

WORX *Summer Spotlight*

Summer 2017: WorX Highlights



WorX Alumna Joins CFJ Staff

“Welcome home!” These words greeted WorX alumna Maggie Smith as she walked through the doors of the CASA on July 6th to start her new job as Manager of Special Projects and WorX Programs here at the Center for FaithJustice. Maggie returned to CFJ after completing her master’s degree at Villanova University in Theology with a certificate in Pastoral Ministry where she was also a Campus Ministry Intern. Prior to Villanova, she attended Rutgers University where she completed her bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies with minors in Sociology and Professional Outreach and Development.

In high school Maggie went on JusticeworX Philadelphia, where she had the most impactful service learning experience up to that point in her life. “Sure, I had done other service in high school but the mix of service, education, and reflection on JusticeworX was unlike anything else I had done before.” Maggie was also involved with her High School Youth Ministry at Christ Our Light parish in Cherry Hill, NJ. “Only upon reflection did I see the seeds that were planted from youth group and JusticeworX.” Maggie went on to join LeaderworX 2014 only to return in 2015 as our WorX Administrator.

“It seems really right to be here now in this position. As I approached my graduation from Villanova and was searching for jobs CFJ was on my mind, but there were no open positions at the time. And yet, the Holy Spirit works in ways we don’t even know and here we are. God has led me here to this place and these people, and I’m excited for all that is to come at CFJ.”

Some of Maggie’s projects include managing our ongoing consultative partnership with Georgian Court University, other university outreach, working with the LeaderworX program, and more. “Starting in July, in the middle of the busiest season here, you have to jump right in. But there’s nothing I love more than this kind of work. And honestly, it really did feel like coming home.”



WorX Alumni Connect

In August, LeaderworX alumni held their first annual reunion down at Two Hawks Farm, in the “beautiful, green, and quiet” Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey. Alumnus, Jeff Wallace, had a wonderful



experience reconnecting with old faces and meeting new ones. "I found myself connecting with all the alumni, both those who shared in my LeaderworX experience and those who participated in LeaderworX long after I had moved on. Laughter and deep discussions about our values and how we continue to live the spirit of LeaderworX in our lives made the weekend worthwhile, and demonstrated the power of the bond that those who do LeaderworX for a summer share." Reflecting on his experience with LeaderworX, Jeff noted how much it influenced his development as a person of faith. "The 100-hour work weeks, friendships cultivated with those who participated in ServiceworX and

JusticeworX, and communities I formed with like-minded young adults were firm foundations for the life I am trying to build now."

We love to hear from our WorX alumni, like Jeff, about the many ways WorX programs have and continue to impact their lives. This fall we are conducting a survey to collect insights from our alumni and parents about the transformative role of WorX programs in their lives.

Keep an eye out for the survey - we want to hear from you!

Looking ahead to 2018!

MLK Day of Youth Service 2018: Look for more information to come this fall about how you can participate in MLK Day with the Center for FaithJustice.

[Read about MLK Day 2017 on our website!](#)



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