

**The Ignatian Volunteer Corps** (IVC) opened its New England Region in January 2009. The first Ignatian Volunteers were eleven men and women from assorted walks of life and different educational backgrounds, looking to put their life experiences, talents and time at the disposal of the poor in the neighborhoods of Boston, Worcester, and Providence, and in surrounding communities. Today, more than forty women and men continue to serve in these neighborhoods and communities. These volunteers are supported by one another and by “spiritual reflectors” whose task is to help the volunteers look at their service and to reflect upon its deeper meaning for themselves and for those whom they serve.

New England Ignatian volunteers teach, mentor, and advise in a variety of educational programs; provide services to potentially homeless elders; educate and locate resources for adult students and immigrants; assist older clients with medical appointments and entitlement benefits; offer administrative, development and HR support to non-profit staff; coordinate food and furniture outreach to families in need; coach job seekers in a culinary arts program; and, organize retreats for homeless and formerly homeless women and men.

Ignatian Volunteers are mature men and women who share their time and talents in service to their community, and who participate in a year-long spiritual development program, including prayer and reflection in the Jesuit tradition. New England Ignatian Volunteers commit to two days per week of service in parishes, schools or non-profit organizations working directly with those experiencing poverty or marginalization, or in the pursuit of social justice. The service commitment takes place over a ten-month period. During the period of service, the volunteer engages in spiritual reflection and journaling with the assistance of a “reflector” whom he or she meets monthly. All volunteers take part in two days of reflection, one overnight retreat, and monthly meetings of the entire group of volunteers. Volunteers share their reflection and service experiences in these gatherings and probe their deeper meaning.

*If you would like more information on the Ignatian Volunteer Corps or would like to pursue membership as a volunteer, contact:*

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