

# Service-Learning Center

## 2016 NEWSLETTER

Faithfully Present in a New [Place]  
**Sarah Lee | External Communications Coordinator**

The Service-Learning Center experienced a transition during the summer of 2015, which was possibly its busiest summer to date. The office was relocated from the Commons Annex to Spoelhof Center 301, previously the Registrar's Office. The Service-Learning Center became a part of the Academic Division, intentionally situated in a collaborative partnership with the Off-Campus Programs Office and the Office of Community Engagement. To find out more about the move, I interviewed Jeff Bouman (the Director of the Service-Learning Center), Andrew Haggerty (the Associate Director of the Service-Learning Center) and Sarah Visser (the Vice President of Student Life) regarding background information, as well as their experience and thoughts on the move.

The Service-Learning Center has gone through major changes since founders Jan Veenstra and Sharon Slager started a student club called Kindling Intellectual Desire in Students (KIDS) fifty-one years ago. This club sent Calvin students to tutor at local schools. KIDS expanded in 1980 and was renamed Student Volunteer Service (SVS) to better reflect its mission. In 1993, a new name, the Service-Learning Center (S-LC), was created to fit the office's goal of incorporating a learning aspect into serving by connecting with academic departments.

Though the change of the summer of 2015 was not a name switch, it reflects an important organizational change in moving the Service-Learning Center to the Academic Division from the Student Life Division. Moving the S-LC under the same umbrella as the Off-Campus Programs Office and the Office of Community Engagement has been an ongoing conversation since 2009 as a subsection of the college's strategic plan.

The move made sense for the office's trajectory, acknowledging that students who study abroad often engage in service-learning, as well as an increase in faculty teaching and research rooted in local issues and assets. It also displayed Calvin's vision of nurturing students to engage with both local and global communities. Compared to the way service-learning has been historically implemented in a local context, it is changing as Calvin changes. Vice President Visser stated, "Calvin is committed to exploring the idea of faithful presence in place, which spans both domestic and international contexts, individual and collective perspectives, and personal and systemic change."

One of the institutions at which Visser has previously worked also combined offices like Off-Campus Programs, Service-Learning, and Community Engagement under one roof, and many included service-learning in the Academic Division. "The faculty are often key partners in identifying opportunities that fit the criteria of engaging the mind through cognitive study, engaging the heart through affective understanding, and engaging the hands through applied engagement," she mentioned. It is encouraging to see that Calvin College is open to development and that represents the college's "holistic approach," in which service-learning stretches beyond a single setting, whether it is through in-class assignments, Residence Hall Community Partnerships, or through Spring Break Trips.

*(continued on next page)*

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Faithfully Present in a New [Place]
- Engineering Senior Design Projects
- Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
- Justice in Honduras
- Service as One Response to Flint Water Crisis
- Service-Learning: Life After Calvin
- Reflections from the Director

In addition to the organizational changes for the Service-Learning Center, there were personnel changes in the office. Chris Van Zanen, who had served as the Department Assistant since 2004, decided to move to LCC International University in Lithuania with her husband to return to missions. Megan and Noah Kruis, who served as Co-Associate Directors in the office since 2009, left for Hyde Park, Illinois because Noah decided to attend seminary at McCormick Theological Seminary. Replacing Chris as our new Department Assistant is Tonisha Begay, who worked in the S-LC for three years as a student. Finally, our new Associate Director is Andrew Haggerty, who served as the Resident Director in Bolt-Heyns-Timmer last year.

Despite having to get accustomed to a switch in jobs and the major changes the office was going through, Haggerty has enjoyed getting to know new faculty and students. He is excited about the challenges the transitions bring, noting that "We have an incredibly solid team with a lot of potential. The three things I am most looking forward to are seeing how this year's team continues to enhance our programs and operations, establishing and maintaining my own personal relationship with many of our community partners, and living into the potential of our new office."



NEW OFFICE PLACE FOR THE SLC IN THE SPOELHOF CENTER

On top of the changes in the professional staff, most of the student coordinators graduated in spring 2015, and six out of the ten student leaders are new to the office this fall. This year's student staff includes: Lauren Anderson (CPC Coordinator), Johnson Cochran (Assessment Coordinator), Tanesha Jordan (Internal Communications Coordinator), Cameron Kritikos (International Service-Learning Coordinator), Evan Kroon (Transportation Coordinator), Sarah Lee (External Communications Coordinator), Anna Lindner (ABSL LLA & Social Sciences), Maaiké Mudde (External Partnerships Coordinator), Mariana Perez (StreetFest & Spring Break Trips Coordinator), Beth Sherman (ABSL Education), Peter Ye (ABSL Natural Sciences & Math), and Meghan Bogema (Student Intern for Inter-Faith Service). With most people being new, we're proud to have organized a huge event, StreetFest 2015 on September 3rd.

To summarize the benefits and costs of the recent changes, transition, and move, I will close with two comments from both Vice President Visser, and S-LC

Director Bouman. Visser stated, "What excites me about this new structure is that I think we are poised to engage some of the deep questions of our time through an innovative and integrative lens. The Service-Learning Center team shares the same commitment to student learning and student development as we have in the Student Life Division, which makes us natural partners in this work. We're eager to continue to support the work of each both divisions moving forward."

Bouman noted, "We had wonderful space in the Commons Annex for over thirty years, so I had some hesitation about leaving what I consider to be a sacred space. We also left behind a location that is right on the 'main street' of student traffic. So there were reasons not to make this move. But we are excited and hopeful that by being closer to Community Engagement and Off-Campus Programs, we will find a synergy that will enrich the work each of these offices does for the greater good of Calvin and our local and global community." ▾

## Engineering Senior Design Projects Peter Ye | Natural Sciences & Math ABSL Coordinator

On an afternoon in May, the engineering building at Calvin College is crowded with people, from young to old, some in suits and some in casual clothes. If you go in closer, you will find that people in suits are presenting their ideas or products. People around them are listening and asking questions. This is the annual new product showcase of Calvin College from the senior engineering students. It shows the newest technology from the Calvin community.



SENIOR DESIGN OPEN HOUSE

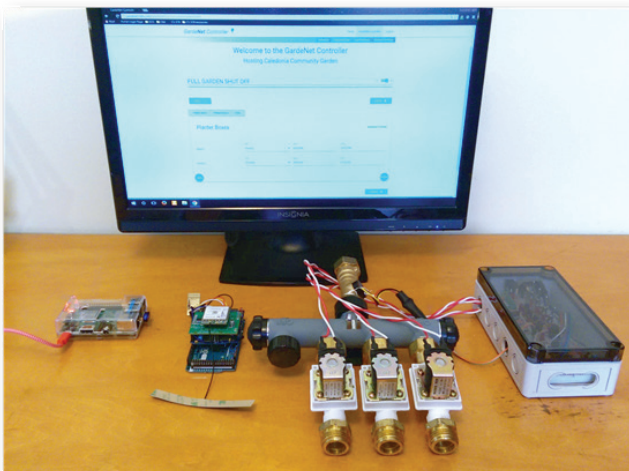
Calvin College has a great engineering program which "combines the foundation of world-class liberal arts curriculum and adds the cutting-edge knowledge of technology in engineering" (Calvin Engineering Website). One of the main focuses of the engineering program is experiential learning, which emphasizes internships, research, labs, and projects. On top of these opportunities, all seniors are required to do senior design projects, which are year-long team projects that seek to solve real world problems. These projects have a wide spectrum across all four engineering fields, including electrical and computer, chemical, civil, and mechanical engineering. Every year nearly half of the projects have service-learning components, meaning they work towards social justice or environmental stewardship in some way. Given are some examples what these projects look like.

One of this year's projects is "Puente Con La Gente" which means "bridge with people" in Spanish. A team of four civil engineering students took on the task of designing a bridge for people in El Potrero, Honduras. They took a trip there from August 28 to September 2, 2015 to gather data for this project.



TEAM GATHERING DATA IN EL POTRERO

Another team, "GardeNet", is designing an automatic watering system for the Caledonia Community Garden. This project focuses on saving water, creating convenience, and serving the community. This project enables people to control when to water the garden from their smartphone or computer.



PROTOTYPE OF THE PROJECT BY GARDENET

If you want to check out more engineering senior design projects, please visit: [calvin.edu/academic/engineering/senior-design](http://calvin.edu/academic/engineering/senior-design)

## Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Sarah Lee | External Communications Coordinator

Every year, the Service-Learning Center coordinates service-learning spring break trips for Calvin students. Students experience life in a different community for a week. By temporarily living in a new context, students are challenged to engage communities through service and learning and stretch their faith through experiencing God's presence and His work in diverse locations.

This year, students went to twelve different cities in the US: Americus, GA; Chicago, IL; Grand Isle, LA; Houma, LA; Jackson, MS; Kermit, WV; Mendenhall, MS; Mobile, AL; Pittsburgh, PA; Smoky Mountains National Park; Three Rivers, MI; and Williamson, WV. Each trip was geared toward a unique focus, including food justice, racial reconciliation, disaster relief, urban community development, and more.

I had the opportunity to attend the Mobile trip with 11 others to participate in a L'Arche community's daily activities. L'Arche communities, which are spread out all over the world in 146 different locations, build relationships with adults with intellectual disabilities by providing them with homes and work. They live and work together as peers across all social and racial boundaries. The adults with intellectual disabilities are referred to as "core members," and the workers and volunteers as "team members." The language reflects the strong, close community at L'Arche, where individuals who were strangers to each other came together to live under one roof as a family.

As the trip's title, "Service-Learning Spring Break Trip," suggests, our time at Mobile consisted of both serving and learning. We spent our time raking leaves, painting walls, cleaning out sheds, and washing porches. However, our trip leaned more heavily toward learning. There was no space for us to enter with the paternalistic mindsets of "I am making this person's life better by helping him." With that mindset the focus would be strongly on the self. Instead, we learned through new experiences as the core members welcomed us into their personal lives. Hearing the core members pray not for themselves but for others, even for their parents who abused them, allowed me to reflect upon my own life and the types of prayers I offer up to God. Watching the core members finding joy in the littlest things and expressing love toward each other unconditionally, my shameful prejudice I had against adults with intellectual disabilities was broken down. The distance I kept due to fear turned out to be meaningless as soon as I allowed myself to give the core members a chance to express who they were.

One of the biggest takeaway was the theme of Psalm 139 that repeatedly came up during our week in Mobile. Understanding how we are all fearfully and wonderfully made had never rung truer. The core members were not pitiful or helpless. When God created the core members, He did not mold them with what the human eyes would see as a defect. Down syndrome, autism, fragile x syndrome... everything is a part of God's beautiful creation, not a mistake. God knit all of us together in our mothers' wombs for a purpose.



This year's donations: 256 pints

We decided to bring our experiences and hope back from L'Arche in Mobile to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our group considered the idea of starting Best Buddies (a local developmental disabilities chapter) here in our community. I pray to remember to treat everyone with love, knowing that we have all been fearfully and wonderfully made. I pray the sparks do not die, and I am excited for the light of hope to grow here in Grand Rapids. ▾



STUDENTS POSING FOR A PICTURE WITH L'ARCHE MOBILE RESIDENTS

## Justice in Honduras

**Anna Lindner | Languages, Literature, & Arts / Social Sciences & Contextual Disciplines ABSL Coordinator**

January at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan is blustery, grey, and more often than not, freezing. However, the weather does not deter the large crowds gathering for the January Series, Calvin's annual conference of speakers who share their knowledge of and research on a wide variety of topics, including race, justice, autism, creativity, journalism, technological security, poverty, and privilege.

On January 22nd, Kurt Ver Beek, a Calvin alumnus who has spent over twenty-five years living in Honduras with his wife, Jo Ann, and their children, Anna and Noah, spoke about the justice work in which they have invested. With a Ph.D. in developmental sociology, Kurt has always been determined to better the lives of the poor. However, when he and Jo Ann attempted to enrich their communities through development, they were confronted with the vicious violence that tore families apart and the pervasive corruption that threatened the wellbeing of their neighborhood. Kurt and Jo Ann became convinced that Honduras' judicial and political systems had to be altered for its citizens to live safe lives.

Comprehending the difference between charity, development, and justice is central to Kurt's thesis: security must be ensured before development can occur. Charity is the short-term alleviation of hunger or cold, and immediate aid is necessary after disaster has struck. Development, however, entails long-term betterment and investment in a system. Many development organizations provide education, job skills, and business loans for those in poverty. Kurt and Jo Ann were aware of the benefits of investing in development rather than charity, but as they

watched hopelessly as friends were gunned down by drug lords and corrupt policemen, they realized that before development, justice must be secured for Hondurans. Kurt and Jo Ann contrived justice as the ultimate righting of policies, institutions, and relationships. It is the all-encompassing healing of wrongs, and overcomes the fear brought about by violence.

Kurt and Jo Ann pursued justice by founding the Association for a More Just Society (AJS) in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. AJS hired Honduran investigators who took on the dangerous task of looking into homicides, uncovering the atrocities of corrupt policemen, and procuring witnesses. Slowly, homicide rates dropped as Kurt and Jo Ann's neighbors began putting their trust in AJS and testifying as witnesses in court. Despite the risk to their own lives and a few tragic casualties to Hondurans within AJS, sections of Tegucigalpa became safer. One such area includes Nueva Suyapa, one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa and Kurt and Jo Ann's home.



Along with seven other Calvin students, I studied in Honduras from January to May 2015. Our host families lived in a beautiful mountain town called Santa Lucia that overlooked Tegucigalpa, which sprawled below. Perched in our lofty mountain home, we would venture into Tegus for school, after a forty-five minute ride on an old, rusty school bus that chugged its way up and down the steep slopes.

Once in Tegucigalpa, we attended a class taught by Kurt and Jo Ann, entitled "Poverty and Development" (or, more accurately, "Justice," as it was recently renamed). Kurt and Jo Ann used their extensive knowledge of Honduras and its people to describe the economic and political state of the country. We learned about the messy aspects of Honduran life: the hidden, the mundane, and the dirty. Class topics included food distribution, immigration, the impact of policy change, orphanages, maquilas (loosely translated as "sweatshops"), waste management (sewage, basically), and the influence the United States wields in Honduras.

My Calvin peers and I were drawn together over discussions about social justice. We shared our individual passions, delighting when they coincided and willing to learn from each other when they did not. Of course, simply discussing issues was not always enough to sooth our frustrations; once, when we were on a trip to Nicaragua, I broke down and bawled, in front of several perplexed onlookers, over the weight of injustice and my inability to

solve it. My Calvin friends were gracious, comforting me and listening to my weepy ranting. Justice does not only require action; it often involves dwelling in pain with the situation, supported by understanding friends.

Kurt and Jo Ann's class was one of the highlights of the semester not only because of the content, but due to the sense of justice that roused our spirits each time we gathered. Kurt and Jo Ann's lectures exuded genuine compassion for their fellow Hondurans. Not only did we learn about the many obstacles Honduras faces, but we were also set afire with passion for justice work in the United States. We discussed the inequitable American education system that provides opportunity for some students while allowing others to drop through the cracks. One of the classes permanently etched in my mind was when we wrote down all of the social issues we cared about, and formulated steps to address them. As I fervently scribbled down my goals, I realized the scope of my social concern was too broad, and that I would have to simplify my commitment to avoid becoming overwhelmed and losing hope. Kurt and Jo Ann's classes inspired and united us as inexperienced but nonetheless determined young students, eager to join in the justice work.

Just over a year has passed since my group and I arrived in Honduras. When we heard that Kurt was coming to Grand Rapids, we planned to attend his talk together, joining about twenty of Kurt and Jo Ann's students, who wore AJS tee-shirts and cheered loudly when he appeared on stage. One of my friends brandished a gigantic Honduran flag, which made Kurt grin when he spotted us. The small, fiery community of Calvin students who had spent time with Kurt and Jo Ann in Honduras represents all young people who have been set aflame with passion for justice. That movement encompasses pain, hope, indignation, guilt, joy, weariness, and the communal spirit of those called to such difficult work. Although we cannot save the world, and should not believe it is within our mandate to do so, we, like Kurt and Jo Ann, have been seized by a thirst for justice and the hope that we can start to make a dent in the wrongs that plague our societies. ▼



STUDENT UNLOADING WATER FROM THE VAN

## Service as One Response to Flint Water Crisis Tonisha Begay | Department Assistant

Calvin's community responded to the water contamination crisis in Flint this past semester by collecting around 300 cases of bottled water. A group of students led by senior Martin Cervantes delivered and distributed water to Flint residents. In April 2014, Flint's water source switched from Lake Huron via Detroit to the Flint River. The water from the Flint River degraded pipes, which not only caused rust and iron to enter the water, but also lead. After two years of Flint residents not knowing water supplies were affected by lead, a state of emergency was issued in early 2016 in order to provide safe, drinkable water.

One topic we often discuss in the Service-Learning Center, whether in a meeting or more casually around the office, is social justice. How do we respond to injustice and should we respond at all? Is a short-term response adequate or could it be harmful? What are the intersections between charity, justice, service, and learning? These questions were certainly prompted again as news of the Flint water crisis broke nationally. Ultimately, and as usual, our questions still loom in the air. Despite the questions we ask, the reality is that people needed (and still need) water. The most basic daily activities require fresh, clean water and overthinking, in this situation, might not be the most helpful. As hard as it may be, our office tries to balance thought with action. Sometimes more thought is necessary and sometimes swift action is required. Our responsibility as Christians and as fellow Michigan-dwellers was to care for those who were in need in a way that we were able.

Calvin's community came together to serve and learn with Flint residents about the water crisis, their frustrations, and ways to help beyond delivering water. Through continued care and thoughtful action we hope to live out these questions rather than just ask them; to act in the midst of our overthinking. Perhaps in this attempt at the seemingly impossible balancing act, we may move one small step closer to shalom. ▼

### Student Reflection:

"Water is still needed, but it is clear to me that the water crisis that Flint is fighting against is a manifestation of decades of neglect. We have all failed Flint. The prophetic voices that speak up about injustice and denounce environmental racism, education inequality, and the shipment of jobs abroad for the benefits of cheap labor and tax loops have for too long been muted. We seek to stand with Flint against this injustice, because media sensationalism will not win the day. We can no longer afford to be silent, and my regret is that it has taken a tragedy like this water crisis to evoke action for change."

Cameron Kritikos

## Service-Learning: Life After Calvin

**Sarah Lee | External Communications Coordinator**

College is full of opportunities. It's the time to create experiences; finding yourself and where you belong in relation to this world. One thing Calvin College does well is presenting numerous opportunities for students to get involved in service-learning. The Service-Learning Center makes sure that all incoming students start off the year with participation in StreetFest. Students can apply to be Community Partnership Coordinators (CPCs) in the dorms and go on Service-Learning Spring Break Trips around the United States. Calvin has had over one-thousand different partnerships where students are sent to serve. Clearly there are many ways to get involved in service-learning in college. But what about after graduation? Will graduates be able to find balance between work and service on top of other recreational activities?

Traci Montgomery, a Calvin graduate of 2012, double majored in mathematics and geography. As a freshman, experiencing StreetFest was only the beginning of her passion for service-learning. In her sophomore year, Traci was a CPC in Rooks-VanDellen, which partners with Baxter Community Center. She also went on a spring break trip with the Service-Learning Center to Providence, RI and volunteered with The Steel Yard. During her junior year, she was a StreetFest leader and supported the CPCs as a Resident Assistant in Noordeweir-VanderWerp. She also led a Spring Break Trip to Americus, GA to serve at the Koinonia Farm. Finally, during her senior year, Traci was an Orientation Leader, which allowed her to participate in StreetFest yet again.

When asked why she decided to be so involved, Traci mentioned that she wanted to learn more about West Michigan and plug into the community of Grand Rapids. Traci is grateful for the Service-Learning Center for connecting her to the community in ways that she had not been involved in at home. Not only has she built relationships in Grand Rapids, but also engaged and learned in communities such as Providence and Americus through Spring Break Trips.

Her active involvement in service-learning as a Calvin student not only allowed her to be faithful to her



community, but also helped her understand her vocation. After graduation, she worked at Calvin's Center for Social Research for two years, where she got her "first look at how important metrics are for all organizations: for-profits, non-profits, and foundations." Because of her experience and her "second-nature service-learning

mindset," she has been able to apply her aptitude to different organizations in Grand Rapids.

Traci currently works as a Customer Insights Specialist at Meijer, and she is also the treasurer for the Board of Directors for her neighborhood association, the East Hills Council of Neighbors. She is also a part of the East Hills Loves Congress committee, which "seeks to increase neighborhood engagement with Congress Elementary School." Traci is also the community organizer for Friendly Code, which is the Grand Rapids Code of America brigade. Traci elaborated that Friendly Code partners with the City of Grand Rapids and other agencies to create technology that promotes governmental transparency.

Since her graduation, Traci's service-learning mindset has been snowballing as she makes positive impacts in the places she has been involved.

When asked, "What advice would you give to a recent Calvin graduate who hopes to engage with their community?" she responded, "As is the case with a lot of people in my age bracket, I seem to have this incredible sense of wanderlust. If I'm in Grand Rapids for too long I start to get antsy and have been known to purchase some unfortunately expensive plane tickets only to go sleep on someone's couch for a weekend to see different roads, buildings, and trees against a different back drop.

"On one of these such trips, I was flying back into GR and I was thinking through the constant tension in my life of continuing to establish roots in GR versus going out to 'bigger, better' places when I realized that I could move to all of the places always leaving a little bit unsatisfied because I didn't have enough time to truly establish history and community or, nuances aside, I could work towards having my favorite parts of Chicago or Florence or Hong Kong in my place, in Grand Rapids."

From that internal conversation Traci landed here:

**"Create the place you want to live and work and play in. Create the place you want for your family and to be with friends. Venture out and explore awesome creation, but come home and bring all the great things you experience with you. Find the people and the organizations that are working towards important ends and jump in. If that organization doesn't exist, start it. If that's scary, there's usually a friend that's willing to help get it off the ground. Be a contributor to your community, not just an observer." ▼**

## Reflections from the Director

**Jeff Bouman | Director**

It's been a dynamic academic year for the Service-Learning Center at Calvin College. From the new office space in Spoelhof Center, I now have a large window through which to look out on the campus. Through it I can see people, trees, birds, buildings, and I can feel the energy of a college environment.

What I love about our work here in the Service-Learning Center is the way in which it connects the campus to the world. As we have all read news stories over the past year about the most massive displacement of people since WWII, the work of the S-LC has helped facilitate student involvement with refugee families being welcomed and resettled in

western Michigan through a variety of community partners. As the conversation about global climate change and human responsibility has been reported over the past year from COP21 in Paris and other places, the S-LC has had the opportunity to partner with and support the work of Plaster Creek Stewards in their excellent efforts

to restore a watershed, conduct meaningful research, and educate the public about its local watershed. As stories of violence and prejudice against Muslim neighbors have grown, the S-LC has initiated a concerted effort at interfaith dialogue and service through a partnership with the Kaufman Interfaith Institute – initiating learning and service alongside Muslims, Jews, and people of other faith traditions, in order to help the college teach students what the college core document highlights; that “a distinctive feature of the Reformed tradition is the insight that religions are not the simple creation of human wishes, or mere reflections of dominant social relations; rather, they are an expression of the “sensus divinitatis” that God, in his common grace, has implanted in all his image bearers. Calvin students should be familiar with the basic tenets of other world religions as responses to God's self-disclosure in nature and in conscience, with the ways of life that they encourage, and with the points of contact they bear to Christianity” (An Engagement with God's World, p. 19). As the national conversation about the purpose and value of higher education has turned in a utilitarian direction, the S-LC has continued to provide opportunities for holistic development, again sending a dozen service-learning spring break trips around the region, including the group that Sarah writes about that spent a week with the L'Arche community in Mobile, Alabama. In the fall of 2015, the City of Grand Rapids elected its first woman Mayor in Rosalyn Bliss; the S-LC student staff hosted a dinner with outgoing Mayor George Heartwell in February 2016, and heard his unique story of faith, politics and service. As the work toward justice and reconciliation all over the world continues to grow, the S-LC supported the work of the

**People and places matter, and the work of the Service-Learning Center is to foster a disposition of care and responsibility rooted in faith, knowledge, relationships, and experience.**

Association for a More Just Society in Honduras; and in April we hosted Fr. Martin Magill and Rev. Steve Stockman, a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister from neighboring parishes in Belfast, Northern Ireland, who are doing the hard and necessary work of reconciliation in that place.

We have also built and strengthened bridges with near neighbors, especially colleagues in Off-Campus Programs and the Office of Community Engagement, developing the new Center for Community Engagement and Global Learning (CCEGL) as our overarching identity. We have also made plans to better understand our relationship with external partners throughout Grand Rapids. Over the next year we will be attempting a thorough inventory and audit of our database of partners, and hoping to initiate more sustainable communication and partnership strategies.



People and places matter, and the work of the Service-Learning Center is to foster a disposition of care and responsibility rooted in faith, knowledge, relationships, and experience. Finally, a new group of students have been interviewed and hired as the S-LC student coordinators for the next academic year, and we are excited to help them get to work next August. Over the summer we will have a small team in place to get StreetFest 2016 planned, led by Beth Sherman, a rising senior majoring in Social Work. Our community partners can expect a call or an email from Beth as she plans StreetFest this summer! ▾



S-LC STAFF WITH FR. MARTIN MAGILL AND REV. STEVE STOCKMAN



SLC STAFF WITH OUTGOING MAYOR GEORGE HEARTWELL



MARIANA, SPRING BREAK TRIPS COORDINATOR, ON A LAWMOWER



SLC STAFF ON A BIKE TOUR AROUND GRAND RAPIDS



STREETFEST: STUDENTS TAKING APART COMPUTERS

### Giving to the Service-Learning Center

The programs and services that the S-LC provides are funded by the general college budget. Any gifts given to Calvin College and designated specifically to the Service-Learning Center allow us to offer financial assistance for students who participate in the annual spring break service-learning trips ([www.calvin.edu/go/springbreaktrips](http://www.calvin.edu/go/springbreaktrips)).

Additionally, donations designated to the S-LC Gift account allow us to continue long-standing programs like StreetFest, and to occasionally fund student transportation to conferences or other professional development opportunities ([www.calvin.edu/support](http://www.calvin.edu/support)).

Thanks for your continued support!



## Color

**Lauren Anderson | CPC Coordinator**

The elephant in the room  
Evident to all.  
Celebrated by some  
Disgusted by the rest.

Color.

Color within the respective lines.  
No mixing.  
No blending.  
Whites here.           The rest there. Step no further!

But

What if    what if  
    I step outside those limiting lines?  
And befrien--neglect, disdain, up-turned noses  
As far as I can see.

You know that I see you.  
Your empty threats don't scare me.  
I see your fear-filled eyes.  
Your desire to live in--within  
    the "safe" red tape of what has been  
    generations past.

I can't stay here.  
I need to keep walking  
Head held high  
With my brothers and sisters and Lord.

Come join us if you wish  
Please,  
These are your siblings too, you know.  
There are stories to tell, hurts to mend, and celebrating to  
be done.

But  
Try as you might  
Nothing will keep me from my brothers and sisters.  
Even your arguments cannot not keep me from  
Loving, celebrating, and lamenting  
With my precious brothers and sisters.  
For  
My Dad is the King  
Of Love and Justice.  
Of Love and Justice  
I will live.

I need to celebrate my brothers and sisters.  
To live and be with them each day

THAT is beloved community.  
Don't you see?

To live and be  
Audaciously.  
All of us and He.

The Holy Great I AM.



## Spring Break Trip Photo Contest Winners!



GRAND ISLE, LOUISIANA (GROUP PHOTO CONTEST WINNER)

"As part of our learning for our trip, we visited the exact location where the levy broke and flooded the entire Lower Ninth Ward during hurricane Katrina. Reflection on all of the pain and suffering felt by the people of this community paired with the realization of great injustices that are still faced caused a great humbling in each of our hearts."

**Michelle Putlak**

"Seek the renewal of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its renewal you will find your renewal.'  
Jeremiah 29:7

Last night, we learned about shalom -- the idea that renewal, prosperity, and peace are only possible when we are in right relationship with God, ourselves, others, and creation.

This stop sign, just across the street from Bill's gallery, is calling for an end to police brutality -- for an end to the broken shalom between humans. May shalom be our prayer today and always."

**Michael Lentz**



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (INDIVIDUAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNER)



## Meet Beth, the 2016 StreetFest Coordinator!



Beth Sherman is a third-year student majoring in social work and minoring in business. She is originally from Pennsylvania. Beth is very excited to coordinate StreetFest this year and is looking forward to learning about and working alongside organizations in this great city!

StreetFest will take place on Thursday, September 1.  
If your organization is interested in participating in StreetFest, please email Beth at [slc@calvin.edu](mailto:slc@calvin.edu).

