FCV 9!
By Pat Flicker, FCV Director

On Monday, August 14, four young women arrived at the Welcoming House in St. Cloud to embark on their year with FCV.

FCV 9 had begun. We spent the week touring St. Cloud, the Motherhouse, learning about Saints Francis and Clare, simple living, and life in a multi-generational community. It was a busy week!

One volunteer, Abby, decided she wanted to be closer to home and that she was called to something different, but the rest have dived into their service site work, intentional community and learning more about spirituality. These three young women impress me already - they lead with their hearts, are building both an intentional internal community as well as getting out into the community of St. Cloud and the Motherhouse, and embracing the way of life as a Franciscan - living the Gospel values! Welcome Anna, Luna and CJ!

God will provide!
By FCV Luna (Stephanie Luna)

As I packed my belongings for a full year in a different state, I wasn’t sure if I had the right shoes, coats, jackets or pants because California doesn’t experience extreme cases of cold. I didn’t know if the photos I brought of my family would be enough to make the new room into my own. I brought with me a suitcase as big as I am (I’m 4’11”), and I still wasn’t sure if I was prepared to leave my home to join a new community.

Our first visit to the Motherhouse in Little Falls proved to me that I was wanted in this community. Meeting all the sisters and seeing the joy on their faces made me feel like I made the right decision to commit to the Franciscan community. Meeting my sister companions was the best part of the visit. I felt an immediate connection with both sisters. Sister Maurita was happy to introduce me as her companion to anyone we bumped into that afternoon. During the commissioning into the Franciscan community, I remember looking up and seeing Sister Joan looking at me with joy as I committed to a year of service. All of a sudden, the materialistic things I was so worried about bringing with me from California no longer mattered. I had everything I needed and I trust that God will provide the rest.
Grand opening of St. Cloud’s “COP” Community Out Post House—FCV’s first group volunteering

By Pat Flicker, FCV Director

Hundreds of people gathered in a park near the St. Cloud Boys & Girls Club-Southside on Friday, August 18, to celebrate the grand opening of the first ever Minnesota COP House.

What’s a COP House?

When I first heard about this last spring, I was inspired by the concept. A house, on the south side of St. Cloud, was being built to strengthen the relationship between the police and the community. Having had a volunteer for many years at the Boys & Girls Club on the south side, we all knew that police calls and crime rates in the area were high. With a grant, a lot of in-kind labor and hard work, a new house was built that will be staffed with police from 10 am to 3 am. It is a safe place for youth, adults and families to come and build relationships with the police.

The grand opening was so much fun! There was a carnival with free walking tacos, ice cream cones, games and a dunk tank with cops in the “hot” seat. As you can see, there were bounce adventures of many kinds. We helped wherever we were needed.

Throughout the afternoon, the FCV’s had time to play, visit and just hang out with many people from the neighborhood. We helped to keep “organized chaos” on the bounce adventures and encouraged playing and having fun!

I was so impressed with the community: the people that, for many years, had a dream and created a space for this to happen! The families that came and supported the efforts, both helping build the house and helping build community. And, the families that came to celebrate community, living and celebrating life and family.

I will always remember looking around and seeing the children running safely in the parks, parents talking and being able to enjoy time together. It was beautiful!
FCV 9: Learn about our volunteers!

Catherine (CJ) Pettinger is from Fargo, N. Dak. She graduated from the College of St. Benedict with her BA in Biochemistry and a minor in Music. CJ plays the double bass and loves jazz music. She likes anything outdoors and working with youth. Her hope is to spend this year learning more about rural medicine before starting medical school next fall.

CJ will be serving at Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN)- working with people that either have HIV/AIDS or are at risk. RAAN has five different locations throughout the state of Minnesota.

Companion: Tom and Cathy Rudolph
Sister Companion: Sister Carolyn Law
Praying Sister: Sister Therese Lenz

Stephanie (Luna) Luna is from Hayward, Calif. She has her degree in Communications from CSU-East Bay in California. Luna has a passion for video production and loves to travel. She hopes this year is a time to immerse herself in community and discern her next steps.

Luna will be serving at the Boys & Girls Club-Southside, where close to 200 youth (predominantly new immigrants) come after school.

Companion: Maureen Spanier
Sister Companion: Sister Maurita Bernet
Praying Sister: Sister Joan Tuberty

Anna Taylor is from Berea, Ky. She is returning to FCV for a second year. She has a degree in Spanish from Berea College and will be serving at Mid-MN Legal Aid helping people (Hispanics in particular) obtain health insurance.

Anna is excited to spend her second year here learning more about Franciscan spirituality, and of course, sharing her love of baking with everyone at the Welcoming House!

Companion: Gary and Jo Hennen
Sister Companion: Sister Cordy Korkowski
Praying Sister: Sister Mary Lou Eltgroth

URGENT OPPORTUNITIES!

Childcare staffing at Anna Marie’s Domestic Abuse Shelter

Go to FCVONLINE.ORG to learn about these amazing opportunities!

Catholic Charities Youth House-working with homeless teens

FCV is a 10 1/2 month volunteer program for young adults age 21-30 dedicated to those in need. Where else can you get amazing work experience while making a difference? Room/Board/Monthly Stipend AND up to a $5,000 education award upon completion!
You can support FCV

- Partner with us financially—your dollars go a long way in supporting the poor and marginalized.
- Check us out on the internet . . . Let other people know about our program by liking, sharing and commenting on our posts!

Franciscan Community Volunteers is based on three pillars: meaningful service, intentional community living and Franciscan spirituality. Volunteers make a year-long commitment to work full time in local nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of those who are poor and marginalized while accepting the challenge of living simply and in accordance with Gospel values.

Franciscan Community Volunteers
1600 11th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Contact FCV:
Pat Flicker
FCV Director
info@fcvonline.org
Office Phone: 320.229.0307
www.FCVonline.org

You can support FCV

- Partner with us financially—your dollars go a long way in supporting the poor and marginalized.
- Check us out on the internet . . . Let other people know about our program by liking, sharing and commenting on our posts!

Franciscan Community Volunteers is based on three pillars: meaningful service, intentional community living and Franciscan spirituality. Volunteers make a year-long commitment to work full time in local nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of those who are poor and marginalized while accepting the challenge of living simply and in accordance with Gospel values.