



# Omak, Washington

After JVC Northwest started in Copper Valley Alaska in 1956, Omak was the first JV community in the lower-48, starting in the mid-1960s. Located in a distinctly rural, arid, Western locale, this is one of the remaining placements which directly inherits the tradition of Jesuits being invited to minister to Native American populations in the Northwest. Serving the Colville Reservation, a 12-tribe confederation, the mission and school are seven miles away and a world apart from Omak (4,800). The town of Omak is located 110 miles NW of Spokane and 140 miles NE of Seattle, and has 38% of its population living below the federal poverty level. Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare (OBHC) is the only Community Mental Health Center in Okanogan County, which is the largest by area in the State of Washington. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness. The JVs live at St. Mary's Mission on the Paschal Sherman Indian School grounds, which is part of the reservation.

WASHINGTON

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