



Heart Broken Open



Julianne Esteves | 2022-2023 Volunteer | A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross

Across my meaningful experiences as a student at the College of the Holy Cross and now as a volunteer with Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, I have returned to one particular element of Ignatian spirituality: desire. My understanding of desire has transformed over the year as I have engaged with patients to live out the Sisters' charism of compassion, healing, and liberation in my encounters with patients in the Emergency Department, staff at Richmond Community Hospital, my fellow community members, and the broader Church Hill community. I frame my reflection surrounding desire with an image I love from poet Mary Oliver. In the poem "Lead," Oliver recounts the ways that her heart has been broken open. She writes, "I tell you this to break your heart, by which I mean only that it break open." The image of a broken *open* heart, as opposed to just a broken heart struck me. Not a heart breaking apart but breaking *open*. In my experience, that openness of heart can lead to even more compassion, a greater ability to hold suffering and, hopefully, reach healing. This notion has pointed me to the truth that my most meaningful experiences this year -- those that have "broken open" my heart -- are what guide me to uncovering the desires most deeply planted within me.

In the Emergency Department (ED), I was welcomed so generously by a team of caring, hard-working, and fun staff. As someone who is often shy at the beginning of a new experience, I was surprised by how quickly my shell was cracked (open!). Staff started asking me questions about BSVM, my college or my family life; nurses invited me to group outings; techs explained procedures and the many ED protocols. My heart **broke open** when I was lovingly received as my authentic self by a group of people in a new environment.

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Editor's Perch

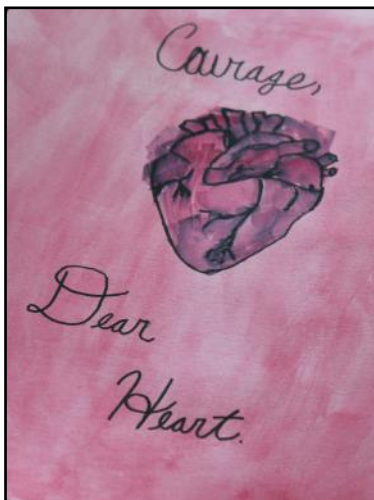


By **Emily Thrush** | BSVM Site Manager

Our BSVM 2022-2023 community chose to include this “Patient Trust” reading in their closing liturgy. While we may want God’s action to show up differently, Fr. Pierre charges us to trust in God’s *slow work*, not God’s instantaneous work, nor God’s crystal-clear work. God’s work takes time,

and despite our impulses, we cannot “skip the intermediate stages.” This gradual growth finds parallels in creation: when we garden, when we experience seasonal weather variety, when we watch children pass through various developmental changes. So it is with a year of building relationships in community and serving with others in places that have been marginalized. Even amidst “stages of instability,” God is faithful and cultivates the ‘small acts of great love’ that we practice together to shape us gradually into a New Creation.

This gradual growth can be difficult to identify in the moment. But when we build in spiritual habits to pause and reflect on where we started and how far we’ve journeyed, we can trace the path of transformation. For two and half decades, BSVM has nurtured and sustained over 100 individuals in their personal and communal journeys towards transformation through service with others. This fall marks the beginning of our 25th year of ministry. Throughout this year, we will take time in each issue of *The Companion* to reflect on the slow and beautiful ways that God has moved in and through Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry over the years. A regular part of our year of spiritual formation and service includes contemplation and action – reflecting on the lessons learned and then living into the Sisters’ charism of compassion, healing, and liberation through our habits, practices, and rhythms.



A painting from a BSVM retreat

We see this interplay of reflection and action in this fall issue as we hear Julianne’s closing reflection, marking the ways in which her heart has broken open as a result of the relationships she built this year. We hear from a chorus of voices made up of the three most recent BSVM communities who all spent time in the last days of their year reflecting on the shifts they experienced from before they began BSVM and identifying the growth points in how much they had grown together. We hear about neighboring with the Sisters of Bon Secours and from a Baltimore friend of BSVM, as well as some insights from a BSVM alum now in her fourth year of medical school.

It takes courage to decide to commit to a year of ministry. Life is full of uncertainty and instability, and this decision represents an “important and powerful risk”—as our colleague Colin Smith puts it – to invest in a meaningful year of care, compassion, relationships, uncertainty, and delight. Narda captured the gift in her investment: “that time was grounding and life-giving.” Whether you feel held “in suspense and incomplete” or forging ahead in a time of clarity, may you feel God’s constant presence with you always, and may your hearts “break open and never close again to the rest of the world.”

“Patient Trust”

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to
something unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them
grow, let them shape themselves, without
undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming in you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God.*

*~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ,
from Hearts on Fire*



Julianne served in the Emergency Department at Richmond Community Hospital in 2022-2023

In return, I have tried to offer that same warmth to patients in the ED, a place where it is often hard for patients to feel seen. As a ministry volunteer, I have done that by checking in on a patient who's been in the ED for hours, offering a blanket to a patient (and sometimes their visitor!) because ER rooms are notoriously cold, or wheeling a patient down to the pharmacy so they can grab their prescriptions.

My heart **expanded** when I held the hand of a woman who was nervous getting her finger sutured after jamming it (as the Nurse Practitioner did her work, the patient and I let the time pass by sharing stories about our beloved dogs). My heart **delighted** when I colored with a 4-year-old boy as his mother was taken to get a CT scan. My heart **swelled** as I listened to individuals struggling with depression seek treatment. My heart **even trembled** a little when a nurse asked me to join her as she transported a patient to the MedSurg floor; she was scared of

elevators, but little did she know I was also scared of riding the service elevators (they say misery loves company right?!).

In these moments, I don't mean to suggest that I don't ever feel heartbreak, feel sad, or wonder if pain and suffering will ever go away. At the end of Oliver's poem, she hopes that the broken-open heart that I have been talking about will "never close again to the rest of the world." This year, I have let go of the fears, preconceived notions, and biases I at times would carry as I approached situations out of my comfort zone – all things that may have kept my heart "closed." Moving to the South, living with strangers (who are now lifelong friends), serving in a busy hospital after being in school for 19 years, and even entering the unpredictable, often chaotic Emergency Department each day are just some of those unknown, unfamiliar situations. Not letting my open heart "close" was true when the police officer in the ED surprised me by reaching out for my hand to hold when he was receiving his flu shot, or when I saw the human story behind those struggling with addiction in our community. Perhaps those elements of love, open presence, and reciprocal sharing with others have been what I and God have been desiring all along for me.

This year of accompanying those who walk through the doors of Richmond Community Hospital and growing my spiritual practices while living in community have been other significant ways my heart has been broken open to a deeper relationship with God. As I began the service year, I often felt pressure that I had to "get something" out of each prayer time. I felt that if I could follow a set agenda and tried really hard to listen to God's voice (as if that is always clear or what we might expect it to sound like), I could "receive" something. And, even further, maybe receive something new and different each time.

But then, I noticed a shift. I tried to let go of my expectations going into prayer and found that even if I didn't come away with a new major revelation, I still felt consoled, loved, or grateful. Thus, the moments that I thought I wasn't "getting anything" from prayer, or that God was seemingly absent, God was actually very present to me. Through this year, I have come to appreciate having a God who just wants to **be** in my presence. Just as if I was watching TV on the couch with a friend. Or the many times I have sat with patients and listened to their story. Don't get me wrong, being caught in the stillness with God is still not "easy," but I have found it to be another avenue of my heart breaking open; open to God's constant, abundant love in my life and helping me to uncover those deep desires within me. Just as God wants us to be people of "being" with others, God also wants to **be** with me.

Reflecting on the times my heart has been broken open, as a catalyst for pondering what I and others desire of myself, has influenced how I want to spend my time going forward and what *kind of* healthcare provider I want to be. This year of service and spiritual formation has inspired me

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Celebrating our 25th Anniversary Year

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry is proud to announce the celebration of our 25th year of ministry!

Since our beginning in 1999, we have accompanied 111 young adults as they immerse themselves in the charism of Bon Secours and open themselves to be transformed through service with others. Over the next couple of issues of *The Companion*, we will take time to reflect and honor this ministry through the years.

As a ministry of community, BSVM would not be where we are without the support and guidance of many. From the Sisters who sponsor the ministry, to our volunteers who commit to this year of transformation, to our alumni who continue to grow in the mission of BSVM and support the ministry long after their ministry year ends, to our staff who provide the leadership, infrastructure, and formation, and to the numerous friends and family we've met along the journey who support us in countless ways through prayer, financial donations, and much more – we say thank you!

We appreciate your support and take this moment to celebrate our past, our present, and our future.

Our Mission

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, sponsored by the Sisters of Bon Secours, provides the opportunity for women and men to participate in the Sisters' commitment to justice in radical solidarity with the poor, the suffering, and those most in need. By sharing the Bon Secours charism of compassion, healing, and liberation, the ministry nurtures and sustains individuals in their personal and communal journeys towards transformation through service with others.

To nurture this transformative journey, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry supports individuals through a year of spiritual formation. The ministry is structured with five pillars that support this growth. Volunteers commit to: grow spiritually, develop an intentional community, live simply, practice God's justice, and learn through service with others. Throughout this year, volunteers discover that by sharing the charism of compassion, healing, and liberation with others they, in turn, receive the charism from those they serve.



1999-2000 & 2000-2001



2004-2005



2007-2008

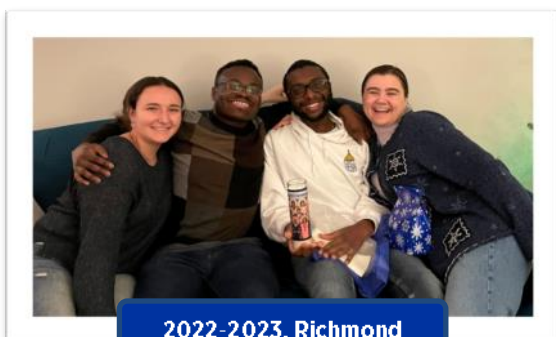


2010-2011



2013-2014

Celebrating 25 Years!



BSVM Commissioning

BSVM begins each year of ministry with a Commissioning Mass that honors the volunteers' commitment to journey with the charism of Bon Secours. The BSVM commissioning blessing recognizes how volunteers both receive and share the light of Christ on their journey. The sisters bless the heart, the shoulders, and the hands of each volunteer to send them forth in the mission of Bon Secours.

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.



Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that Christ may be known in you and in your deeds.



Bearing Witness to Transformation through Service with Others

Compiled from BSVM 2020-2021, 2021-2022, & 2022-2023 communities

Every year, we begin building community with Ministry Volunteers in an intensive set of orientation weeks that introduce Volunteers to each other, to their neighborhoods, to the ministry sites, and to a few of the pillars that we return to thematically over the year. Then at the end of a year of service and spiritual formation, we return to our five pillars and reflect on some major take-aways.

These spaces of reflection and sharing can often feel loaded. How can one synthesize a year of transformation through service with others? The task can feel daunting, yet the exercises can also open up new insights to lessons learned slowly over the year of growth and discovery. Below, you'll find responses that emerged from the past three BSVM



Caroline Kirk (2021-2022) with students from Cristo Rey Richmond High School

GIFTS OF RELATIONSHIPS IN COMMUNITY LIFE

"I did not know how deeply I'd love and trust my community."

"I didn't know how wonderful it would be to have such a supportive community to explore faith with."

"I did not know that an intimidating hospital could be a community of welcome for me."

"I didn't know how beneficial conflict could be in having true peace."

"I did not know solidarity would be about deep and loving relationships."

"I did not realize the liberation that comes from healing – giving and receiving it."

"I did not see the Belovedness in each person as I do now."

"I did not know then how working with high school students would affect me, but now I know that the year would not have been complete without it."

"I did not know that I would come to feel more at home in Richmond than my college town."

"I did not know how I would feel at home in Church Hill, in the community."

SELF-DISCOVERY

"I did not know I needed to keep learning to listen to my heart."

"I did not anticipate the Joy that came from loving my students this year."

"I didn't know how my perspective might change."

"I did not know then how I would adjust to this life change of committing to full-time service, but now I know that God can sustain me through any life change if I trust Him to do so."

"I did not know all of the ways I long to be loved and how I love others."

"I did not know that I would become comfortable with the idea that less is more."



Armel Mignondje, Anna Quast, Axell Komlan, & Julianne Esteves, (2022-2023) by the James River in Richmond, VA

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Bearing Witness to Transformation through Service with Others

We're grateful for our Ministry Volunteers who shared from their experiences during the full final days of their BSVM year. While a BSVM community wraps its time in close proximity at the end of a ministry year, the stories shared and relationships built remain to inform and guide Volunteers for the rest of their lives. The invitation extends to all of us: how have we grown from the experiences we've had, and how are we incorporating the lessons we've learned into the choices we're making and the path we're following? Let us listen for the God who "welcomes us in whatever form we want to come" and who delights in us "always."



Destiny Cates (2020-2021) with a student

A FELT EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, TENDERNESS, & DELIGHT

"I didn't fully know how God had my back."
"I didn't know that to know myself is to know God, that our deepest desire and God's deepest desire for us are the same thing, and they are not in opposition."
"I didn't know that I can root my spirituality in suffering in addition to gratitude and God will accept all that I bring to Him."



Mario Sultan & Patrick Kollman (2021-2022)

"I didn't know as fully that God welcomes us in whatever form we want to come to Him."
"I did not know God's grace as deeply then, but I know now that it is truly abundant."
"A year ago, I believed humans to be inherently evil, but now I believe that God has created us to be good, and He loves us and cherishes us even when we stray from Him."
"I didn't truly know the Father loved and delighted in me. I am a dearly beloved son."
"I didn't know how God was and is so good."
"I did not know that I would learn that God is delighting in me – always."

THE GRACE OF A PARTICULAR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

"I didn't know that I'd come to enjoy the stillness . . . sometimes."
"I didn't know how much going to church mattered even though I have a hard time paying attention."
"I didn't know how hard it is to focus while praying."
"I didn't know that to rest is to be present to the world and present to God."
"I did not know how to look for Christ in all scenarios, but now I see Him often in nature, in the students I serve, and in my community."
"I did not have very many resources to help me pray, but now I know how to practice centering prayer, Ignatian imagining prayer, *lectio divina*, and the Examen."



Kelly Flynn (2020-2021) with a student

Friend of BSVM: Colin Q. Smith



Conversation with Colin Q. Smith Bon Secours Community Works

Colin Smith is Director of Strategy and Impact at Bon Secours Community Works in Baltimore, MD. He has connected with our Ministry Volunteers in Baltimore over the years and has helped us to expand our involvement with various projects and initiatives in Baltimore.

How were you first introduced to BSVM?

I was first introduced to Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry back in 2017 when I met some of the Ministry Volunteers working on site at what was the Community Works building at the time. I remember hearing about their different roles and receiving an overview of the ministry. Over the years, I've been part of some conversations about how Ministry Volunteers could be engaged more fully with our work here in Baltimore. I've never directly overseen Ministry Volunteers, but I have had the opportunity to engage with them on a more macro level, giving tours of our service facility here, showing the Richmond Volunteers around, and interacting with our Volunteers who were placed here in Baltimore.

What gifts have you observed from the Ministry Volunteers over the years?

These are individuals coming in from outside of Baltimore who have open minds and a passion for service work. They're connecting to the history of the Sisters of Bon Secours and to the ministry values and the congregation, and I've seen the passion and their open minds about a completely different experience than what was familiar before. I think back to when I was that age, as a recent graduate from college and in an in-between period before graduate school or their first full-time job –and I see them embracing something different and new. That takes a lot of courage, to go outside their comfort zone. I think that is really cool at that age, to engage in something that is of service to others and not to yourself.

I think the community living creates a level of maturity. They're all living in the same house together, and they're pooling money to get their groceries and do meals together, and they're exploring what it really means to live in community and just have that experience at a young age. That community living experience takes them outside of the self, and very few people do that.

I've always found the Ministry Volunteers very curious in their work, cultivating intellectual curiosity, which is a really important lifelong skill. The program has them consider the history of what created the place that is West Baltimore now, and realizing what the conditions of the neighborhood are, and how that relates back to policies and decisions at the systems level. I've seen Volunteers able to engage in a genuine way with the Sisters of Bon Secours' strength-based asset approach, and work alongside our community members. Again, somebody who has the maturity to do that at that age is pretty remarkable, seeing the strength of any individual they meet because we respect the human dignity of everyone.

How has the Volunteer Ministry helped to expand the work of the Sisters in Baltimore?

There are obviously the very concrete ways that everything we do is rooted in the history and mission of the Sisters of Bon Secours. There's the example from when the Sisters opened an early childcare nursery in 1907 because there were single parents who needed a place for their kids to go or else they would have been committed to orphanages. Then we connect that thread to seeing the Ministry Volunteers right there in the classroom in recent years, who act as an extension of the Sisters, providing childcare to the Early Head Start program to low-income families who don't have the means to pay for childcare. I see that connection in direct service work, when the Volunteers work out on the Urban Farm, and assist with the healthy food access work that we do, which has become an increasingly larger focus for the Sisters.

The Volunteer Ministry is all about service and justice, but not service that's just sitting behind a desk and sitting on meetings—though there's value in those things. I think the Sisters have always prided themselves on not being afraid to get their hands dirty. Whatever is needed to make this work for those that we serve, those tasks have dignity, and I see the Sisters modeling that servant leadership. From my perspective, you don't necessarily need to be in a leadership position to be a servant leader, you can lead from where you are. I've been in conversations with some of the Sisters where they want to be more involved, and have said, 'I don't care what you need, I'll empty the trash, I'll change the baby's diaper.' The Sisters see the dignity in every piece of what every single person does in providing service to others, and I see that in how BSVM has a focus on the direct service that is essential to the work of justice.



Colin provides a tour of the service facility for the 2022-2023 Ministry Volunteers

I also saw BSVM and community partners encourage a level of creativity from our Ministry Volunteers, especially during the pandemic time. While circumstances change and societal conditions change, we need to embrace the situation that we're in—being led by the values of the Sisters. I saw that especially during the pandemic, shifting to focus more people on the food access work, or how we could do clean-ups outside and focus more on the trash clean-up. I saw Volunteers really taking the circumstances as they were and adapting and adjusting to them in a way that they're still keeping their integrity, not just throwing their hands up and saying, 'this is not worthwhile anymore,' which I feel builds on the overall mission of the Sisters.

Another extension of the Sisters is that the Volunteers are living in community. That's something that may not be seen as a specific act because you're doing that for a year and that's just where you live – but it is an intentional act to live in community. As you think about Baltimore, *place* is very important. The Sisters were asked to come to Baltimore, set roots here, and opened their first hospital here in 1919. And even when the acute care services were sold as part of the hospital, they knew they still needed to be here to provide community services, and that is all related to connectedness to place and evolving their role and addressing the needs of the people. Knowing that Bon Secours Mercy Health was not the most well-positioned to provide the level of traditional acute healthcare that another health system would – the Sisters still had a role to play in meeting the needs of the people. And we were embedded in the community since they came here and are still here. Some of the Sisters live right across the street from Community Works and are living in community – these are just things that they do because they need to be closer and connected with the people, and BSVM reflects that community value.

What is your hope for young adults who are considering a year with BSVM?

We all have opportunities in our life where we're taking a risk, but I think this unique experience is a really important and powerful risk that can pay dividends for the rest of your life. As a young adult, this experience gives you the chance to realize your role in contributing to the enhancement of others' lives, and you can do that in community with others and like-minded people. I think it will help shape your outlook for years to come.

My hope is that you're willing to take a chance on yourself. That you are meant to live a life – or spend a significant time period -- serving and being of service to others. My hope is that within that time, you're able to do some self-exploration and find who you are really called to be.

to ponder how I can be a physician who brings preventative, holistic medicine to children who are born into systems that have disadvantaged and denied their families access to equitable healthcare. At the root of this, though, I desire to be a caregiver who deeply listens, advocates, and journeys with her patients to all forms of healing and liberation. I feel extremely grateful for all I have received this year that will serve me well as I serve others. And, I hope that, as Oliver ends her poem, my broken-open heart “will never [be] close[d] again to the rest of the world.”

“LEAD”

“Here is a story
to break your heart.
Are you willing?
This winter
the loons came to our harbor
and died, one by one,
of nothing we could see.
A friend told me
of one on the shore
that lifted its head and opened
the elegant beak and cried out
in the long, sweet savoring of its life
which, if you have heard it,
you know is a sacred thing,
and for which, if you have not heard it,
you had better hurry to where

they still sing.
And, believe me, tell no one
just where that is.
The next morning
this loon, speckled
and iridescent and with a plan
to fly home
to some hidden lake,
was dead on the shore.
I tell you this
to break your heart,
by which I mean only
that it break open and never close
again
to the rest of the world.”

By Mary Oliver, (in *New and Selected Poems: Volume Two*, 2007).

Sisters' Corner: Richmond Neighbors

By Emily Thrush | B SVM Site Manager



Sr. Chris and Natalie join the 2022-2023 volunteers to decorate Christmas cookies

Volunteers love spending time with the Sisters of Bon Secours throughout the year, and the ability to spend time with sisters who live locally has been a highlight for our Volunteers. In Baltimore, the Volunteer house is just a couple blocks from the home of two Sisters of Bon Secours. In Richmond, the Volunteers live across town and have enjoyed the local overlap over the years. This issue, we want to highlight the experience of our two recent B SVM communities in Richmond and their neighboring connection with Sr. Chris Webb.

Before Sr. Chris officially moved to Richmond from Norfolk, VA, she began accompanying our B SVM community with monthly connections. For the 2021-2022 community, she spent time individually and with the full group, sharing her wisdom, her stories, and her listening ear. In the summer preceding our 2022-2023 group's arrival, Sr. Chris re-located to Richmond, and we began to create monthly rhythms with her, most frequently at Community Night gatherings. Sr. Chris and Natalie Scarbrough, a discerning candidate for the Bon Secours Congregation, would come to the B SVM house on Monday evenings,

joining for prayer and festive memory making, which sometimes meant carving pumpkins, sometimes meant decorating Christmas cookies, and sometimes meant eating a King Cake together during Mardi Gras.

One recent Volunteer said: “I always cherished the time spent sharing meals and playing games with the Sisters up in Marriottsville, it was nice to have a connection point with Sr. Chris in Richmond all year long.” Another Volunteer echoed how special it was to have a local tie to the Sisters: “I found that living near Sr. Chris and Natalie definitely made me feel more connected to the Sisters. Being able to welcome them to our home for community nights and other celebrations strengthened our household relationship with them, and it was wonderful for Sr. Chris and Natalie to participate in what was more ‘routine’ for us.” She continued: “Any time we spent with Sr. Chris and Natalie was a joy, and I feel that having them as our Richmond neighbors enriched my experience in the program and my relationship with the Bon Secours family.”

Each year, we strive to become good neighbors, and that effort is sustained by good models. We're grateful to have good local neighbors in Sr. Chris and Natalie, and loving longer distance neighbors in all the Sisters of Bon Secours who offer their presence, wisdom, and prayerful support throughout the year.

Alumni Profile: Narda Salinas

By Narda Salinas | BSVM 2017-2018



Narda explores the Pixar Exhibit at the Perot Museum of Nature & Science

How did your experience with BSVM shape the years following your year of service? BSVM pushed me to be more aware of my relationship with my community. When I returned to my hometown in Austin, I rejoined my parish and ultimately joined the choir (I had always looked forward to hymns during morning prayer!). Professionally, I felt called to continue serving my community. Before BSVM, I was not sure where I would fit in the healthcare system, but BSVM made me more comfortable with not always having answers. Now in my fourth year of medical school, I am currently applying to Family Medicine residency where I hope to continue working alongside communities with a holistic approach to health.

What advice do you have to offer former volunteers as they continue to process their BSVM experience?

One aspect I miss the most about BSVM is the community you share with your fellow volunteers. There is just something special about serving together. We had the privilege of being able to be involved daily. So the biggest advice I have is to find ways to continue reaching out to the community you find yourself in. It takes a little extra work in the context of all of life's responsibilities, but those moments transport me back to the compassion I experienced during BSVM.



Enjoying the State Fair with the parents

What reading have you found to be informative, helpful and/or inspirational for volunteers in the BSVM formation or for those wishing to continue to explore the pillars of BSVM? I recommend *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. This book continues to be thought-provoking in the sense that we sometimes have the privilege of looking at illness from a distance, but we are all vulnerable.



Narda along with her 2017-2018 Ministry cohort on their first day of service

What were some of the gifts you received during your time of service? How have these gifts helped you now? During the program we had time set aside to process our experience. Having that time was grounding and life-giving. Now that I meet patients from all walks of life, it can get overwhelming and disheartening at times, so I'm thankful to BSVM for teaching me how to create the time and space to reflect on the week. I'm also thankful for learning how to be mindful and learning to appreciate the little things from taking deep breaths to sharing a meal with loved ones. These gifts continue to remind me that in all of life's hecticness, there are always things to be grateful for.



Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

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Cover Photo

Julianne Esteves, 2022-2023 Volunteer with Sr. Alice Talone, CBS. Taken by Liz O'Neill, Director of Communications, Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

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Support BSVM

Share your time and enthusiasm. Your personal presence is one of the best ways to support the program. Send a letter of support, or schedule a time to visit our community outside or over Zoom. Contact BSVMoffice@bonsecoursusa.org.

Support the program financially. It costs about \$16,000 to support one volunteer for the year, including rent, health insurance, stipend and funds for community support. Monetary donations or gently used furnishings for the volunteer houses are greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax-deductible

BY MAIL

Make checks payable to **Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry** & mail to:

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1525 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104*

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