

A year of **service**  
for a lifetime of **change**

[pcusa.org/yav](http://pcusa.org/yav)





## A year of **service**

Young Adult Volunteers put their *faith into action* through a year of service in sites around the United States and throughout the world. YAVs serve alongside local partners working in the areas of the world's toughest problems—addressing the root causes of poverty, working for reconciliation in cultures of violence, and sharing the hope of Christ. YAVs (age 19–30) grow and learn as part of an intentional Christian community, practice living simply, and work for meaningful change in the world.

## for a lifetime of **change**

YAVs engage in discernment—the practice of deep listening—to find out who God is calling them to be. Through spiritual practices, relationships, and living in community, YAVs explore what a life of service can truly mean—not only for a year, but for their entire lives.

## Support Young Adult Volunteers

### Through prayer

- YAVs rely on your prayers throughout their service. The year is filled with discovery, fears, joys, homesickness, wonder, and much more. They need our support and prayers for this year.
- Each YAV site has a long-term called and committed site coordinator. Along with all mission co-workers, they are in need of continual prayer for their lives and ministries.

### Through engagement

- Become a YAV or encourage others to become a YAV. Contact [yav@pcusa.org](mailto:yav@pcusa.org).
- Read letters and blogs from YAVs. YAVs' letters at [pcusa.org/yav](http://pcusa.org/yav), click *YAV Stories*.
- Invite local YAV alum to speak at your congregation or organization. Contact Emily Miller at [emily.miller@pcusa.org](mailto:emily.miller@pcusa.org)
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

 [Facebook.com/yav program](https://www.facebook.com/yav-program)

 [@yavprogram](https://twitter.com/yavprogram)  [@yavprogram](https://www.instagram.com/yavprogram)

### Through giving

Support the YAV program and YAV scholarships. [pcusa.org/yav](http://pcusa.org/yav), click *Support a YAV*

By mail, please make checks out to *Presbyterian World Mission*, with the ECO # and name in the memo line. E049075 (individuals) D500123 (congregations)

Presbyterian World Mission  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Contact Linda Carter at [linda.carter@pcusa.org](mailto:linda.carter@pcusa.org)



## Find out more about 2015–16 International YAV sites



### Colombia

Natural and cultural wealth abounds in Colombia, home of Gabriel García Márquez and Shakira, emeralds, coffee, and myriad species of birds and animals. Colombia has also been plagued by conflict for generations, leaving 10% of the population internally displaced, turned into refugees in their own country. In this compelling context, YAVs will gain a new perspective on what it means to be church through service with the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia or IPC (Presbyterian Church of Colombia), founded in 1856.

### Northern Ireland/Scotland

**Northern Ireland**—Northern Ireland is primarily known for its tragic history of communal violence. Volunteers work with local churches and community projects to address the legacy of division and help lay foundations for a positive, shared future, particularly (though not exclusively) through work with youth and children.

**Scotland**—Volunteers will be hosted by the Church of Scotland Priority Areas Team in Glasgow. Priority Areas work extends to 68 of the most disadvantaged parishes in Scotland with 33 of these in Glasgow working with local people to serve the needs of their communities.



### Peru

YAVs are placed through the Uniendo Manos Contra la Pobreza, the Peru Joining Hands against Poverty network. The desire to address the root causes of poverty is what pulls the 14 Peruvian institutions in the Peru Joining Hands Network together.

### Philippines

The program in the Philippines is about developing servant-leaders through faith in action. The 10-month placement will include immersions into different church and community settings that expose the Philippine reality as a mosaic for reflection and socio-cultural understanding. Each volunteer will be matched with specific and suitable work responsibility in one setting addressing relevant and compelling issues that requires transformative community action.

### Korea

Volunteers are placed in educational institutions, local churches, after school programs and community development programs. They will also have opportunities to relate to a worshipping community. Teaching English, writing and editing Web-based publications in English and preparation of newsletters are examples specific tasks in which the volunteers can engage.



## Find out more about 2015–16 National YAV sites

### Asheville

In a city nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, home to a surprising variety of cultures, and celebrated as a tourist destination, Asheville YAVs will engage in transformative mission, living the Gospel by building relationships and creating community with people on the margins experiencing desperate need. YAV-AVL, known as Hands-and-Feet of Asheville, is a welcoming, supportive, challenging environment for young adults seeking the nature of God's calling for themselves and for the beloved community.

### Atlanta

Located in the heart of the south, Atlanta is known as the capitol of African-America and is often seen as the headquarters for civil rights. Gain experiences that will break down some of the stereotypes that people often have of those in the city and allow yourself to see the face of God in those with whom you interact.

### Austin

Ayava House (Austin Young Adult Volunteer and AmeriCorps) recognizes the growing desire of many young people to engage and transform their world through a deep commitment to service. Austin Seminary desires to offer its resources to young adults working through faith-based programs as well as our national service corps.

### Boston

The Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteer program gives young adults a year-long experience living together in intentional Christian community and engaging in the mission of Presbytery congregations to secure healthy, just, and sustainable food for all people. At the heart of the program are practices aimed at cultivating spiritual growth, vocational discernment, and leadership development, along with social and congregational transformation.



### Chicago

Chicago is often seen as the birthplace of the study and emphasis in 'urban ministry.' This team engages the community, studies its authors, rides its public transit (CTA) and seeks to integrate into the life of this amazing Midwestern yet world class city. This site seeks young adults to serve and to learn with the people of Chicago, engage in intentional Christian community and personal discipleship, work with local ministries and agencies and

to explore urban, multicultural ministry as a vocation and calling.

### Chinook, Montana

The Chinook (Hi-Line) YAV program is a partnership between five churches, Presbyterian, Methodist, Alliance, Assembly of God, and Lutheran. YAVs participate in ecumenical programs sponsored by the churches: youth groups (high school/junior high and grade school groups), after school and summer lunch programs, senior citizen programs and nursing home outreach. YAVs work closely with the local pastors as well as church groups. YAVs also have opportunities to help in the local grade school and high school/junior high.

### Denver

Denver focuses on community involvement and personal growth, with a heart for the neighborhood around the YAV house. The team is supported locally by multiple



church partnerships and a local board made up of members from the community and representatives from the supporting congregations.

### Hollywood

To live in Hollywood means to seek the face of God in the juxtaposition of the fame, fortune, and the poverty just outside what's captured in the camera frames. With the largest and most diverse homeless population in the nation, YAVs engage issues of economic injustice, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

### Indianapolis

IndyYAVs are part of the vibrant interfaith community in this large, Midwestern city. Living in community in the city, these volunteers work with several local and international non-profit agencies that bring together Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Christians to serve God's world.

### Little Rock

The focus of Little Rock YAV site is Local Sustainability, Community Social Justice, and National Disaster Assistance. One does not get far down the road of eco-sustainability before bumping into social justice issues like land ownership, the power of agribusiness, access to credit, factory farming, etc. The Little Rock YAVs will be exposed to these issues through engagement with camp and congregation contexts.

## National YAV sites *continued*

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### Miami

Miami reinvents itself with the waves of migrations of various immigrant groups. Only 12% of the population is anglo/caucasian—this leads to an incredible year of cross-cultural, multi-cultural service. Miami seeks young adults interested in the adventure of urban ministry and relational impact to serve in incredibly diverse communities.

### Nashville

YAVs explore their vocational calling through the lens of service. YAVs are placed in agencies that focus on social justice and systemic change. They also participate and have leadership roles in local congregations.

### New Orleans

To be a Young Adult Volunteer in New Orleans is to seek God and be transformed in one of the most unique cities in the world. The purpose of the Presbytery of South Louisiana's Young Adult Volunteer Program is to offer to young adults a God-seeking, life-changing experience.

### New York City

New York City feels like the capital of the world . . . just ask a NYer. Beyond that biased bravado, there is a legitimate argument, as the world gathers here and explodes with dynamism. Volunteers will witness and work with a city that loves hard, lives big, yet suffers too much. Come and learn. Come and teach.

Find God in the city. (Second year site—for returning YAVs only)

### San Antonio

YAVs serving in San Antonio have the unique opportunity for immersion in a Hispanic culture while taking language classes to develop their Spanish language skills. Participants will live in one of San Antonio's oldest neighborhoods with its rich Mexican and German history.

### Tucson

At the Tucson Borderlands, volunteers live in a communal house while working in a variety of positions. These positions range from helping lead educational delegations in Mexico, to working with college students at the University of Arizona, to filling water tanks in the desert and drafting recommendations for border policies.

### Washington, DC

In the nation's capital YAVs serve beside poor and low-income residents—and have the unique opportunity to engage issues such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness on the policy level. DC YAVs seek and give witness to God's activity in the city, as they live together in a diverse neighborhood and commute by bus, bike, or Metro.

