



Amate House Newsletter

PUTTING LOVE INTO ACTION IN CHICAGO SINCE 1984

FALL
2014

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 31 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.

Amate House Enters its 31st Year *28 Young Adults Begin Their Journey of Service*



Amate House proudly welcomes 28 new young adult Volunteers into our 31st year of service to the City and Archdiocese of Chicago. This year's group, including five second-year Volunteers, moved into their communities in Chicago during the weekend of August 1st. They were joined by family, friends, Staff, and Board Members on August 3rd at a Commissioning Mass and BBQ. After a two-week orientation, the Volunteers made their commitment to Amate House during a Covenant Signing ceremony on August 14th at the South House.

This year's Volunteers are serving at 24 different sites throughout the city, including schools, legal clinics, food pantries, and social service agencies. We have numerous sites that have been with us for many years, some brand new sites, and some that are returning to partner with us after years away.

Amate House is excited to welcome Kody Williams onto the staff. Kody was a Volunteer last year, and will be serving as the Recruitment & Development Associate. He will be traveling throughout the country this fall to colleges and universities, recruiting applicants for next year.

We also welcome Susan Pittner and Phil Zepeda onto our Board of Directors, who have both joined in the last year. We are grateful for the skills and talents that Susan and Phil bring to our organization. We thank Chris Wilmes and Francine Soliunas as they leave the Board for their service and dedication to Amate House.

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

Amate House Board of Directors

Daniel Brunnert
President

Sr. Kathleen Brazda

Rev. Thomas Dore

Kristin Heath

Mary Hutchinson

Thomas Judge

Patrick Kinsella

T.R. Maloney

Rev. Donald Nevins

Shanna Palmersheim

James Philbin

Susan Pittner

Raymond Zanger

Philip Zepeda

Amate House Staff

John Lucas
Executive Director

Meghan Doetschman
Development Coordinator

Brian Gill
Maintenance Engineer

Ryan Lents
Program Director

Rebecca Muder
*Program and Recruitment
Coordinator*

Catherine Scallen
*Program and Recruitment
Coordinator*

Christine Wagar
Administrative Director

Kody Williams
*Recruitment and
Development Associate*

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Amate House Friends and Family,

This is the start of our 31st year at Amate House. We have had 728 enthusiastic and faith-filled young people come through the program. At the end of this year's group, I will have had the privilege and honor to walk with 350 of these terrific young people over the last ten years. In a world filled with all kinds of materialism, individualism, secularism, and entitlement, Amate House stands as a very bright beacon for "living the Gospel" - we even have the statistics to prove it.

We completed a survey last year for our 30th Anniversary and here is what we found out:

- 90% of Alums enter social services, religion or faith based work, medicine or legal work
- 75% of Alums have earned or are pursuing a graduate degree
- 94% of respondents agree that Amate House helped them become who they are today

Here is a profile of an average Volunteer and why they chose Amate House:

- Strongly feel compassion towards people in need
- Volunteering was important to people they respect
- Most had no prior connection to Amate House
- For most, volunteering allowed them to give back to their community
- For most, volunteering was a reflection of their spiritual beliefs

These are just a few of the highlights from the survey. Every time I read it, I get goose bumps thinking about what Amate House has meant to the Volunteers. When you look at the impact they have had on the population across the country, a whole new set of phenomenal and compelling statistics come flying at you - I will save those for another time.

There are many volunteer programs out there, all doing God's work. Amate House stands out among them for one reason: Amate House works very hard at helping our young adults prepare for life. Our formation and programing has no equal.

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your love, prayers, and support for this great program. Many times I wish I could capture the touching scenes and faith-filled moments that I have the privilege of experiencing and send them to you, so that you too might feel the love in the hearts of our Volunteers.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter answers, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." I can tell you that Jesus lives at Amate House and it is your generosity that makes this possible. Thank you!

God Bless,

John Lucas

*Survey produced by Edward Vogel containing 73 pages. Results collected January through March 2014.

Christ Has No Body Now But Ours

A Reflection by North House Volunteer, Jelena Pjevic



“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” – Teresa of Avila

At our recent Covenant Signing ceremony, I listened to the words of Teresa of Avila as they were read aloud. It was the first time that I had actually heard this prayer. Having struggled with my faith since early high school, I have recently found that I feel the closest to God when I pray, meditate, and reflect in non-traditional ways. When I recite conventional prayers, I feel like I’m taking the easy way out. It’s as if I’m cheating somehow by using someone else’s words to cautiously approach the truth that is lying within me. The problem is that I never actually succeed in communicating what I mean to communicate when I pray that way.

But, I never have trouble communicating with God when I simply speak from my heart, with my own vocabulary and from my own personal experiences. One of the main reasons why I’ve become more dedicated to this kind of prayer is because of the life of Jesus Christ Himself. He was not only fully divine, but also fully human. It is the humanity of Christ that has saved my faith. It is His humanity that has encouraged me to act like Him, to pray as I want to pray, and to serve my brothers

and sisters as He served them: through spiritual, social, and political accompaniment. And even though I’ve had plenty of theology classes during my time at Creighton University, sometimes a simple prayer can be enough of a reminder of what it really means to be a Christian and a Catholic: Christ has no body now but ours, and so we must do whatever we can to bring about the Kingdom of God now.

The creation and furthering of this Kingdom of God is one of my main reasons for deciding to serve with Amate House for a year. For so long, attempting to understand abstract theological concepts consumed my time and dashed my hope in Christianity. It wasn’t until I went to Creighton University that an amazing theology professor explained all those concepts that my other teachers had thrown up in the air, specifically by introducing me to Catholic Social Teaching and Liberation Theology. It was all actually very simple: the only thing that God asks of us is to accept His love and to spread it.

To me, Amate House represents the current culmination of my studies at Creighton University. Believing in Jesus Christ is no longer frustrating or tiring to me, because it all comes down to the fact that He has suffered just as we all do, but that He, instead of cursing the world, forgave and loved it. The mission and message of Jesus Christ inspire me. In order to bring about the Kingdom of God, we must actively work for justice, especially for the marginalized of our world. I hope to grow even further in my faith this year with my fellow community members, but above all, I hope to truly understand what it means to take upon the pain that Christ experienced within my own body and spirit and to transform it into love.

AMATE HOUSE PRESENTS:



Our 3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 7:30 pm
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/SecondCityFallFundraiser

Or call our offices at 773.376.2445

Amate House Owns the South House!

Amate House is excited to announce that we have officially purchased our South House at 3600 South Seeley Avenue in McKinley Park. The South House is home to ten Volunteers this year, and is also where our staff offices are located.

We are proud to put down roots in this neighborhood where we have been for ten years. This purchased home will enable countless Volunteers in future communities to grow and be challenged by their peers, just like all those communities who came before them.

This marks the third home that Amate House now owns, in addition to the Little Village House and a

house on the Northwest side of the city donated by the Loman family, which is currently being renovated for future Volunteers. Purchasing the properties in which our Volunteers live has long been a goal and vision of many within Amate House, especially our Executive Director, John Lucas.



In addition to being an asset for the future of Amate House, the purchase of the South House shows our continued commitment to McKinley Park. Our presence in the neighborhood will allow our Volunteers to truly be integrated into the community in which they serve. Amate House continues to be a leader in faith, service, and community in Chicago, and this home will allow us to continue our mission of being “love in action.” We look forward being here for many years to come.

Please Pray for These Special Intentions

In Memory Of:

Jenny Anderson	Grace Gill	Claire O'Connor
Dorothy Benkovich	Ignacio Guzman	Liz O'Shea
Rosanne Catalano	Mary Jane Herlocker	Connor Roche
Helen Concialdi	Jane Hoffman	Edward Schroeder
Dorothy Doherty	Martin Hoffman	Mitchell Thune
Martin Gebel	Kelly Lillwitz	Jim Trausch

In Honor Of: Bill & Kathleen Lynch



In Loving Memory: Jim Trausch

Jim Trausch, a former Amate House Board Member and parent of Volunteer Mary Kate, passed away on Monday, July 7th. Jim supported Amate House since 1992, and recently helped us in the purchase of our Little Village house in 2011 and the closing of our South House just days before his death. We were blessed to

be touched by Jim's generosity and are so grateful for all that he did for Amate House. We will continue to keep his family - wife, Christine, and daughters, Mary Kate, Colleen, Julia, and Moira - in our prayers!

Amate House Wish List

- Bicycles and helmets
- Bicycle locks
- Box fans
- Brooms
- Can openers
- Cars and vans
- Cereal bowls
- Colanders and strainers
- Computers (less than 2 years old)
- Cups and glasses
- Cutting boards
- Extension cords
- Food processors
- Griddles
- Grills
- Large casserole dishes
- Large mixing bowls
- Large pots and pans with lids
- Lawn mowers, weed-wackers, and hedge trimmers
- Mops
- Outdoor wrought-iron furniture
- Printers
- Snowblowers
- Towels - kitchen and hand
- Vacuum cleaners
- Washers and dryers

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