

# Northern Ireland

## **Program or Partner**

Community/Youth Ministry Volunteers

## **Program Description**

The emphasis in this program site is on learning through service. Northern Ireland is primarily known for its tragic history of violence and inter-community conflict. These “Troubles,” as they are commonly known, have left behind serious economic, emotional and spiritual needs, particularly in urban/working-class districts. Volunteers will bring an “outside” perspective to the communities in which they serve, and will have the opportunity to see various responses from the churches and other organizations to community development, peace-building and reconciliation. Each volunteer is placed both with a congregation and a community-based ministry, often, though not always, in the same district.

## **Placement Opportunities**

Volunteers are needed to serve in the following types of ministries:

Within congregations:

1. Leaders for youth fellowships and open youth clubs
2. Sunday morning youth program leaders, and in some instances, assisting in worship leadership, visitation and other pastoral duties.

In community ministries:

1. Assisting with after-school tutoring and activities for children and youth
2. Organizing/supervising social, recreational and discussion activities for youth

3. Working with senior citizens, parent-toddler groups, women’s groups, literacy, computer training, and groups for children and adults with disabilities.
4. Occasionally volunteers spend a few hours a week working in local schools, teaching religious education or tutoring.

## **Housing**

Volunteers share apartment-style housing with one to three other PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers in districts where they are working. All of the volunteers in the Northern Ireland program live and work within a fifteen mile radius of one another.

## **Intentional Community Aspects**

There are three two-to-four-day group retreats in different parts of Northern Ireland in the course of the year. Volunteers join together for half a day every other week for reflection, study, prayer and community building led by the program site coordinator.

## **Requirements**

*Age:* 21 to 30

*Education:* College degree, or equivalent age

*Other:* After selection, volunteers are asked to provide evidence of police screening in relation to child-protection issues.

## **Contact Information**

Site Coordinator  
Rev. Doug Baker

Website  
[www.pcusa.org/msr/ya/belfast.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/msr/ya/belfast.htm)