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A Letter from the Executive Director



May 2015

Greetings,

What a beautiful spring we have had in “The Garden” here at South House! In the sunshine of the afternoons, I have the chance from time to time to look at the beauty of the pear trees in full bloom. The Hosta, the Limelight Hydrangea, the Narrow Leaf Blue Star, a few of the other plants in our garden, are all coming to life. Some are coming faster than others, but all will eventually blossom and bloom over the summer months.

The same is true of our wonderful and talented Volunteers. They are blooming and growing in ways that they had never before envisioned. Some already have planned their next steps after Amate House, while others are praying Thomas Merton’s prayer: “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end... But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.” I have said this prayer many times myself and each time it leads me to put my life in God’s hands. What a safe place to be!

In the light and appreciation of life, we have been blessed with some really wonderful memories with the late Cardinal Francis George. He came to speak with our Volunteers each and every year in his 17 years as Archbishop. I will never forget the time he came here after his trip to Houston for an evaluation on his cancer. He had spent the whole day traveling, starting from 4:30 in the morning to catch his flight, and then came to speak and break bread with our Volunteers for three hours, finally leaving to head home at 9:00 in the evening. We have all heard similar stories about his generosity with his time, and we are grateful to him for his graciousness to our Volunteers. May he rest in Peace!

Again this year we could not be more proud of our twenty-seven volunteers and the work they have done. As always, I cannot thank you enough for your support. Your prayers, financial support and spreading the Amate Gospel is what has made us so successful over these past 31 years serving the people of Chicago. Amate House could not exist if it were not for you!

I can say it over and over, but the words never seem to come out the way I feel. I have grown to love the Amate House organization as if it were one of my children, and when people do good things for their children, the gratitude is inexpressible! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Keep these young adults in your prayers and rest assured that the future for ourselves and our community are in good hands. Have a wonderful Summer!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Lucas

Companions for the Journey

A Reflection by 2008-2009 Amate Alum Lisa Monnot

“How are we treating the people of God? I dream of a Church that is a mother and shepherdess. The Church’s ministers must be merciful, take responsibility for the people and accompany them like the good Samaritan, who washes, cleans and raises up his neighbor. This is pure Gospel... The ministers of the Gospel must be people who can warm the hearts of the people, who walk through the dark night with them, who know how to dialogue and to descend themselves into their people’s night, into the darkness, but without getting lost...they must also be able to accompany the flock that has a flair for finding new paths.” – Pope Francis



Lisa Monnot is pictured in the top row second from the left, with other Amate House Alumni Kerry McGuire (top left), Maeve Raphelson (top middle), Carla Leon (top right), Theresa Baumier (bottom left), and Anna Mayer (bottom right).

Each and every current and former Amate House Volunteer experiences accompaniment in some form, maybe without even knowing. Accompaniment is this: to walk with, to break bread with, to be in community with, and to be ONE with, one another, the “other”, the stranger, God. We have accompanied our community members as we all struggled with our personal and community lives, and in turn we accompanied our students, their families, our clients, and all of those whom we served, and continue to still serve, on a daily basis.



I am fortunate to consciously live accompaniment of self and others every day of my life thanks to my Amate House site placement at Taller de José. In 2008 as a wide eyed college graduate eager to do my part in changing the world, I committed to serving a year at a not yet open nonprofit community resource center, Taller de José, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. At Taller de José we accompany those in need, connecting them to the resources they may need. We meet people where they are at in their life and walk with them to court, hospitals, government offices, food pantries, and more. We are simply present with them. I was prepared to serve during my year at Amate but what I was not ready for was finding my new path so clearly. My Amate House experience led me to this wonderful organization where I continue to serve, accompany and be accompanied by so many.

This past March, I had the honor of presenting Amate House with Taller de José’s annual Companion Award along with fellow Amate Alumni and co-workers, Anna Mayer(’11-’12) and Carla León (’13-’14). The Companion Award is given to a person or organization who has been an extraordinary companion to Taller de José, exemplifying the vision of accompanying the dear neighbor without distinction, and witnessing to God’s love to the world. Amate House has accompanied Taller de José by providing 7 full time Volunteers since 2008 and Amate House accompanied me by helping me to discover a career path I never thought I might take. Seven years later as the Associate Director and the Interim Executive Director for six months, I am grateful for the companionship of all of those who support Amate House and Taller de José, and those who have walked with me and countless other Amate House Volunteers as we searched, and still continue to search, for our new path.



Save The Date! Ales for Amate is Back!

When: Tuesday, July 14th from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Where: Revolution Brewery - 2323 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647

Tickets: \$30 in advance \$35 at the door

Each ticket covers unlimited beers and appetizers for two hours.

Tours of the brewery will be available this year!

Visit www.amatehouse.org to purchase your tickets TODAY!

'Continuing the Journey' *continued...*



MaryKate O'Connell,
South House

"When I think about the last two years that I've spent as an Amate House volunteer, one word really jumps to the forefront: gratitude. An Amate House Alumni who had since moved on to another program where he lived in community told me that while other volunteer programs try to build community, Amate House actually does it. I am extremely grateful for the nineteen people that I have lived with in these last two years. I'm so lucky to have been thrown into communities with nineteen people that have challenged me, made me examine myself, and made me better. I would be an extremely different person without Amate, and I am so grateful."

"I was nervous coming into my second year because of how much I loved my first community. I changed houses, changed jobs, and changed the faces that I saw every day. It was a difficult adjustment. Change is never supposed to be easy. But, without this second community, I wouldn't have realized how patient and adaptable I can truly be, both in the work environment, and out. I now have a better understanding of where I want to go in life, and these two communities helped me more than words could ever describe. This Amate experience has been messy, uncomfortable, scary, and stressful, but above all of that, what I will carry with me for the rest of my life is the unconditional love, laughter, and support I was shown along the way."



Chris Provost,
North House

Please Pray for these Special Intentions

In Memory of:

Stanley Banas
Bernie Beasley
Oscar Belarmino
Jay Bowling
Florence Brejcha
Peter Burns
Janet Cunningham
Dorothy Doherty

William Frett
Paul Greening
Woody & Mary Jane Herlocker
Louis Keating
JoAnn Kelly
Elise Korzenko
Rosemary Lauter
Kelly Marie Lillwitz

Mary Loftus
Donald Makin
Deacon Robert Motycka
Robert Muoio
Frank Murnane
Richard Oberfoell
Claire O'Connor
Nora Peak

Connor Roche
Roark Sennott
Nancy Stolarz
Rev. John Swartz
Michael Umhoefer
Ernest Wojcik

Special Intentions:

Sean Fergusin - Improved Health

Manuel Garcia - Birthday
Harriet Rose Hart - 1st Birthday
Linda Murray - Birthday

Rev. Donald Nevins - 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood
Liliana Bea Pridemore - Birth

In Honor of:

2006-2007 North House
Volunteers
2011-2012 South House
Volunteers
Kelley Ambrose

Amox Family
Emily Anderson
Molly Baker & Buster
Rev. Thomas Dore
Theresa Hayes

Rev. John Hoffman
Tom Judge
John Lucas
Lyons Family
Michael McGovern

Michael Pederson
Reilly Family
Sean Scanlon
Roark Sennott
Andrew Shelton

Tyler Family
Chris Wagar
Kim Whalen
Matthew Whelton
Chris Wynkoop

Amate House Wish List

- Bicycles and helmets
- Bicycle locks
- Box fans
- Brooms
- Can openers
- Cars and vans
- Cereal bowls
- 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
- Mops
- Organizational Items (dish racks, storage containers, etc.)
- Outdoor wrought-iron furniture
- Snow-blowers
- Towels (kitchen and hand)
- Vacuum cleaners
- Washers and dryers
- Year-old Computers

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