands-off, etc.*).
  
6. Are you comfortable working in crisis situations? Do you have any experience working in crisis?
  
7. Populations with whom or areas in which I would rather not work are:  
  
Because:
  
8. A previous job or service experience most satisfying for me has been:  
  
Because:
  
9. Are you willing to be placed in an agency that does is not eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award? (Please note that the JVC Northwest application for all eligible positions is still pending government approval).  

\_\_\_Yes                      \_\_\_No

**SERVICE INTEREST FORM**

**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*JVC Northwest looks at the whole person to evaluate the commitment to living the JVC values (Community, Spirituality, Social Justice, Simple Lifestyle) and the commitment to a full year of caring service. We consider the information below, as well as your entire application in discerning an appropriate match to a placement. In addition, we look at our previous experience with the agencies and the unique requirements of each placement position. Every attempt will be made to place you in a service position and locale which will be a good match for you, although you may not be placed in one of the positions you list below. Though you may decline any placement or locale, we encourage you to be open to being placed in positions for which we feel you are well-suited.*

**PRIMARY SERVICE INTERESTS**

Please list the three areas of service (from the listing below) which most interest you. We recommend that you consider a variety of types of service.

- |  |                                   |       |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Community organizing and advocacy          | Refugee and immigration services  | _____ |
| Children’s services                        | Senior services                   |       |
| Services for individuals with disabilities | Social services/community centers |       |
| Education                                  | Substance abuse counseling        | _____ |
| Environmental Advocacy                     | Women’s shelters and programs     |       |
| Health care and health education           | Youth Work                        |       |
| Services for people who are homeless       | Legal services                    | _____ |
| Pastoral Ministry                          |                                   |       |

**LOCALE PREFERENCES**

Please list the three cities or towns where you would most like to serve. See the *Placement List* for descriptions of locales. In general, we recommend you consider a variety of types of locales.

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLACEMENT PREFERENCES** (by placement code from the *Placement List*).

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>1.</b> _____ | <b>6.</b> _____  |
| <b>2.</b> _____ | <b>7.</b> _____  |
| <b>3.</b> _____ | <b>8.</b> _____  |
| <b>4.</b> _____ | <b>9.</b> _____  |
| <b>5.</b> _____ | <b>10.</b> _____ |

**What attracts you to these positions?**

**Do you have any dietary restrictions or physical limitations that would alter your ability to perform the essential duties of any of the positions you listed?**

## **THE COVENANT OF JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS NORTHWEST**

*"Rooted for over fifty years in the Jesuit Catholic tradition emphasizing spiritual openness and depth, Jesuit Volunteers in the Northwest examine and act on the causes of social and environmental injustice to promote peace and structural change."*

*From JVC Northwest Mission*

With respect for individual freedom and our capacity to change, we, the staff and volunteers of the JVC Northwest, are committed to certain common values. We are called to help one another to live guided by the values of Community, Simplicity, Social and Ecological Justice, and Spirituality, acknowledging their inherent interconnectedness.

**SIMPLICITY** Honoring simplicity enables us to value relationships over objects, and self reflection over status. Simplicity is an emptying of the self for the sake of personal, communal, and environmental transformation. In the bioregion of the Pacific Northwest, voluntary simplicity is deeply connected with the value of ecological sustainability, calling us to be mindful and proactive about how we care for the environment that sustains us. When our lives are free of an excess of activity and material possessions, our view of the world and of ourselves is clarified. We are better able to attend to our deepest self, our community, and people who are marginalized.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** We work for justice by being aware of how our attitudes and behavior affect others. Our awareness urges us to change the attitudes and structures which create poverty, perpetuate oppression, and destroy ecological systems. Solidarity demands that we create change by working alongside the poor, oppressed, and vulnerable. After change has been achieved we foster reconciliation.

**COMMUNITY** Living in intentional community challenges us to be open, compassionate and willing to change. As we practice deep compassion with ourselves and each other at home, we are strengthened for our work in the world. We affirm our relational natures and seek the sacredness at the heart of our interactions. In community we learn that our lives are interdependent, and we have a responsibility to others, as they have to us. We come together to support and give life to one another; we are in JVC Northwest together, we are not alone.

**SPIRITUALITY** JVC Northwest is founded on the Ignatian principles of action and reflection. Coming together in prayer and conversation, we discover how we are being called to create a just world. We explore what it means to live a faith that does justice, while growing in our own personal spirituality through reflection and service.

### **SIMPLICITY**

- Simplicity of time, energy, and resource means that I will choose to stay present to how my needs relate with the needs of the world, allowing for room to stretch and be flexible so as to truly become “a person for others” while also choosing to practice self care when that is what naturally arises
- I will value people and relationships over possessions or status.
- I will seek simplicity in my use of time, energy and resources.
- I will live on the monthly stipend of \$80.00, not accepting funds from family, friends, second jobs or any other source to supplement my living.

- I will examine and transform my personal values and habits to reflect my care and concern for the environment. Being mindful of my impact on the earth, I will socialize and recreate in ways which enhance my active and true connection with other people and the natural world.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- I will seek truth rather than relying on prejudices, assumptions, rumor and incomplete information.
- I will strive to be just in my attitudes, language, and actions.
- I will be, at all times, an ally to myself, to members of my group, and to persons who are different from me.
- I will work and live in solidarity with people who are poor, oppressed and vulnerable toward the goal of structural change in the attitudes, practices and institutions of our society.
- I will act in accordance with my ethical beliefs and responsibilities. I will live in such a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### **COMMUNITY**

- I will be a source of support to my community members with respect to their service and fulfillment of this covenant.
- I will take part in community business meetings and other community gatherings, at least once a week.
- I will evaluate my behavior and decisions in light of their effects on my community, the agency and locale where I serve, and the JVC program.
- I will address that which may be unhealthy in my own life, and will accept the support of my community.
- I will listen and speak honestly, seeking connection in all interactions.

### **SPIRITUALITY**

- I will spend time in reflection or prayer, seeking to see the sacredness of the persons I serve and encounter, the persons with whom I live and work, and of my experience.
- I will lead and participate in weekly community prayer or reflection, bringing my own gifts and accepting the gifts of others. I will explore my personal spirituality and beliefs this year in the context of community.
- I will participate fully in the three retreats by being present to the community of fellow volunteers, staff, guests and the natural setting.
- I will examine the ways my faith or beliefs intersect with my desire for justice. I will work for justice from a place that is grounded in peace, non-violence, and love.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflection and Questions on Alcohol

During your interview, a staff member will discuss with you the Drug and Alcohol Policy for our program and invite you to ask questions. Although many of the following questions will not be included in your interview, they are provided to give you an opportunity to reflect on how alcohol use intersects with the four values. JVC Northwest understands alcohol to be a serious social justice issue for many people that we have built relationship with in the Northwest. We view our policy on drugs and alcohol as consistent with the intentions in our Covenant; to live in healthy community, simply and sustainably, as a spiritual person committed to justice.

1. Would you be willing to live by the commitment outlined in our Alcohol Policy?
2. How has alcohol use (your own or that of others in your family or peer group) affected your life?
4. If a community member of yours was in recovery from drug and/or alcohol abuse, would you be willing to live in solidarity with them by abstaining from all use of alcohol? Would you commit to a dry year if you were placed in a community on a Native American Reservation or in Bethel Alaska?
5. What do you consider responsible or intentional use of alcohol?
6. In what ways do you understand alcohol as a social justice issue?
7. What are your expectations of alcohol consumption in your JV community?

## JVC NORTHWEST ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest engages women and men in a transforming experience of full-time volunteer service. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) in the Northwest examine and act on the causes of social and environmental injustice to promote peace and structural change. We recognize that addiction has been and continues to be a destructive substance in families and communities around the world; therefore, we ask that serious reflection and covenantal action be taken in terms of alcohol use and that volunteers abstain from illegal drug use during their volunteer year.

It is the intent of the JVC Northwest staff to challenge all Jesuit Volunteers to:

- be aware of, reflect upon, discuss among themselves, and act intentionally with respect to the use of alcohol in relation to the JVC Northwest values;
- learn ways of socializing which do not involve alcohol;
- recognize abusive use of alcohol as contrary to living the JVC Northwest values; and,
- think critically about the relationship between living in solidarity with the communities you serve and how drugs and alcohol currently impact these communities.

**The policy of JVC Northwest regarding illegal drugs and alcohol is as follows:**

- **The use, sale and possession of illegal substances by a JV during the JVC Northwest program year is unacceptable.**
- **Alcohol and/or drugs will not be present at program events for current Jesuit Volunteers which JVC Northwest sponsors (Orientation, retreats, etc.).**
- **A JV will not buy alcohol or drugs with community money.**
- **Drinking or use of drugs by a JV which impairs judgment is unacceptable behavior in JVC Northwest.**
- **Volunteers living on reservations and in Bethel Alaska will commit to a dry year.**
- **If a JV abuses alcohol or drugs in a way that is destructive to him/herself and/or his/her community, the JV may be required to comply with one or more of the following: agree to a drug and alcohol assessment conducted by a professional identified by JVC Northwest, which may include a urinalysis, and agree to releasing the information to JVC Northwest; agree to and follow through with the recommendations of the assessment, entering into substance abuse counseling if necessary; abstain from alcohol and drugs for the remainder of the volunteer year; be dismissed from the JVC Northwest program.**
- **JVC Northwest reserves the right to determine if a JV can complete his/her volunteer year while in treatment for drug or alcohol addiction.**
- **Abusive behavior of any kind is not in keeping with the mission of JVC Northwest and may be grounds for dismissal from the program.**

JVC Northwest encourages JVs to reflect upon the drug and alcohol policy. JVC Northwest has adopted this policy because it conforms with criminal law in the five Northwest states, and because of our belief that the use, sale and possession of illegal substances, or abuse of alcohol, has harmful effects upon the volunteer, the volunteer's JV community, the volunteer's neighborhood, JVC Northwest, and the placement agency and clients.

**I have carefully read the Alcohol and Drug Policy. I agree to abide by this policy during my volunteer year with JVC Northwest.**

**Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**