



# Amate House Newsletter

SPRING  
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. 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.

## Love in Action Casts Out Fear: Founding Board Members Alleviate Student Loan Debt

*Founding Board Members address Volunteers' student loans with new grant fund*

**P**hil and Jean Addante are no strangers to Amate House. The couple from Park Ridge, IL have been involved with the organization since 1984 when they began their service as Founding Board Members. From Jean's involvement as a member of the Amate Magic Committee and assistance with the interior design of the three community houses to Phil's service as the organization's first Volunteer recruiter and his continued assistance as a counselor for the Volunteers, this couple has been a constant and forward driving force for Amate House since the very beginning.

It comes as no surprise that this generous couple has taken the initiative to start the "Founders Grant for Loan Forgiveness" fund. This \$500 grant, established to aid current Amate House Volunteers with their remaining student loans, will be granted to one Volunteer this spring. All Volunteers are given equal opportunity to apply for the grant, and Founding Board Members will determine the grant recipient by reviewing short essays written by the Volunteers.

Phil Addante first got involved when Ken Brucks, a Founder of Amate House, enlisted Phil to assist him with interviewing candidates for the organization's first Executive Director. It was then that Ken asked Phil to be on the Founding Board of Directors. Shortly after, Jean became involved with Amate House when the first community house was established at a former convent at Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago. She shared her gifts and talents in interior design to make the first volunteer house a home.



*Founding Board Members Phil and Jean Addante, benefactors of the "Founders Grant for Loan Forgiveness" for Amate House Volunteers*

When asked about his role at Amate House in the early days, Phil shared "It was a real hand-to-mouth operation. There were only seven Volunteers in that first year, and we cooked and prepared meals for the Volunteers during the organization's infancy stage. I was always very impressed with the Volunteers and moved by their faith, inspiration, and vitality. Their persevering spirit really encouraged the early board and staff to keep moving forward."

The "Founders Grant for Loan Forgiveness" comes at a crucial time for current and prospective Amate House Volunteers. In 2014, CVN, the Catholic Volunteer Network was not awarded federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This federal funding had made the AmeriCorps Segal Education Award possible for all CVN member programs.

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## Amate House Board of Directors

Daniel Brunnert  
*President*

Sarah Baum

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

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

May 2016



Greetings Friends and Supporters,

After eleven wonderful years with this phenomenal organization, it is now my turn to say goodbye to Amate House. The past eleven years have flown by, and I have learned so much from the Staff that I have had the opportunity to lead during this time as well as from the Volunteers that I have had the chance to work with. I value the phenomenal work that this organization does in the city of Chicago, and I believe that now is time for someone with fresh eyes, new ideas, and energized enthusiasm to take my place and lead this great organization. Effective July 1st, I will be working with Monsignor John Canary as the Associate Director of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein.

The saying "parting is such sweet sorrow" is one that I identify with now more than ever. As I look back at the growth and transformation that this organization has experienced over these past eleven years, I am most proud of the 374 Volunteers who have selflessly served individuals and families all across Chicago during my time as Executive Director. Each year I watch as they themselves grow and transform personally, professionally, and spiritually and leave this place with a heart full of experiences of faith in service and eyes full of the love of Christ for others.

Our Volunteers are the engine that keeps this place one of the most unique and successful volunteer programs in the country. Their decision to follow the call to service is the outreach that Pope Francis asks of all of us. Our Volunteers truly rise to the challenge of meeting their fellow brothers and sisters on the battlefields of life by walking with them in solidarity, continuing the tradition of building a more just and loving society day by day.

Amate House now owns the community houses where our Volunteers live throughout their year of service. This is a great blessing to our organization. Starting this fall, rent will no longer be an expense that we have to worry about. Amate House is also building equity each and every year, and we have some money in our reserves. We are economically alive, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, with room for improvement in these coming years. I have been fortunate to have been surrounded by a phenomenal team during my time with Amate House, and their dedication and passion for this organization is the reason why we have been able to grow and transform with the changes and trials that have come about over the years.

I have been especially blessed to have all of you around me to help build a sound financial base for Amate House. I will forever be grateful for your generosity and support. Our partnerships have been essential to keeping Amate House moving in the right financial direction. I am especially grateful to the "Friends of Amate House Society," who have continually given \$1,000 or more annually to our organization, allowing us to make necessary capital improvements to our properties so we can continue to provide a safe and welcoming place for our Volunteers for years to come.

As I move forward to my next opportunity, I ask that you please continue to support Amate House. I will also continue to invest in this program and these amazing Volunteers in the future, as well. Thank you, to all of you, from the bottom of my heart. May God continue to bless you and your families.

John Lucas  
Executive Director

*If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Executive Director position at Amate House, please contact Dan Brunnert at [danbrunnert@me.com](mailto:danbrunnert@me.com) for more information.*

## “Love in Action Casts out Fear” continued...

Amate House, a long-time CVN member program, has benefited greatly from the ability to offer AmeriCorps status to current Volunteers, and the education award allowed individuals to put federal loans in forbearance during their year of service with Amate House. After successful completion of a term of service, the education award also granted Volunteers the ability to utilize a small grant to pay off existing student loans or to put toward future educational endeavors.

Because of the Addante’s close involvement with Amate House, the news of this loss of funding spurred them to action. With the cost of higher education still on the rise, the couple recognized the Volunteers’ need for assistance in paying off their student loans.

“There are lots of other young adults out there in the same state,” says Jean regarding the high amounts of student loan debt that millennials are dealing with. “Creating this grant fund focused on loan forgiveness will help the Amate House Volunteers move forward with their lives, so they can continue helping others.”

When asked about why the couple keep helping at Amate House over the past thirty-two years, Jean shares, “It was a real interest for us watching the program grow and the progress being made. The interest of the Volunteers started to grow and deepen as the years went on, and it was very exciting to see more Volunteers coming on board.”

Phil adds, “For me, personally, it was an opportunity for me to give back to the church community of Chicago. Early on, I was helped by a priest mentor, a dear friend of mine, and I kept that in mind. It’s always been my philosophy to try to promote the best in every individual that I encounter and work with, and helping the Volunteers and Amate House has been a perfect opportunity to do just that.”

Although Amate House is entering a time of transition, both Phil and Jean see a promising future. Phil says, “I think the diversity of the Volunteers is very encouraging. I hope Amate House continues to bring more individuals of different backgrounds into the program. We need to encourage diversity into the church community and Archdiocese as a whole, and Amate House has been a great example of the value of diversity. I also think, professionally speaking, that these young adults show a uniqueness in their desire to reach out and give to others.”

Phil continues, “It’s a countercultural view of what we usually see when we think of millennials, who tend to be labeled as a generation that expects a lot to be given of them. However, these millennial Volunteers are selflessly giving back, and that’s very important.”



*Volunteers Leslie Carranza, Lauren Barr, Tia Clifford, Jacob Storck, and Grace Holland at Irons Oaks Learning Center*

Jean hopes for the organization to remain the same as it was since the day she first heard of Amate House. She says, “I hope the Volunteers will continue on as wonderfully as they have in the past, and as more Volunteers get involved that they can expand to other regions of the city. The presence of Amate House and the love of the Volunteers is needed in the northwest side just as much as it’s needed in the south side or the inner city.”

“It’s been an honor and privilege to be a part of Amate House for all these years. It’s amazing... It’s something we helped start, and it’s still going,” reflects Phil.

The Addantes hope that other supporters will consider giving to the “Founders Grant for Loan Forgiveness” so that the grant can be offered to more than just one Volunteer in the years to come.

*If you are interested in learning more about the “Founders Grant for Loan Forgiveness” and other ways to support our Volunteers, visit the Amate House website at [www.amatehouse.org](http://www.amatehouse.org).*

### Join us at Ales for Amate!

Come on by **Monday, July 18th** from  
6:30 pm-8:30 pm at



for brews, bites, and tons of  
summertime fun!

Tickets & Information at [www.amatehouse.org](http://www.amatehouse.org)

# Prayers and Intentions of the Amate House Family

## In Memory Of...

Barbara Anarle	Victor D'Amato, Jr.	James Heckt	Kelly Marie Lillwitz	Edward Nichols
Jenny Anderson	Michael Donohue	Sophie Hein	Jerry Loman	Anna Ramoglia
Mitchell Bahr	Kevin Dress	Marjorie Hudzik	Margaret Maxwell	Rose Rocklein
Robert Bahr	Debbi Engelbrecht	Louis Keating	Barbara McCutcheon	Sr. Kathleen Scott
Stanley Banas	Colleen Evans	JoAnn Kelly	Robert McCutcheon	Roark Sennott
Bernie Beazley	James Foreman	John Kelly	Nancy McGarvey	Michael Umhoefer
Frank Bonk	Joan Garcia	Mary Rose Kelly	Deacon Robert	Robert Vogel
Peter Burns	Geraldine Grant	Elise Marie Korzenko	Motycka	Peter Zachary
Brian Creevy	Paul Greening	Gene Lamb	Rev. Richard Mueller	

## In Honor Of...

1986-1987 Volunteers	Peter Burns	Elizabeth Jukins Ruiz	Michael McGovern	Savannah, the Amate
2012-2013 Volunteers	Christine Caldera	Kate Kennealy	Joyce Muoio	House Dog
Joe Ahlers	Therese Diola	James Kozy	Robert Muoio	Sean Scanlon
Kelley Ambrose	Adam Dirnberger	Adam Kretz	Vince & Jen Nigito	Meaghan Sykes
Molly Baker	Rev. Thomas Dore	Lillwitz Family	Reedy Family	Greg Umhoefer
Eric Brunter	Theresa Hayes	Bill & Kathleen Lynch	Dorothy Rzasza	Stephen Umhoefer

## Special Intentions...

Jessica Conlin <i>Birthday</i>	Charles Dirnberger <i>Baptism</i>	Rev. Robert Goedert <i>Improved Health</i>	Jack Mraz <i>Improved Health</i>	Debbie Pridemore <i>Improved Health</i>
Lucy Cornwell <i>18th Birthday</i>	Kevin & Erika Franey <i>Wedding</i>	John & Pat Lucas <i>70th Birthdays</i>	Matthew Norris <i>Birthday</i>	Dolores Rogers <i>Improved Health</i>

## Have You Considered Legacy Giving Through Your Will?

Making a provision in your will for Amate House ensures that our Volunteers can continue to put "Love into Action" while building a more just and loving society for generations to come. Ensure the future of Amate House by becoming an inaugural member of our Legacy of Love Society.

For more information, please call Amate House at 773-376-2445 or by email at [info@amatehouse.org](mailto:info@amatehouse.org)

## Amate House Wish List

- Grills
- Large Stock Pots with Lids
- Snow Blowers
- Vacuum cleaners (less than 3 years old)

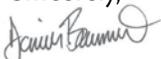
Please call 773.376.2445 to arrange pick-up of your items. We are grateful for your donation!

## A Note from the Board President

After eleven years of service, John Lucas will be transitioning from his role as Executive Director. The Board of Directors is grateful for John's service and all of the contributions he has made. Among many areas of impact, John has worked tirelessly to help advance the mission of Amate House, provide mentorship to hundreds of Volunteers, and provided leadership to help Amate House own the properties where our Volunteers live and our staff works. More information to help celebrate John's legacy at Amate House will be shared in future newsletters and Amate House communication.

With John's departure, the Board of Directors is currently looking for qualified candidates who are interested in serving as the next Amate House Executive Director. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the opportunity to serve Amate House as Executive Director, please send me an e-mail at [dbrunnert@me.com](mailto:dbrunnert@me.com) for a position description. Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter for consideration. More information will also be available on Amate House's website.

Sincerely,



Daniel Brunnert, Board President