1. What drew you to the St. Joseph Worker Program?

I was drawn to the mission of service in under-represented areas. When I discovered the program has a campus focused on behavioral health – something I am very passionate about – this sealed my decision.

2. Is there anything you were worried about coming into the program?

I was very comfortable with the decision I made to partake in this program. My friends and family supported me through the entire application and decision-making process and so after I got accepted, the only thing that worried me was moving 3,000 miles away to a state where I did not know anyone and starting a life here.

   a. How did you overcome that concern?

   I have met four lovely women who have allowed me to adopt them as my sisters and as my friends so I know I'll be just fine.

3. Describe a little of what you do at your placement site.

I plan, conduct, and evaluate education and formation experiences for employees, physicians and volunteers at both Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach campuses. I also work with the Interpreter Services and Community Benefit team to improve patient satisfaction and increase cultural intelligence within the hospital community.

   a. Why did you choose that site?

   I chose Mission Hospital because I wanted to work in a hospital setting and in a position where I get to interact directly with the patients and physicians. Also, as I previously mentioned, I wanted to be able to get some experience in mental and behavioral healthcare.

4. If you were encouraging someone else to consider the SJWP, what is one thing you would tell them?

Small changes make a huge impact and being adaptable makes the experience more enriching. No matter where you are placed, you are making a difference and being open-minded will certainly make for a fulfilling experience.

5. What has been the best moment so far?

In all honesty it is very difficult to pick a best moment because everything has been so wonderful. From the orientation week (which was one of the most elevating periods) to the days when I get to go into the hospital to interact with patients at work, I am extremely satisfied with my decision to become a St. Joseph worker.

6. How would your fellow SJWs describe you?

They have said that I am smart, strong, kind, compassionate, and funny.
1. What drew you to the St. Joseph Worker Program?

I knew that it gave me an opportunity to serve, to grow and develop and improve on my spiritual relationship with God.

2. Is there anything you were worried about coming into the program?

In the beginning I was worried leaving family and friends behind. Not only was I worried about how they would be health-wise throughout the year, I also could not stop thinking about the fact that I would be missing the growth process of my little nieces and nephews. Eventually, my worries shifted to whether or not I had the qualifications required to serve; I did not think I had what it takes to be of service to an underserved community.

a. How did you overcome that concern?

I try to overcome those concerns through constantly reminding myself of the endless blessings God has bestowed on my life. I remember to have faith and trust in God who is the ever-loving creator.

3. How do you feel the “living as a community” aspect of the program impacts your experience?

Living as a community is challenging but at the same time it adds color and flavor to life. The SJW community this year is very diverse in age, background, culture, and experience so every opportunity is one to experience, learn and grow.

4. Describe a little of what you do at your placement site.

I’m serving in the Community Benefit Department at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, CA. As I’m fairly new to the environment, I am currently at the stage of getting to know, meet and learn about different programs that Community Benefit and their outreach partners are offering. This also includes working with the nurse navigator during her community visits, learning about spiritual care within the hospital, and sharing my time with the vulnerable brothers and sisters.

5. If you were encouraging someone else to consider the SJWP, what is one thing you would tell them?

SJWP provides an awesome opportunity and you need to come with an open mind and an open heart to be able experience it for yourself!

6. What has been the best moment so far?

The commissioning ceremony after mass when the Sisters of St. Joseph, Partners in Mission, and friends and family all accepted the responsibility of accompanying and journeying with me as I strive to live the values of leadership, spirituality community, simplicity and justice.

7. How would your fellow SJWs describe you?

My fellow SJWs describe me as exemplary, wise, and with so much to share.
1. What drew you to the St. Joseph Worker Program?

I graduated from college in May. I had plans to go to medical school, but this year I realized it was simply not the path for me. I realized I had a huge passion for social justice and was looking to do a year of service. When I heard about the SJWP, I immediately applied because it seemed to feed my spiritual and vocational needs. It felt so right to say yes, and I just knew in my heart that this was the right path for me.

2. How do you feel the “living as a community” aspect of the program impacts your experience?

At the end of the day, I am so excited to come home and see the other marvelous young women who live with me. I love coming home and hearing about their day and I love telling them about mine. Because we all are going through similar experiences, it’s really nice to come home to somebody you can talk to and relate to you.

3. Describe a little of what you do at your placement site.

I work on pursuing grants, preparing grant reports, engaging in patient outreach/enrollment and assisting patients via case management services. I have also been trained in helping patients qualify for emergency Medi-Cal and am also trying to help patients when they need services outside of the clinic i.e. housing, domestic violence shelters, food pantries, etc. Recently, I wrote a grant to help the clinic better serve women and their children who are in abusive households.

4. If you were encouraging someone else to consider the SJWP, what is one thing you would tell them?

If there is any ounce of you that says the SJWP is right for you, say yes. All else will fall into place.

5. What has been the best moment so far?

The little moments of clarity that God grants me. And the deep peace that I feel when I think about where I am today.

6. How would your fellow SJWs describe you?

After some serious prompting, the girls all said I am thoughtful, jolly, and compassionate.
1. What drew you to the St. Joseph Worker Program?

After being nudged by my best friend to look into the program, my heart was drawn to apply as it fulfilled my desire to serve God by serving others.

2. Is there anything you were worried about coming into the program?

My largest worry in attending the program was how I would logistically sell my belongings, transition my lease, and move across the country in a two week period. I should have known that nothing is impossible for the Lord as all the logistics were set in one and a half weeks.

3. How do you feel the “living as a community” aspect of the program impacts your experience?

Living as a community forms strong bonds and great support through this journey. You never feel alone. Jesus always sent the disciples in twos and I am blessed to have three wonderful women sharing this experience with me.

4. Describe a little of what you do at your placement site.

I am given the opportunity to be a “jack of all trades” where I support various areas including admissions, employment readiness, development, and tutoring trainees. Although my job may vary day to day there is not one day that goes by unfulfilled.

5. If you were encouraging someone else to consider the SJWP, what is one thing you would tell them?

I was so caught up with the day to day tasks and what the future held that I had difficulty listening to where God was guiding me. There were very few moments in my life that I was able to take a year to serve and listen to God’s call. If you have the opportunity, there is a sense of great gratification to serve and live in such a supportive community. Only growth and development can come from SJWP. It is the best decision I could have made.

6. How would your fellow SJWs describe you?

After asking the ladies, they described me as a listener, courageous, and wise.