



Amate House Newsletter

SPRING
2014

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 30 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.

Leaving Amate House

A Reflection by South House Volunteer Tim Bristol

The following is an excerpt from a Stations of the Cross reflection:

Many of us were driven to do service as an obligation to our community, as an act of God, to gain some professional experience, or a combination of these things. When we all graduated from college, there was a level of uncertainty of what the future held for us, which is what brought most of us here. How will I obtain a job? Is there grad school in my future? Now that our year of service, a.k.a. the year to put our life on hold, is almost complete, the thoughts that are in our heads right now, are these: "What does our future have in store for us? Will there be graduate school? Can I find a job? How does another year of service sound?" I don't know about you, but I have found myself asking these questions to my friends, family, and in prayer to God. After being accepted to the PLACE Corps, those questions have finally been answered for me. But I've personally been asking myself, how will I be able to balance a life of teaching, graduate school, and a brand new lifestyle in a whole new place, and also still be able to maintain relationships with whom I hold very close to my heart?

This year of service in Chicago might as well be the best thing that has happened in my life. Likewise, people who encountered Christ might have said the same kind of thing. But soon enough, we know our journey to Chicago will eventually come to an abrupt halt. It's almost not fair for this to end the way it does. All of a sudden, I will not be a teacher to Perspectives Charter Schools, see the same faces of my students and co-teachers ever again, live in this incredible city, and go from seeing the faces of my community on a daily basis to seeing them every now and again,

on a computer screen, or simply in pictures. I know I can speak for many in saying that I really don't want to leave this place and it almost seems like torture for us in how quickly its going to end. South House is my home where I can be myself, have fun, and be

encompassed by love from my housemates, the staff, and the overall character that our community and house has. It's where our family is, our new home away from home. Basically, this year, at least for me, has been a high point in my life, just how Jesus lifted the spirits of many so high and how he was so high up in the air on the cross. We've embraced the love that we have received from others and have been giving it right back to those who need that love, such as students, housemates, co-workers, clients, or simply random people in the city. By doing this, I've learned to see God this way and slowly restore my faith back to the way it used to be.

The beauty of community in Amate or community in our work sites is that we all recognize our strengths that benefit the community and are aware of each others' weaknesses. We all have the ability to be the Jesus Christ or a disciple through these strengths and weaknesses that we have to give to others. Through the past year, there's been a plethora of emotions, thoughts, and experiences that have continued to develop us into the people God had in mind for us. Even though I said this might be the best year of my young life, there have been so many ups and downs, and I know all of you have had the same kind of experience. ...continued on page 4



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A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Amate House Friends and Family,

Spring is finally here! As I write this, the temperature is almost 75 degrees. The pear trees in our garden are breathtakingly gorgeous, the grass is turning green, the bushes are budding, and the flowers are starting to bloom. The air no longer has a cutting chill to it, but actually feels warm on your skin. People are wearing shorts (albeit too soon) and windows in cars are down to feel the gentle breeze. After almost five months of a long, hard winter, we can begin to see signs of life again.

Brief glimpses of sunshine are lifting the spirit and breaking into smiles on the faces of people throughout the city. Spring is a magical time of year when there is a sense of renewal in everyone you see. The warm spring air gives new life and God's blessings show up in each and every flower, blade of grass, and new leaf.

So too, here at Amate House, spring brings new life in so many ways. Our Volunteers were recently given the StrengthFinders assessment to help them uncover some of those dormant strengths that lie in each and every one of them. They also took the Enneagram assessment, which will help them discover even more about themselves and will bring new life to their existing talents. Many have made their decisions for next year, and so the anticipation of new adventures begins. Each and every day they discover new things about themselves, their community, and their work site.

Sadness becomes a small reality as they realize that the year is coming to an end. Friendships that have been formed will now live on through new experiences. Each Volunteer will have more opportunities for growth as they leave Amate House and go forth spreading the Gospel. The cycle of life at Amate House has just about come full circle for another group of Volunteers. We know that Amate never really ends but rather lives on in all of our Volunteers as they continue to grow in ways we can not totally understand. Our recent alumni survey says 93% of our volunteers remain in social services, medical and legal fields after their year of service, and they attribute Amate House as the number one influence in choosing their career.

The new life that Amate House is able to give only happens because of your generosity. I am in awe of just how generous people really are – I cannot thank you enough! There are no words that can express the gratitude I feel – it is too overwhelming for words. I simply want you to know that you are in my prayers, in the prayers of the Amate Family, and I hope your generosity will be given back to you tenfold. May God continue to bless all of us as we put “Love into Action.”

God Bless,

John Lucas

New Communities

A Reflection by 2011-2012 Amate Alum Gordon Wong

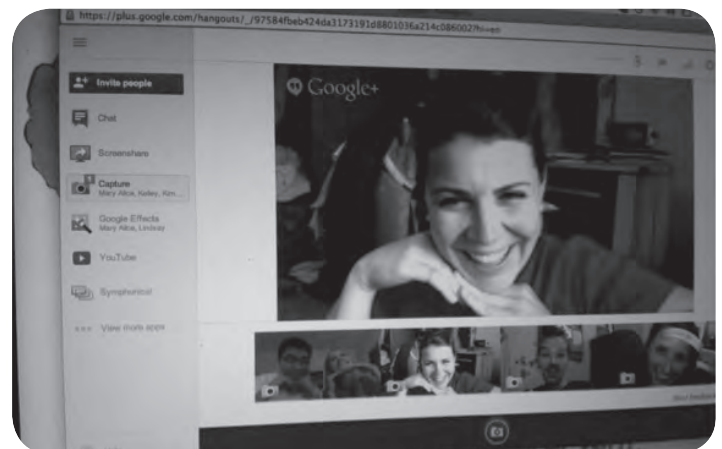
I believe once you've entered into Amate House, you never truly leave. This year we celebrated Amate House's 30th anniversary, and since its inception over 700 volunteers have called Amate House home. Although I don't call North House home anymore, I have carried the tenet of community with me everywhere I have called home. I was able to experience community in a whole new way when I worked at Catholic Volunteer Network (of which Amate House is a member program). At CVN I was one of their Recruitment Associates where I traveled to 20 states and visited over 70 colleges and universities to introduce potential volunteers to our post-graduate programs and share my Amate House experience.

Life as a recruiter is a life of constant movement. As I reflect back on the past eight months, I know that with so much travel it was going to be hard to have a sense of community. To my surprise I found community two ways: my on-the-road community and in my new home of Washington, DC.

While on the road I got to work with Amate House staff, current Volunteers, and Volunteer alumni. It was such a joy to swap Amate stories with members of the family! I especially appreciated the opportunities to see my housemates during my travels. I cherished every moment spent with my housemates along the way. They nourished me with their attentiveness and much needed bonding time. Furthermore, I was allowed to join a unique community of recruiters from CVN member programs as well! Just like the volunteer year, the experience is always better when shared with others. I will be forever grateful to the recruiters who taught me so much and for all that we shared and accomplished together.

Whenever we DC Amate alumni get together, we know that the spirit of Amate community is present. One thing we have been able to do is break bread: Before I left for a life on the road my fellow North House Volunteer Kelley and I would have dinner almost every Thursday. We would each contribute to the meal and once in a while we would recreate some house specialties – stir fry, tacos, and even baked brie (this was a North House treat)! Our dinners then turned into opportunities to “meet” with our housemates. We would Skype in our housemates and have catch up sessions. It was a great way to share this event with them. Check out a photo of us “gathered” together back in the fall.

It is through our new communities that the tenets of Amate House live on – whether we do it by what we do for work or what we do in our homes. Take it from me: You can find community in whatever you do, wherever you live, and whoever you are with.



'Leaving Amate House' *continued...*

continued from page 1... When Jesus was nailed to the cross and taken down, he was surrounded by those who loved him, just like how we are all surrounded by love from each other and from our service sites.

Again, the thought of Jesus leaving the world brought so much anxiety to everyone who he touched, similar to how much anxiety and uncertainty that is happening in our lives now. But what about what happened after Jesus died on the cross and was taken down? He rose again and ascended into heaven, where he is now the right hand man of God. This is how I will picture my journey through Chicago and Amate House. Even though Jesus isn't physically present, his spirit still lives on today, as I anticipate the spirit of each and every Amate member and staff being present throughout the remainder of my life. It seems like the end of this year is creating so much angst and fear for many in Amate, whether you know your plans for next year or not. In the long run, we will look back on it, pray for each other, and see the spirit of Amate House live on forever, just like Jesus' spirit did after He died. The symbol of Jesus being taken down is like how this year will end, but we need to remember; though we won't be physically present to our communities after mid-June, my housemates and Amate House will forever live on in my heart and in my spirit, just as Jesus Christ has for so many.

Please Pray for these Special Intentions

In Memory of:

Jenny Anderson
Norman Balthasar
Stanley Banas
Rev. Tom Conley
Rose Delaney
Dorothy Doherty
James Dowdle
J. Jerome Dowdle
Ray Dowdle
Jeanne Duffy-Meyers
Sharon Farrington
William Galioto Family
Franklin W. Hall
Mary Jane Herlocker

Jay Huseman
Rev. Frank Jenks
Angela Jepsen
JoAnn Kelly
Evelyn Kline
Koenigsfeld Family Members
Nancy Kula
Roger Laibl
Gene Lamb
Kelly Lillwitz
McGovern Family Members
Barbie Metcalf
Marie Moley
Deacon Robert Motycka

Christopher P. Murphy
Claire Murphy
Offner Family Members
Steven Pawlak
Lorraine Peterson
Joseph Rubel
Roark Sennott
Seibert Family Members
Dorothy Skora
Streit Family Members
Thomas Wageman
Clara Zurovski
Sue Zurovski

Special Intentions:

Harriet Rose Hart – Baptism
Pat Lucas – Improved Health
Jerry McCarthy – Birthday

Chris Murphy – Ordained Deacon
Porter Murray – Birthday
Dave Otto – Improved Health

Morgan Paulus – Birthday
Jonathan & Lisa Wittig – Future Family

In Honor of:

Molly Baker & Buster
Ken Brucks
Rev. Tom Dore
Rev. Bob Heinz

Rev. John Hoffman
Tom Judge
John & Pat Lucas

Bill & Kathleen Lynch
Elizabeth Spitznagel Rose
Sean Scanlon

Amate House Wish List

- Bicycles and helmets
- Bicycle locks
- Box fans
- Brooms
- Can openers
- Cars and vans
- Cereal bowls
- Coffee pots
- Colanders and strainers
- 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
- Snow-blowers
- 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!*