

AMATE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Putting Love into Action since 1984



Fall 2022

Catching Up with Office Manager, Carmah' Small



As we kick off a new service year, we'd like to spotlight someone whose work is at the heart of making this program possible. Tiffany Carmah' Small joined Amate House in July of 2018 as Office Manager. In the past four years, she has worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure our lovely communities are well maintained, our vendor and site partner relationships are top-notch, and the service year experience of over 120 fellows has been smooth and transformative. As many alumni know, she is the go-to person for everything from car troubles to tree removals. When you walk into her office, you'll notice the photos of the fellows rotating across her computer monitors, notes from alum hung on her walls, and mounds of important Amate House paperwork neatly organized. "Carmah' is the V8 engine under the hood", says her colleague Matt Schultz, "propelling the program forward through the ups and downs of the year." Executive Director Jeannie Balanda explained, "She is always a fan favorite at Amate House because of her willingness to do anything for our fellows and her impeccable customer service with our site partners."

Program Director Unity Ostercamp said, "Our houses would not be standing without her...she keeps the roof over their heads and the lights on." We sat down with Carmah' and asked her six questions about her time with Amate House.

In your own words, can you describe your role at Amate House?

As an Office Manager, I handle administrative duties while organizing everyday tasks. Those tasks vary depending on the need on any given day. I also preserve a very positive and pleasant work environment. I ensure the office runs smoothly and to its maximum potential.

What drew you to Amate House?

After reading about the work that Amate House has done within the communities, I was intrigued and wanted to know how I could be involved in the cause of putting love into action here in Chicago.

Can you share with us one of your favorite fellow moments from the past years?

In my first year with Amate, I was invited to a fellow dinner, and I bought my famous Banana Pudd'n, and it was so good that there was a suggestion to sell it. I've always enjoyed interacting with the fellows during events, like 'Ales' or our annual 'Friends Giving' celebration, but Amate Magic is a different type of vibe. I love Amate Magic because it allows me to see the fellows unwind and have a great time. I cherish moments like these because it truly allows our whole Amate community to come together in an authentic way.

What's something you've dealt with at Amate House you never expected?

In any organization, you deal with a variety of things, but with Amate House, it's been a consistent flow of fires that I have to put out, haha. It's somewhat of a joke to myself that with Amate House that there is always something to fix. No matter what comes my way, I find a way to get it done.

What about your role brings you joy?

Working in a pandemic has definitely had its challenges, but having a supportive team during those times of difficulty has created its own level of joy that's much needed and appreciated. I have found fulfillment in my work from my team whose level of dedication matches my own.

What would you like to see for the future of Amate House?

Amate House is doing something good for the young people that enter the program and the communities that the fellows serve. I hope to see Amate House continue with the impact that it's making on the world and find ways to continue to be a positive force in Chicago while always working to become more justice-oriented.

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TBA
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Dear Friends and Family of Amate House,

We are thrilled to welcome our 2022-2023 fellow cohort. Eleven young men and women have chosen to discern a year of service and leadership development with Amate House. During the year, they will learn from Chicago leaders who are working to end pressing social justice issues: racism, limited access to education, and family violence, to name just a few. In addition, fellows will hone their leadership skills through community night programming and in-service trainings and further explore their faith life through periodic retreats and weekly spiritual formation. They will be busy!

After completing two weeks of orientation that included peace circle training, trauma-informed care instruction, and a service project at Breakthrough Urban Ministries, fellows are fully entrenched in their work. This year we continue to partner with veteran sites like the Kovler Center, Taller de José, and Sarah's Inn and welcome two new site partners, Quinn Center of St. Eulalia, and Christopher House. Fellows are assisting immigration attorneys, providing violence prevention programs in schools, coordinating campus ministry for first-generation college students, and much more.

Just before fellows arrived at the end of July, Amate House finally completed the basement renovations following a late winter flood. With updated carpeting and newly painted walls, the basement is now an inviting space for the fellows' rec room. The staff room received sprucing up, too. We have a new conference area with digital capability and an inviting lounge area for staff breaks.

Over the past few months, we have watched beloved staff leave Amate House while we have welcomed new employees to our team. Katie Crevier (nee Cashman) left her position as the Program Formation Coordinator in June to pursue a chaplaincy internship and complete her graduate studies. Unity Ostercamp was promoted to Associate Program Director and is supervising our new program associates, Carrie Madden and Yoli Jones. Matt Schultz also moved on from his role as the Associate Development Director, but he has vowed to stay connected to Amate House, and we will hold him to it!

Ales for Amate is right around the corner. Join us on September 29 at Spiteful Brewing. You can purchase tickets on our website. If you cannot join us in person, please plan to join us virtually for the Dove Dash races and a chance to win great prizes. The races are great fun and will be streamed on social media. Also, mark your calendars for Amate Magic on April 22. We are planning an exciting event for you at Venue West. We hope to see you there, and that lady luck is on your side!

All of us at Amate House are looking forward to the wonderful things this program year will bring, and we are so glad you are a part of the Amate House story. Thank you for being so supportive!

Gratefully,

Jeannie Balanda
Jeannie Balanda
Executive Director



Executive Director Jeannie Balanda enjoying Ales for Amate 2021 with now former staff, Katie Crevier and Matt Schultz.

Introducing the 2022-2023 Amate House Fellows



Natalie Bottger

From Brunswick, OH
John Carroll University
St. Clement Parish



Caroline Burton

From St. Louis, MO
University of Notre Dame
Christopher House



Kari Carmody

From Warren, NJ
The College of New Jersey
Taller De Jose



Joe Devin

From Elkhorn, NE
Creighton University
Greater Chicago Legal Clinic



Colleen Gates

From Louisville, KY
Bellarmino University
Sarah's Inn



Megan Hawley

From Medfield, MA
University of Notre Dame
Quinn Center of St. Eulalia



Andrew Johnson

From St. Paul, MN
University of Minnesota
Erie Family Health Centers



Ryan Loveless

From Dayton, OH
University of Dayton
Greater Chicago Legal Clinic



Joe McGrane

From Bloomington, MN
Boston College
Arrupe College



Kevin Nguyen

From Arvada, CO
Creighton University
Marjorie Kovler Center



Clare Stoyell-Mulholland

From Linthicum, MD
University of Notre Dame
Marjorie Kovler Center



Carrie Madden Yoli Jones



New fellow, Andrew Johnson, signs his cohort's covenant at the close of orientation.



Associate Program Director, Unity Ostercamp, and a few new fellows enjoying an orientation beach day.



New Amate House fellows on the steps of the Catholic Worker during their two-week August orientation.



Ales for Amate turns Spiteful!

September 29th, 2022

6:00 pm–9:00 pm

Ales for Amate is entering its 9th year! The Associate Board is proud to partner with Spiteful Brewing to host this year's friend-raiser! Join us in person for a fun-filled night of community, good beer, and exciting raffles! No matter where you are, partake in any of our three "Dove Dashes," our virtual races for some exciting prizes!

More info at www.amatehouse.org/ales



Alumni Updates

- » Natalie Crary ('11) started her new role as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs with the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver
- » Laura Bird ('97) published a middle-grade novel for children ages 8-12 called "Crossing the Pressure Line"
- » Diandra Burton ('20) was the recipient of the full-ride Dwight L. Greene Memorial Scholarship at Hofstra University in October 2021
- » Maddie Jarrett ('15) started her Doctoral program at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
- » Liz Rose ('09) graduated with her Doctorate in Education from Northeastern University with her dissertation on research colonialism among academic biomedical researchers in Africa
- » Angelica Atian ('14) graduated with her M.S. in Child Development, with a concentration in Infancy and Administration, from the Erikson Institute in Chicago in May 2022
- » Brian O'Connor ('18) graduated with his Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in May 2022
- » Christina Murray ('14) completed her psychiatry residency at the University of North Carolina in June 2022
- » Katie DiPiero ('13) graduated with her M.A. in Social Service Administration from The University of Chicago in June 2022
- » Matt Schultz ('14) graduated with his M.B.A. in Management from DePaul University in August 2022
- » Katie Kouchi ('14) graduated with her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from The University of Alabama in August 2022
- » Rachel Bryan ('14) married John Bryan on September 4th, 2021
- » Katie Dorpinghaus ('15) married Michael Reynolds on November 14th, 2021
- » Corinne Woodruff Horner ('20) married Luke Horner on December 11th, 2021
- » Anna Mayer Diaz ('12) married Leorio Diaz on January 16th, 2022
- » Matt Schultz ('14) married Jamie Hitro on June 10th, 2022
- » Zach-Hamilton-Cotter ('16) married Taylor Durkin on June 17th, 2022
- » Melissa Carnall Fauci ('12) married Megan Fauci on June 18th, 2022
- » Stephen Umhoefer ('16, '17) married Andrea Diamond on July 29th, 2022
- » Jackie Fielding ('14) married Chris Engh on August 27th, 2022

Babies

- » Jessica Stofko ('09-10) and her husband Stoten welcomed their daughter, Eloise Virginia, on April 13, 2021, the same birthday as her mother
- » Ali Schlereth ('10-11) and her husband Thom welcomed their son, Miles Matthew, in September 2021
- » Lindsay Williams-Palaniappan ('11-12) and her husband Vignesh welcomed their daughter, Sylvie, in November 2021
- » Nicole Quien ('11-12) and her husband Miki welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Lorraine Quien, on November 9, 2021
- » Angie Higginbotham ('13-14) and her husband Ross welcomed their daughter, Maria, on November 30th, 2021
- » Gordon Wong and his wife Caroline welcomed their son, Harrison, on December 9th, 2021
- » Kelly Dues ('05-06) and her wife Rachel welcomed their first child, Josephine Vera Dues, in January 2022
- » Hilary Lemon ('14-15) and her husband Zack welcomed their daughter, Annie, in March 2022
- » Elizabeth Horgan ('13-14) and her husband Pete welcomed their son, Luke Gibson, on April 14th, 2022
- » Jessie Eagan ('09-10) and her husband Chris welcomed their daughter, Posy Revier, on June 11th, 2022

Weddings & Engagements

- » Tara Smith ('13) got engaged to her fiancé Eric in December 2021
- » Deirdre Kleist ('13) got engaged to Phil Rizzo in December 2021
- » Mackenzie Carter ('13) got engaged to Anna Goldsmith in March 2022
- » Melissa Tsuleff ('17, '18) married Jim Sylvester on August 21st, 2021

Amate House is hiring a Development Associate!

This is a part-time entry-level fundraising position averaging about 15 hours per week. The Development Associate position is an excellent opportunity for a student pursuing graduate study or someone wanting to acquire development experience. The development associate will work directly with the executive director. The schedule is flexible with periodic evening and weekend hours. This is a hybrid role requiring some work at our McKinley Park office. Candidates of color and those of all religious and other backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Salary is commensurate with experience and is available upon request.

Please contact Jeannie for more information at jbalanda@amatehouse.org