



Gresham, Oregon

Located to the east of Portland, Gresham is (proudly) the fourth largest city in the state of Oregon, with its population of over 100,000. As Portland rapidly developed in more recent years the cost of living has steadily increased, resulting in rapid gentrification of the city. Many of the African American, Latino, and low income communities have been pushed out from what is now the heart of Portland, predominantly into the Gresham area. Along with these communities many refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Asia are relocating in Gresham. Some schools' student bodies speak more than 12 different languages in this area. Since 2009, JVs have had the opportunity to serve the community of Gresham, and live in solidarity with those who need to look east to find affordable housing. Having worked closely with Catholic Charities' El Programa Hispano, JVs have especially focused on working with the Latino community, responding to gang violence, as well as engaging in issues of homelessness and housing.

JVs live within a few minutes walk of Gresham's quaint downtown, several blocks of small businesses which include a bagel place, a coffee shop, and a yarn store. They are also close to the Springwater Corridor Trail, a more-than twenty mile multi-use scenic path running from Boring, OR through Gresham and into Portland, which has a stunning view of Mount Hood to the east. JVs also can take advantage of the great public transportation to explore Gresham and the downtown Portland area.

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