

NYSJC

NEW YORK SERVICE + JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE



Reflections on Community

Sabrina: Community may be defined in a variety of different ways. Here at NYSJC, we distinguish our community as being “intentional,” meaning that each member must do their part to ensure that the community is strong and healthy. Our goals for intentional community are found in our Rule of Life, which is a guide for our shared values, activities, and daily practices. While living in community may not always be easy, it is one of the most rewarding parts of the service year. It is such a wonderful feeling to have the opportunity to grow alongside other likeminded people, and have their support behind you no matter what.

Savannah: A unique privilege we have as NYSJC fellows is to focus on community. This is an integral part of the program and of the mission of the spiritually-grounded lives we hope to lead! As we live together, serve together, and discern together this year, we are learning more about what it looks like to be focused on community like Jesus Christ was. Rooting ourselves in love and service for our community propels our desire to advocate for intentional, transformative change in our society as we witness injustice around us from local to even international levels.

Lily: Living in an intentional community is a journey that requires commitment and a desire to not only get to know your housemates, but yourself as well. Through the disagreements and the jokes, the frustration and the joy, we are all continually learning about how we are meant to be together this year; there is no warmer feeling than knowing you have a full house of laughter to come home to at the end of the day.

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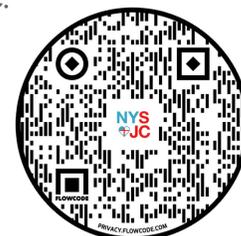
Troy: Living around other people is inevitable. Being a community is not. We learn everyday that communities are loved into being. There are challenges, misunderstandings, frustrations, and doubts which can creep in when you're meeting new people and doing new things. However, it is the belief that you all belong together, which allows you to power through the discomfort of new experiences to form a firm foundation. On this foundation, so many memories, laughs, and special moments are shared to form something truly beautiful. Through our communal life we are finding that we have different needs, desires, and even beliefs. Through conversation, praying together, and working side by side, we are finding that iron sharpens iron.

Angie: In a culture that admires a boot strap mentality and radical individualism, nothing could be more foreign than the concept of community. Most people might think that the challenges come from reminding people to wash their dishes for the 3rd time or being mad that all the hot water is gone but the real difficulty lies in the vulnerability it takes to be honest about your feelings with one another. The skills it takes to approach one another with trust and truth, even in disagreement, are the ones we are building now and will be building for the remainder of the year. Community is an evolution that requires we be attentive, unassuming, and open. In these spaces it calls us to practice faith as we allow these former strangers to be called friends, and feel the freedom that comes in being cared for by another.

Susanna: Living in community can be challenging, but it comes with valuable rewards. We all come from different backgrounds and provide different perspectives and it's through these differences that we will grow and learn this year. As an intentional community we chose to come here, to live together, and serve together because we share the same goals for spiritual growth and justice-oriented service. We seek to support each other in these goals by setting aside time to connect with one another and engage in spiritual practices together. We make sure to sit down together and share a meal at least once a week to talk about our week. We share any challenges we've been facing, celebrate joys we've experienced, and look forward to the week to come. It is difficult to transition to a new life in a new city, so building a supportive community is an important part of our work

Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, unites communities to focus on charitable giving and the impact of nonprofit organizations. Our community dinners, formation, retreats, and every aspect of our shared life are reliant upon the generous contributions of those who support us. In the weeks leading up to Giving Tuesday, please consider supporting and strengthening the work of our community with a gift to NYSJC.

Get involved! Visit bit.ly/nyservicejustice to make an online donation to NYSJC.



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