

AMATE HOUSE NEWSLETTER



Putting Love into Action since 1984

Fall 2020



Moved In, Masks On

By Natalie Crary

As a staff, we have been preparing for the last several months for the new fellows. They are joining from many different states and regions of the country. In years past, concerns about safety have been aimed towards keeping doors and windows locked at night, vehicles free of valuables, and walking around together as everyone adjusts to their new homes and neighborhoods. This year has been quite a bit more challenging logistically. With several fellows coming from 'surge states', they need to isolate for 14 days after arriving in Illinois. Without getting into too many specifics, it's felt like trying to hit a moving target of safety, consistency, and practicality as each house acclimates to each other!

And yet, the call to serving others and building community remains steadfast. It's always rewarding to watch the new groups move into the Little Village and McKinley Park houses, and this year is extra special with the increased concerns. It seems all the thought and preparation are paying off.

This year's fellows graduated into a pandemic, recession, and time of national and political strife. Yet here they are. The topics we cover during orientation - intentional community living, Catholic Social Teaching, and vocation - they are as relevant as ever, and as complicated to engage with. It's a deep blessing to accompany this new group of Amate fellows into the learning and living in store for them.



Amate House fellows meet with the program's founders via Zoom.

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Dear Friends and Family of Amate House,

For 36 years, Amate House has attracted dedicated and caring young men and women who are answering the call to not just a year of service, but to the opportunity to grow and become leaders who will go on to change the world long after their year with us. Seventeen fellows have made the commitment to serve with Amate House for the coming year, choosing to work for justice at a time when service to others is not without personal risk.

The need in Chicago has only increased since the pandemic began, and our mission to serve others is more important than ever. Unemployment has hit record highs, children's education is in peril, and people living in at-risk communities are suffering severe outcomes brought on by COVID-19. Amate House fellows are eager to respond to these issues, and be a part of finding solutions.

Brian will help the unemployed find jobs at One On One, a development and training program on Chicago's south side. Lexie will work directly with students at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School in Little Village to prepare young women for college. Kate and Simon will counsel victims of domestic violence at Sarah's Inn in the near western suburbs. These are just a few ways fellows will serve those most in need this year and work toward the healing of our city.

The Amate House staff is also ready to take on the challenges of running a program during a pandemic. We have worked diligently to create protocols to keep fellows safe at home and in their workplace. We are also working to increase our technology infrastructure so that fellows may work from home should the infection trend begin to rise again in Illinois.

As the world protests systemic racism and police brutality, Amate House must take proactive action to be a part of the solution. We are expanding our programming to respond to racial inequity in our community as we work toward becoming an antiracist organization. Over the next several months, we will develop a strategic plan toward that end and will partner with organizations like C-ROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing for AntiRacism) and the Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership to support us as we challenge our own prejudice and role in racial injustice.

This coming year will be filled with many intense emotions as our nation, rocked to its core by racial injustice, also faces the looming challenges of a global pandemic. No doubt, it will be a trying but enriching time for both our fellows and the many individuals and organizations they serve. Because of your support, we are able to keep our doors open and take on the challenges of this very important service year. Thank you, and please continue to keep Amate House fellows in your prayers.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Balanda

Executive Director

Introducing the 2020-2021 Amate House Fellows

McKinley Park



Victoria Davenport

From Modesto, CA
Grand Canyon University
*Catholic Charities West
Regional Services*



Vilma Fermin

From Bronx, NY
St. Joseph's University
LINK Unlimited



Conner Huggins

From Farmington Hills, MI
Villanova University
Chicago Legal Clinic



Chloe Juettner

From Maple Grove, MN
University of Minnesota
Marjorie Kovler Center



Alexandra Lloyd

From O'Fallon, IL
University of Notre Dame
Chicago Legal Clinic



Monica Mascolo

From Doylestown, PA
Boston College
Arrupe College



Gweneth McCain

From Marion, MA
University of Notre Dame
*Coalition for Spiritual &
Public Leadership*



Bryn Siberski

From Clayton, MO
Loyola University Chicago
New Moms, Inc.



Jamie Sung

From East Setauket, NY
Boston College
Marjorie Kovler Center

Little Village



Hugh Burke

From Eden Prairie, MN
University of Notre Dame
Taller de Jose



Christine Chan

From Cupertino, CA
Loyola Marymount University
Girls in the Game



Brian Gatter

From Clayton, MO
University of Notre Dame
One on One



Alexandra Hays

From Spencerville, OH
University of Dayton
*Our Lady of Tepeyac
High School*



Linde Hoffman

From Grand Rapids, MI
University of Notre Dame
Kolbe House



Lauren Jhin

From Houston, TX
University of Notre Dame
Catholic Charities Southwest



Kate Nechanicky

From Burnsville, MN
University of St. Thomas
Sarah's Inn



Simon Pratt

From Williamsville, NY
Canisius College
Sarah's Inn



Fellows from the Little Village house sport their Amate masks.

Amate House Welcomes New Staff Member



Matt Schultz
Associate Development Director

We're thrilled to introduce Matt Schultz as the newest addition to our Amate House team! He comes to us after four years of working within the student affairs division at DePaul University. As an

Amate alum, Matt served on the Associate Board for four years, including three as one of the Co-Chairs. We're excited for him to continue the great work of engaging our alumni and connecting supporters with our program. Welcome back, Matt!



Presented By **EMPIRICAL** brewery and **Associate Board** AMATE HOUSE

7th Annual Ales for Amate

The 7th Annual Ales for Amate is on! The Amate House Associate Board, in partnership with Empirical Brewing, is proud to host this year's virtual Ales for Amate event on Friday, October 2nd. Expect an evening of libations and laughs featuring local Chicago comedy troupe, Team Us Comedy! ALL, near and far, are invited to attend! Tickets can be purchased at amatehouse.org/ales.

October 2, 2020
6:30pm-9pm



Alumni Updates

- » Molly (Rooney) Kelly (85) retired from Chicago Public Schools where she has been a kindergarten teacher for many years
- » Michael Pederson (12) took his First Vows in the Society of Jesus in August of 2019
- » Ann Koller (11) hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in the fall of 2019
- » Leslie Carranza, Roberto Martinez, Matt Schultz, Anna Mayer, and Trina Semelroth completed the 2019 Chicago Marathon
- » Matt Schultz won the GLACUHO Outstanding New Professionals award for the state of Illinois in October 2019

Weddings

- » Erin Pickney (06, 07) married Sarah Voter on 10/12/19
- » Caitlin Kerwin (14, 15) married Danny Santaniello on 10/19/19
- » Kara Kindel (14) married Mike Canfield on 3/28/20
- » Gina Bartindale (17) married Alex Patnoe on 5/16/20
- » Emma Stiver (17, 18) married Zane Lesko on 5/24/20

Babies

- » Vince (10, 11) and Jen (Patton) Nigito (10, 11) welcomed Noah Romaro on 12/1/18
- » Emily and Chris Huben (17) welcomed Sophie Chiara on 8/20/19
- » Kim and Jessie Weiler (08) welcomed Azalia (Zelie) Rosita on 9/29/19
- » Annie (13) and Corey Targos welcomed Cecilia Anne on 10/17/19
- » Brian & Ellen Romer Niemiec (08) welcomed Gabriel Joseph on 10/20/19
- » Kindra Smith (06) and Vanessa Hernandez welcomed Maeve Alexandra on 4/25/20
- » Beth (Johnson) (10) and Shawn Lucas welcomed Margaret Cecelia on 5/7/20
- » Elizabeth Skora Horgan (14) and Pete Horgan welcomed Henry on 5/25/20
- » Sean & Mary Ellen Doherty (14) welcomed Zoe Ann on 7/5/20