



Amate House Newsletter

FALL
2016

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. 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.

New Amate House Volunteers Arrive in Chicago

Volunteers prepare for an exciting year ahead

It's that time of year again when children head back to school, summer vacations are over and a new group of Amate House Volunteers descend onto Chicago! This year we have 20 excited young adults who will follow in the footsteps of their Amate House Alumni predecessors. The Volunteers, with the support of some friends, family and Amate House Staff moved into their new homes in McKinley Park and Little Village the last weekend in July. We celebrated their arrival with a Commissioning Mass and BBQ at the McKinley Park House on Sunday, July 31st.

Volunteers then dove head-first into their Orientation with a non-stop schedule of events lasting about two weeks. They met with local Alumni, Staff and speakers from several Chicago area organizations to discuss the Amate House tenets of Faith, Service, Community, Stewardship and Social Justice. On Wednesday evening, August 10th, they joined two of Amate House's Founders, Ken Brucks and John Haggerty for the Covenant Signing Ceremony, where they signed their names to Amate House's Covenant.

August 15th marked the first day of their service at sites across the Chicago area. We have many returning sites, as well as two new sites: Top Box Foods, an organization that creates access to healthy and affordable foods by working with communities throughout the Chicago area, and Catholic Charities Southwest Regional Office, providing community outreach and hospitality to Chicago's neighborhoods on the South and West side.

Over the summer, Amate House also welcomed two new Staff Members. Alumna, Deirdre Kleist, returns to Amate House as the Program & Recruitment Coordinator. Lisa Wittig, former Volunteer and Staff Member, returns as the Development Coordinator. They are both very excited to be back at Amate House and working with the Volunteers!

As you get back into the swing of things this fall, please keep our Volunteers, Staff and Board Members in your prayers. Thank you for your continued support of Amate House!



Amate House Board of Directors

Sarah Baum
Daniel Brunnert
Kristin Heath
Mary Hutchinson
Patrick Kinsella
Raymond Loman
Thomas Maloney
Rev. Donald Nevins
Katherine O'Halloran
James Philbin
Susan Pittner
Raymond Zanger
Catherine Zdziarski
Philip Zepeda

Amate House Staff

Alison Archer
Program Director

Deirdre Kleist
Program and Recruitment Coordinator

Christine Wagar
Administrative Director

Lisa Wittig
Development Coordinator

A Letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Amate House Friends and Family,

This is an exciting time at Amate House! As we begin another amazing year with 20 enthusiastic, faithful and selfless Volunteers, we want to thank you for your love, support and prayers. Your support is needed now, more than ever, as our world faces incredible adversity and we seek to build a more just and loving society.

On July 31st, we welcomed the new "class" of Volunteers during a liturgy at St. Maurice Church, adjacent to the McKinley Park Volunteer House. During the Mass, each Volunteer pledged to uphold the five tenets of Amate House - Service, Community, Faith, Social Justice and Stewardship - throughout their year. Each house will have a copy of the Amate House Covenant, which lists these tenets, to remind the Volunteers of their commitment to each other, this program and their Service Sites.

We continue to be inspired by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he calls us to walk with those who are most affected by addiction, poverty, abuse and social injustice. It is a call that inspired current Volunteer, Chris Huben, to join Pope Francis in Krakow, Poland this summer for World Youth Day. We are excited for Chris to share his experience with his fellow Volunteers, and also to spread the joy and empathy he gained from the youth of the world to those he will be serving at Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

In our Spring Newsletter, Executive Director John Lucas said good-bye to Amate House after eleven incredible years with us. We truly are grateful to John for his leadership, dedication and friendship. Over the years John worked tirelessly to ensure that Amate House owned its community houses, resulting in a healthier operating budget to support the hundreds of Volunteers during his tenure as Executive Director. *John, you will be missed!* The Amate House Board of Directors is currently wrapping up the search for a new Executive Director and we cannot wait to make the introduction in our next newsletter.

Also, due to the growth of our organization, we are looking for more Board Members and hope that through your support you'd be able 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 us know at info@amatehouse.org. Being on the board is a wonderful way to give back to this organization that gives so much to its Volunteers and the city of Chicago.

We'd like to thank each of you for your support of Amate House and this year's group of Volunteers. Because of your generosity, Amate House truly does transform young adults to understand God's call to live out the Gospel, in both word and deed. We cannot be the organization we are, serving the community during these precarious times, without your continued financial support.

Thank you and God bless,
Amate House Board of Directors

Prayers and Intentions of the Amate House Family

In Memory Of...

Jenny Anderson
John Brunter
Bill Dolan
Collen Evans
Chester Hale
Michael Holland, Sr.
John & Angela Jepsen
Don Lents
Kelly Marie Lillwitz
Robert & Barbara McCutcheon

Arthur & Joan Mika
David Otto
Anna Pasin
Robert Pasquesi
Jean Prendergast Rooney
John Rooney
Stanley Rzasa
Mary Therese Solkowski
Leroy Zaker

In Honor Of...

John Lucas

Special Intentions...

Sr. Cindy Drozd
Birthday
Patricia & Patrick Gill
50th Wedding Anniversary
Nanci Thayer
Improved Health
Fr. Don Tomich
40th Anniversary of Ordination
Chris Wagar
Improved Health

Committing to a Second Year of Service

Two Volunteers return to Amate House

Amate House Volunteers give a lot of themselves over the course of their year of service. They face many challenges both at home and at their service site, and they grow a lot in their understanding of self and world. Their year of service can be very formative and greatly influence the path they venture out on when June rolls around. Sometimes, however, that one year just doesn't feel complete and the path they choose to take keeps them at Amate House for a second year. Stephen Umhoefer and Leslie Carranza were Volunteers last year living at our Uptown and McKinley Park houses, and they have both committed to staying at Amate House for a second year.

When thinking about the greater Amate House community, Leslie shares that "the people I continue to meet as part of Amate House are all astounding in some way: Alumni, Staff, Board Members, and current Volunteers have all reminded me of this great link we share. Before coming to Amate House I was looking forward to living in community, but largely underestimated how interesting these people would be and how attached I would grow to them. Part of why I decided to do a second year was because I wanted to have another go at being present within my community because they were such amazing people that I had hoped that maybe I could be a bit better at being part of another community using what I learned from my previous experience."



Leslie and Stephen work together with their Little Village community on a team-building exercise at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center during Orientation.

As Stephen reflected on his reasons for committing to a second year of service he shared "I am mostly looking forward to continue learning. From everyday experiences, community nights, conversations with housemates, retreats, spiritual companionship, and everything else in between. I've come to see Amate House as a continuous lesson of learning how to live with intentionality and honesty with yourself and others. Living in a different house with a new community and working at a new site makes me look forward to seeing what a second year has for me to learn."

Both Stephen and Leslie will be living in our Little Village community this year and serving at Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and Catholic Charities West Regional Office, respectively. When asked about the change in scenery, Leslie shared "I'm mostly looking forward to living in Little Village

and working at Catholic Charities West Regional! Little Village is a much different part of Chicago than McKinley Park. Comparing my two homes is like comparing really spicy paella to Moose Tracks ice cream; the latter is one of my favorite foods because it's sweet, soothing, and has chocolate peanut butter cups, but the former is an experience I'd gladly pay more for even if it does make me sweat and maybe cry a bit. As for the site options, I feel up to the challenge of working in what may very well be the culture opposite of my previous site at Heartland Youth and Residential Services. The space itself won't be an office; the work is literally hands on service to the people of Cicero; and Catholic Charities has had a significant, long-lasting relationship with Amate House."



Stephen and Leslie read the prayers of intention at the Covenant Signing Ceremony during Orientation.

Prior to this year's Orientation, Stephen shared that he was "preparing by reminding myself that my second year shouldn't be compared to my first year. I've heard this is hard to avoid and I'm sure that I will compare from time to time. Most everything about my second year is different from my first though, so I'm hoping that will make things easier."

As a program we are always so grateful for the gift of second year Volunteers and the opportunity to continue accompanying them on their journey; and our new Volunteers undoubtedly will be looking to Stephen and Leslie for direction on what is to come as the year unfolds. Stephen and Leslie, we thank you for what you have already given to Chicago and Amate House, and can't wait to see what this next year will bring for you!

Amate House Wish List

- Grills
 - Large Stock Pots with Lids
 - Cars & Minivans
 - Bicycle Helmets
 - Snow Blowers
 - Wireless Network Extenders
 - Vacuum Cleaners
- (less than 3 years old/preferably new)

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

Introducing the 2016-2017 Amate House Volunteers!

This year's group represents 12 states, 16 colleges & universities, and will be serving at 19 sites.



Jackie Ascenzi (Little Village) is from Burbank, CA. She is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and serves at Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly.



Hanna Bansley (McKinley Park) is from Chicago, IL. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and serves at Erie Family Health Center.



Gina Bartindale (McKinley Park) is from St. Charles, IL. She is a graduate of Marquette University and serves at Erie Family Health Center.



Leslie Carandang (McKinley Park) is from Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Boston College and serves at Catholic Charities City Southwest Regional Offices.



Leslie Carranza (Little Village) is a second year Volunteer from Zion, IL. She is a graduate of Augustana College and serves at Catholic Charities West Regional Office.



Alan Guillen (Little Village) is from Indianapolis, IN. He is a graduate of Marian University and serves at Chicago Legal Clinic.



Jimmy Haubert (Little Village) is from Farmington Hills, MI. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and serves at Erie Family Health Center.



Chris Huben (McKinley Park) is from Stratford, CT. He is a graduate of the Catholic University of America and serves at Cabrini Green Legal Aid.



Maggie Lamb (Little Village) is from Chatham, NJ. She is a graduate of Villanova University and serves at Lawndale Christian Legal Center.



Laura LeBrun (McKinley Park) is from Bayside, WI. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and serves at Perspectives High School of Technology.



Caroline Musslewhite (Little Village) is from Potomac, MD. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and serves at Our Lady of Tepeyac Elementary School.



Shay O'Toole (McKinley Park) is from Orland Park, IL. She is a graduate of St. Xavier University and serves at Erie Family Health Center.



Clare Potyrala (McKinley Park) is from Kettering, OH. She is a graduate of the University of Dayton and serves at St. James Catholic Church Food Pantry.



Dulce Reyes (McKinley Park) is from Chicago, IL. She is a graduate of Hope College and serves at Catholic Charities St. Sabina.



Theresa Schafer (Little Village) is from Fort Scott, KS. She is a graduate of St. Louis University and serves at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School.



Emma Stiver (Little Village) is from Loveland, OH. She is a graduate of the University of Dayton and serves at Top Box Foods.



Melissa Tsuleff (McKinley Park) is from West Harrison, IN. She is a graduate of Lindenwood University and serves at the Marjorie Kovler Center.



Stephen Umhoefer (Little Village) is a second year Volunteer from Green Bay, WI. He is a graduate of Ripon College and serves at Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly.



Patrick Wieland (McKinley Park) is from Bloomington, IL. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and serves at Heartland Human Care Services.



Chris Yates (McKinley Park) is from Highlands Ranch, CO. He is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and serves at the St. John Paul II Newman Center at UIC.