



Seattle, Washington

Named after Chief Sealth (Si'ahl in the native Lushootseed language) of the Duwamish and Suquamish Tribes, Seattle is home to two Jesuit Volunteer communities. Mercy House (after Fred Mercy, SJ) and Cherry Abbey (after its location on Cherry Street) are both located in the Central District of Seattle, near Seattle University (a Jesuit university and residence of a Jesuit community). The houses are a ten minute walk from each other, and volunteers can also easily get downtown with a thirty minute walk. As one of the first urban locales we expanded to, JVs have served the greater Seattle area since 1970. There is a strong Asian American /Pacific Islander population in the city, as well as many immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who reside in Seattle. The Emerald City is a hub for services in high demand in the region, and housing and homelessness are in a current state of crisis in the city. In embracing the complex history of the city, volunteers are asked to wrestle with paying witness and critically contemplating the on-going gentrification of their Central District neighborhood- a historically African-American community.

Joys of being a JV in Seattle:

- o Strong support network, including many mental health professionals, former JVs who call Seattle home, the Ignatian Spirituality Center that offers spiritual direction and programming, a Jesuit parish, and Seattle University.
- o The view of Mt Rainier and the Space Needle on clear days, and waterfronts in all directions
- o An abundance of city parks and green spaces