



# Amate House Newsletter

FALL  
2015

PUTTING LOVE INTO ACTION IN CHICAGO SINCE 1984

## Our Mission

Amate House, the Young Adult Volunteer Program of the Archdiocese of Chicago, fosters the transformation of its Volunteers by providing experiences of full time service to people in need, community living, and faith formation. Amate House develops future leaders for the church and world who are committed to building a more just and loving society.

For 32 years, we have been dedicated to supporting and forming leaders for the Church and world, as well as responding to the needs of the poor and marginalized. Today, Amate House Volunteers serve more than 21,000 people across the city of Chicago every year and are transformed by feeding those who are hungry, sheltering those who are homeless, and comforting those who have been tortured.

## 32 Years of Love in Action!

*Welcoming our new 27 Volunteers to Chicago*



2015-2016 Amate House Volunteers

**A**nother August, another new group of Amate House Volunteers! We welcomed our 27 new Volunteers into our 32nd year of service to the City and Archdiocese of Chicago. This year's group, including one second-year Volunteer and two siblings of recent Amate House Alumni, moved into their communities in Chicago during the first weekend of August.

That Sunday, they were joined by family, friends, Staff, Board Members, and a few rainclouds on August 3rd at the Amate's Annual Commissioning Mass and BBQ. After two full weeks of orientation, the Volunteers made their commitment to Amate House during a Covenant Signing ceremony on the evening of August 12th in the Prayer Garden at South House.

The evening of the Covenant Signing, Volunteers and Staff welcomed back Founders Ken Brucks and John Haggerty to share the story of Amate House's creation and early years. Their telling of the experience was humbling and encouraging

to the Volunteers who are excited to begin their work as being the hands and feet of Christ throughout the city of Chicago.

This year's Volunteers are serving at 24 different sites throughout the city, including two new partnerships - New Moms, Inc. and Heartland Human Care Services.

Please keep this year's Volunteers, Staff, and Board Members in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support of Amate House!



Volunteers Leslie Carranza and Allison Guntz sign the Amate House Covenant.

## Amate House Board of Directors

Daniel Brunnert  
*President*

Sarah Baum

Kristin Heath

Mary Hutchinson

Patrick Kinsella

Raymond Loman

T.R. Maloney

Rev. Donald Nevins

Katherine O'Halloran

James Philbin

Susan Pittner

Raymond Zanger

Philip Zepeda

## Amate House Staff

John Lucas  
*Executive Director*

Alison Archer  
*Program and Recruitment  
Coordinator*

Ryan Lents  
*Program Director*

Rebecca Muder  
*Program and Recruitment  
Coordinator*

Livia Spilotro  
*Development Coordinator*

Christine Wagar  
*Administrative Director*

# A Letter from the Executive Director

September 2015



Greetings!

First, let me express my gratitude to each of you for your continued support and prayers. We could not continue the mission and work of Amate House without you! Truly, because of you, we are able to continue to send out our Volunteers into Chicago's most underprivileged communities – communities where the face of Jesus is present in the homeless, the hungry, the naked, and the lonely.

It was a very busy summer here at Amate House. We have been making renovations to our three properties. The South House kitchen has been completely remodeled, and the renovation is 95% complete! We still need to install a ceiling exhaust fan and some heating vents. Many thanks to Jean Addante and Pat Kinsella for their hard work on this project! At the Little Village House, we added a new sewer to lessen the occurrence of standing water and moderate flooding in the basement. We also put heat in the basement, which will keep the Volunteers warm in the winter months and safe from the hazard of overusing personal space heaters. Construction at the Loman House, which was donated to us last year, continues. We hope to be finished by the end of this month, and when all is said and done, this property will be able to house six Volunteers starting in Fall of 2016.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to lead this great organization as we begin our 32nd year of putting "Love in Action" all across Chicago. On August 12th our new group of 27 Volunteers gathered for the signing of the Amate House Covenant. Prior to the signing, John Haggerty and Ken Brucks, two of the Amate House Founders, joined for dinner and conversation with the Volunteers. Their enthusiasm, humor and dedication are dynamic and inspirational. Later, in the presence of the Amate House Staff, each Volunteer was called forward to sign the Amate House Covenant. They pledged to uphold the five tenets of Amate House - Service, Community, Faith, Social Justice and Stewardship - throughout their year of service. These Covenants will be displayed at each house to remind the Volunteers of their commitment to each other and the tenets of Amate House.

As we move forward into our 32nd year, Amate House would like to thank Sr. Kathy Brazda, Fr. Tom Dore, Tom Judge, and Shanna Palmersheim for their wisdom and support over the years as Board Members. They will be missed but not forgotten for all of their hours of service to Amate House. Sarah Baum (Amate Alum 2003-2005), Raymond Loman, and Katherine O'Halloran will be joining our Board of Directors this fall, and we are excited and grateful they answered the call to join our Board of Directors! Due to the growth of our organization, we are still looking for more Board Members, and hope that you, our supporters, can help to spread the word about this opportunity. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of our Board of Directors, please let me know! It is a wonderful way to give back to this organization that gives so much to its Volunteers.

The needs of Amate House are pressing and urgent, and are as constant as the change that takes place in each Volunteer's heart during their year of living in community and loving in service. Once again, we ask for your help, prayers, and continued financial support. Amate House truly does transform young adults to understand God's call to live out the Gospel, in both word and deed. Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

God bless you!

  
John Lucas  
Executive Director

## Living the Gospel By the Numbers

*A numerical perspective of how Amate House Volunteers are answering Pope Francis's call to Service*

**C**hicago is a BIG city. With over 75 neighborhoods and the third largest population in the country, it can be overwhelming to undertake the task of forming community, creating growth and sustainability in neighborhoods, and, most importantly, meeting and walking with those on the margins of society.

In his recent Encyclical titled "Evangelii Gaudium," Pope Francis says,

*"An evangelizing community gets involved in word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering of Christ in others."*

So how do the Amate House Volunteers bridge the distance? How do they embrace the human lives of over 20,000 people every year? All across the city, our Volunteers serve in full-time positions at various partnering organizations called Service Sites. They feed the hungry, give hope to those who feel all hope is lost, educate future community leaders, and walk with those who have lost their way. With the support of our Volunteers, these Service Sites are able to continue to provide quality services for those in need.

The relationship between Amate House and our partnering Service Sites are an integral part to the experience of each of our Volunteers. For example, many of our Volunteers go on to continue working for the Service Sites after their year of service.

Throughout the year, each Volunteer will face some of the most fulfilling and frustrating experiences at their sites. As our new Volunteers prepare to embark on their journey, let us take a minute to tell the tale of partnerships with our sites by taking a look at the numbers, and hearing some of our Volunteers' first impression of their Service Sites!

The number of Sites where Amate House

# 11

Volunteers have been serving for over 10 years!



*2015-2016 Volunteers enjoying the view from Lawndale Christian Health Center's rooftop after a long day of Training and Orientation.*

# 12

The number of Sites where Amate House Alumni have continued on as employees after their year of service.

# 2007

The number of Sites where Amate House Volunteers have served over the past 31 years!

## AMATE HOUSE & LATE NITE CATECHISM PRESENT:

Join us for our 4th Annual Fall Fundraiser!

### Date

Friday, October 2, 2015 - 7:30pm

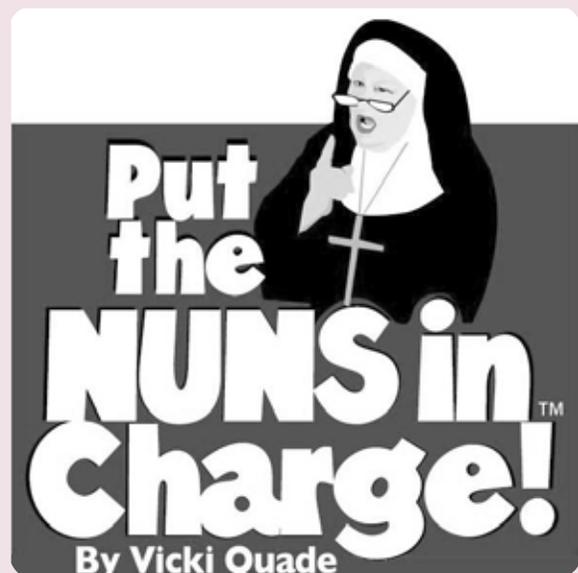
### Location

19th Century Club  
178 Forest Ave., Oak Park, IL 60301

Please visit our website to learn more and to purchase tickets:

[www.amatehouse.org/SupportUs/LateNiteCatechismFallFundraiser](http://www.amatehouse.org/SupportUs/LateNiteCatechismFallFundraiser)

Or call our office at 773.376.2445



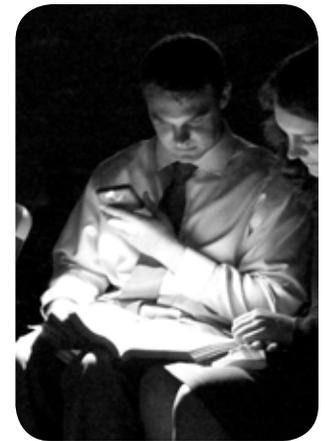
## “Living the Gospel By the Numbers” continued...

“I am one of only a few full-time 9 to 5 employees working at Sarah’s Circle, so the current staff welcomed me with open arms and is more than thrilled to have me there. My supervisor has been compiling a list of things for “the Amate volunteer when she comes in August.” Well, August has arrived and they certainly intend to keep me busy! I am extremely excited to forge relationships with the clientele of Sarah’s Circle, and to be a sound resource for a population that has endured more adversity than I may ever imagine.”

-Liza Duchesneau, North House

# 2

The number of new sites where our Volunteers are serving this year.



Volunteers Grace Holland and Zach Hamilton-Cotter sharing some light at the Covenant Signing.

# 31

The number of Sites where Amate House Volunteers have been serving for over 5 years!

“Excited. Overwhelmed. Joyful. These three words definitely encapsulate my feelings about the first couple of days at Perspectives Middle Academy. I am excited to meet my students and to learn and grow with them this coming year. I am overwhelmed by all of the new routines, people, and information that’s being thrown my way. But most of all I am joyful to finally be beginning the year and to be serving in a place and in a position that I truly feel is a great fit.”

-Jacob Storck, South House

“Work so far has been both overwhelming and exciting. I’m constantly feeling unprepared or inadequate, but at the same time, my excitement grows as I learn more and more about my site and the elders I will be working with throughout the year. Coming home to community has been something to look forward to throughout the day, and I know they’ll have me laughing as soon as I walk in the door.”

-Lauren Barr, South House

“This year I’m working as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Lawndale Christian Legal Center. I’m excited to continue getting to know the youth and mentors that I will be working with this year! Other things I love about the job... My commute! Two miles round-trip!”

-Margaret Waickman, Little Village

### Please Pray for These Special Intentions

#### In Memory Of:

Jenny Anderson  
Rev. Michael Bohem  
Baby Bohdi Diggins  
JoAnn Kelly  
Enrique Kilayko  
Kelly Marie Lillwitz  
John Philbin  
Virginia Piornack  
Dr. & Mrs. RC Schuler  
John Shaughnessy  
Jerry Snow

#### In Honor Of:

2006-2007 North House Volunteers  
Jean Addante  
Meredith Carrel  
Jessica Conlin  
Bill & Kathleen Lynch  
Michael McGovern  
Matthew Whelton

#### Special Intentions

Sr. Kathy Brazda - 25th Jubilee  
Rev. Don Nevins - 40th Ordination Anniversary  
Ellen Romer - Wedding  
Rev. Bill Stenzel - 40th Ordination Anniversary  
Crysta Sulaiman & Jared Weidner - Wedding  
Dorothy Wehmer - Birthday

### Amate House Wish List

- Bicycles and helmets
- Bicycle locks
- Box fans
- Brooms
- Can openers
- Cars and vans
- Colanders and strainers
- Computers (less than 2 years old)
- Cutting boards
- DVD Players
- Extension cords
- Food processors
- Griddles
- Grills
- Large casserole dishes
- Large mixing bowls
- Large pots and pans with lids
- Lawn mowers
- Mops
- Organizational items (dish racks, storage containers, etc.)
- Outdoor wrought-iron furniture
- Snowblowers
- Towels - kitchen and hand
- Vacuum cleaners (less than 3 years old)
- Washers and dryers

Please call 773.376.2445 to arrange pick-up of your items.  
We are so grateful for your donation!