

Amate House would like to acknowledge our

**FRIENDS OF AMATE HOUSE**

FY 2006-07

\$1,000 or more annual, unrestricted gift during  
FY 06-07 (July 1, 2006-June 30,

- Anonymous
- Bernard & Kathie Beazley
- Bolton Sullivan Fund
- Patrick & Peggy Burke
- Carl & Bernadette Carlson
- Church of St. Mary, Sioux Falls, SD
- Kate Clark
- Edward & Jane Clark
- Mark Cordes & Victoria Young
- Jeff & Val Dalebroux\*
- William & Florence Dolan
- Dowdle Family Foundation
- Jerome & Joan Duffy
- Karen Galvin
- Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor, IL
- Stuart Johnson
- Mark & Susie Kilayko\*
- Ryan & Stephanie Kray
- Alice & Gene Lamb
- J. Patrick Leahy
- John & Julie Lucas
- Bill & Kathleen Lynch
- William & Catherine O'Connor
- Robert & Muriel Quinn Pasin
- Queen of All Saints Basilica
- Radio Flyer Inc.
- Thomas & Catherine Reedy
- Jack & Vicki Rodden\*
- Daniel & Carmel Roth\*
- Bob & Kathy Ryan\*
- Garry & Barbara Scheuring & Family
- St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish
- St. Anthony Parish, Canton, OH
- St. Damian, Oak Forest, IL
- St. Francis Xavier, LaGrange, IL
- St. John the Baptist, Johnsburg, IL
- St. Philip Men's Club, Northfield, IL
- St. Robert Bellarmine, Chicago, IL
- St. Tarcissus, Chicago, IL
- Larry & Pattie Thompson
- Steve & Aimee Trepiccione\*
- John Thurston\*

\*Indicates Board Member

**Alumni News**

**ENGAGEMENTS:**

Jennifer Newberry (01-02) will wed Patrick Dwyer on August 4, 2007 in Cincinnati, OH. Jon Alvarez (02-03) and Nancy Mercado will be getting married on August 4, 2007 Betsy Pottle (03-04) and William Poell will be married on April 12, 2008 in Denver, CO.

**WEDDINGS:**

Maura Sabatos (01-02) and Anthony DeVito on January 13, 2007 Ben Powers (02-03) and Carolyn Rhoades, on May 5, 2007

**BIRTHS:**

Kay Pasquesi (87-88) and her husband Matt Walker are the proud parents of daughter Rosalina Genevieve born November 21, 2006. Chris Wilmes (00-01) and his wife Anne are the proud parents of Martin Fredrick born December 29, 2006. Marty is the apple of his dad's eye! Sean Murphy (94-95) and his wife Kelly, along with big brother Connor are delighted to announce the birth of the newest member of their family. Maire Rose Murphy was born March 11, 2007

**OTHER NEWS:**

Patrick Laboe (02-03) and Jon Gombola (02-03) graduated, and officially became M.D. Pat and his wife Kathy are headed to Kalamazoo, MI and Jon and his fiancé Melissa Hogan are headed to Rochester, MN.

If you have any alum news you would like to share please contact Chris Wagar at 773 376-2445 or cwagar@amatehouse.org.

**Prayers and Intentions**

Please remember to pray for all Amate House Deceased Benefactors and Our Fallen Soldiers along with:

<b>In Memory of:</b>	Orval Adam	Lucille Geske	
	Beth Banach	Emilio Gonzalez de Leon	Quinn Family
	Patricia Beeler	Laco Haradsky	Ernie Rizzo
	Gerald Carter	Esther Mary Jamrozik	Marie Rolnicki
	Jonathan Joel Dick	Daniel Julien	Charles Ryan
	Sue Donohue	Dennis Kroll	Dr. P. C. Schuler
	Bill Doody	Mary Lynch	Mrs. P. C. Schuler
	Katherine Doody	Frances Milliman	Eileen Serafine
	Bernice Fochs	David Ober	Camilla Smith
	Timothy Galvin, Jr.	Marie Penchar	

Please also pray for the following special intentions:

<b>For Improved Health of:</b>	Stan Banas	<b>In Honor of:</b>	All the 2006-07 Amate House Volunteers for Their Year of Service
	Evelyn Finucane		Ashley Frangiamore
	Ember Normand		Johnson Family
			Stuart Johnson
			Lillwitz Family
			Chris & Kathleen Sandner
			Rev. Don Senior

**YES! COUNT ON MY SUPPORT FOR AMATE HOUSE!**

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to support your work:

\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

- \_\_\_ I am interested in learning more about the FRIENDS OF AMATE HOUSE SOCIETY
- \_\_\_ Please charge my credit card (Visa or MC) for my donation
- \_\_\_ Please contact me about Planned Giving, Matching Gifts, or other giving opportunities

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Now you can contribute to Amate House online at our Web site: [www.amatehouse.org](http://www.amatehouse.org) Just click the "Donate Now" button.



*Celebrating 23 Years of Service to Chicago*

**AMATE HOUSE**  
N E W S L E T T E R

*The Young Adult Volunteer Program for the Archdiocese of Chicago*

*Spring 2007*

**The Value of Time**

**Christopher Pilla**

Volunteer Reflection Delivered at Amate Magic



First, I'd like to thank everyone in attendance, because your support has allowed myself and the other Amate House and Vincent and Louise House Volunteers here to have a fantastic experience. Tonight, I'd like to tell you a little bit about my time as a Volunteer in Amate House.

My name is Chris Pilla, and I come from the east coast where I grew up in New Jersey and attended Villanova University in Pennsylvania. After school, I worked as an engineer at Lockheed Martin near Philadelphia for four years before coming out to Chicago to volunteer. My friends and family thought I was crazy to give up a high paying job. I thought I was crazy not to take the opportunity to leave my cubicle farm for a year to give back to the world.

I serve as a math teacher at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School, an all girls school in Little Village. Life at Tepeyac, as any faculty member would tell you, is always busy and never dull, which is what you would expect when surrounded by teenage girls. One day I was in a rush to finish grading, so I could go home, when a student of mine, whom I'll call Sonia, walked into my room. A few days earlier Sonia slammed her homework down on my desk and told me she'd no longer be doing her geometry homework. After talking to some of her other teachers it was apparent that Sonia was on a mission to fail all of her classes. Sonia sat down on the floor next to my desk, and even though I wanted to get my work done, I turned towards her and we began to talk. We spoke for an hour that day, and during most of the conversation she cried as she told me about her family hardships and why she purposely wanted to do poorly in school. It was a tough conversation, and through most of it, I remember thinking "Uh.... I'm not a counselor... I have no idea what to tell her." Well, a few days later, Sonia turned in all my missing work. When I was in the office later that day, her English teacher stopped me and told me that Sonia had turned in her missing work as well. When her teacher had thanked her,

Sonia's reply was "Don't thank me, thank Mr. Pilla." I smiled when I heard this, only because when I think back to that conversation, I never really said anything profound. I realized, all I did was listen. In this year of service one of the most valuable things we can give to others is very simply, our time.

Ask about the value of time to one of my students, whom I'll call Maria, who works as a waitress, takes care of her younger sisters, and stays up late getting homework done. Ask about the value of time to one of my students whom I'll call Jess, who at age 15 is a mother and works extremely hard in school so that, in time, she can provide for her daughter. Ask about the value of time to any of my fellow Amate Volunteers, who have given so much of themselves at their service sites and have grown tremendously as a result of dedicating a year of their lives to service.

I asked my fellow volunteers to sum up their Amate experience in one word or phrase. What follows next is some of their responses: Surprising...Frustrating...Fulfilling...Grounding... Unexpected. Opportunity...Growth...Passion... Empowering and Uplifting...Genuine...Challenging ...Inspiring...Enlightening...and...Beautiful.

It's clear from the varied responses that our time here has meant different things to all of us, but I think there's one thing we can all agree on. After this year, many of us will work towards becoming doctors, lawyers, business people, social workers, educators, or any other career that we're called to. And as we spread out into the world around us, to put our love into action, we will carry the time we spent in Amate House in our hearts. Our stories and lessons from Amate House will always be on the tips of our tongues, ready to be shared, along with one of our most precious gifts - our time.

And so, to the Amate House Staff, Board members, family, friends, and supporters, all of whom make it possible for us to be here - on behalf of all the 2006-2007 Volunteers, I thank you for all your support.

For information please contact: [info@amatehouse.org](mailto:info@amatehouse.org)

Amate House  
3600 S. Seeley  
Chicago, IL 60609  
773-376-2445  
[www.amatehouse.org](http://www.amatehouse.org)

**Save the Date for Amate Magic 2008: May 2, 2008, Navy Pier Grand Ballroom**

## Love in Action at the Vincent & Louise House

Catherine Knigge



Love in action. That is the meaning of the word amate. As the Vincent and Louise House is a sector of Amate House, I come back to that meaning over and over again. But what exactly does it mean to live in the Vincent and Louise House? I know I cannot answer that completely and definitely. The simple answer to give would be the standard spiel. It goes a little something like this: you live with nine other people committed to the five house tenets for the school year. Those five tenets are faith and spirituality, simple living, community, social justice and community service. You are required to do six hours of service a week, make dinner once a week for the DePaul community and commit about four hours every Thursday night to community night. Oh yeah, there is the part about free housing and food—we usually throw that in at the end. At any given dinner or at any information table, you can hear a similar description. While this is an appropriate portrayal, one that I have given many times, it is merely an overview.

Perspective on what the House truly entails comes to me through my service. I volunteer at St. Vincent's soup kitchen which takes place in the church. Many of you probably see the men and women forming lines outside bright and early and many of you also see a few of these men selling Streetwise around campus. The soup kitchen is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8-10 and most of the men and women show up like clockwork. I do not know if I have ever done something that I enjoy more than my work at the soup kitchen. It gives me an amazing perspective on my life in the Vincent and Louise House. The ability to see and socialize with these homeless men and women daily shows me so many things that I take for granted day to day. The bright smiles and helpful hands of both volunteers and guests is a remarkable start to my day. To see the great enthusiasm with many a passing face makes me wonder why I cannot carry myself with that same enthusiasm all the time. It gives me the wonderful perspective on living in solidarity with the poor because I am in direct contact with them. Everyday I see what a community outside of my own looks like. Yes, these people are a community; a community that comes together for that brief period every morning, if not on the streets as well. To see them interact and the support built into their relationships constantly provides me with hope that our community can work through our own challenges. They provide me with a concrete example of love in action.

Living in the House has become much more than simply living by the tenets, it's about coming together as a community and becoming family. Despite our struggles we have become a family; a family following the same guidelines. But those guidelines are purely that; truly understanding what the Vincent and Louise House is about comes through daily experiences. For me the most influential of those experiences has been the soup kitchen. For others it is their service for ECO, Casa de Providencia, the Theresa House and the St. Vincent DePaul Center. We each have our passion that leads us to a better understanding of what we are doing in the house. Sure, the tenets are meant to be followed but it is not until they are put into practice that I start to understand my purpose. In the end, it all comes back to love in action; I try so I can understand.

*(Catherine's article was also published in the Catholic Connection for student night mass at St. Vincent's)*

### A sampling of current Volunteers' next steps on the journey...

**Katie Grimes:** Next year I will be a student in the Master's of Theological Studies program at the University of Notre Dame. I will be studying moral theology.

**Maureen Ryan:** I will be going to grad school at UIC to get a masters in social work.

**Cathy Setzler:** I will be teaching at the Louverture Clearly School, a boarding high school in Port Au Prince, Haiti, through a volunteer program called the Haitian Project.

**Jonathan Wittig:** Next year, I will be volunteering full time with Gawad Kalinga Builders Corps in Manila, Philippines, who develop livelihood programs in the GK Villages and then market and distribute them in the United States.

## A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is that wonderful and yet sad time of year when we celebrate the accomplishments of the current Volunteers, but mourn their loss as they make their final preparations for the next journey they have chosen. I am continually amazed at the insight and passion our Volunteers have for themselves and the world. Each one goes through the process of discernment, analyzing, investigation, rejection and prayer to reach a decision about his or her next step. These decisions don't come easily. They are carefully crafted and messaged by family, friends, and mentors. Each decision is treated as sacred. Nothing is left to chance, yet there is a comfort that God will provide insight and open doors that may seem to be shut.

As the year ends we want to thank Board Member Bob Ryan for his service to Amate House for the past three years. We also want to thank Staff Members Meghan Murray and Becky Frett for their years of service to Amate House. They are moving on to start their own new journeys. Becky, after four years at Amate House, will be teaching theology at St. Ignatius High School. Meg, after six years at Amate House, will be taking on the wonderful yet challenging career of raising her son Finn who is almost two. We wish them the best. They leave behind some very significant contributions for which we are grateful.

This summer we look forward to the arrival of a new group of Volunteers and working with our new staff members Annie Devine, Lisa Wolff and Roberta Muoio. All three are former Volunteers.

As we all continue on our journeys, we at Amate House would like to thank each and every one of you for all your support this year and for all our other blessings: our Volunteers, our families, our friends, our communities, those we walk in partnership with, and the relationship we have with the Lord.

God Bless!

John Lucas  
Executive Director

### Amate House Board of Directors

Steve Trepiccione  
*President*

Valerie Dalebroux

Elizabeth Dolack

Rev. Thomas Dore

Thomas Drexler

Marilu Gonzalez

Bernard H. Henry

Mark Kilayko

James Kozy

Rev. Donald Nevins

Raul Ortiz

Brett Paschke

John Rodden

Daniel Roth

Bob Ryan

John Thurston

Philip J. Wicklander, Jr.

### Amate House Staff

John Lucas  
*Executive Director*

Rebecca Frett  
*Program Coordinator*

Meghan Murray  
*Program Director*

Steffanie Triller  
*Development Coordinator*

Pauline Villapando  
*Program Coordinator – DePaul*

Christine Wagar  
*Administrative Director*

## A Reflection on the 7th Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time

Anjali Truitt



Jesus had a journey to take. He knew what lie ahead of him would be treacherous. He would feel intense pain. He would struggle. He would feel frustration. He would stumble and probably fall.

When I jumped on a plane without a return ticket to Portland in July and headed for Chicago, I, too, began a journey. Having recently graduated, I was excited to begin the next step. I had never been to Chicago or volunteered at a hospital before, so I was eager to begin full-time volunteering at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital. I thought that this volunteer position would be like taking baby steps to a "real" job. To be honest, I really hoped—deep down inside- that Amate House would be kind of like Neverland, and that I, like Peter Pan, had found the perfect loop hole to growing up. I thought that my community would become instant family, just like the "lost boys."

Little did I know at the time, but my hopes were so far from the truth.

My mindset shifted a bit, and I quickly recognized that this volunteer position at inner-city hospital wasn't going to be easy. Community sure wasn't what I had expected either. But Jesus' journey to Golgotha was more. His journey was physically demanding, in addition to mentally and emotionally taxing. His human flesh exposed to the elements. His carpenter's strength reduced to nothing under the weight of the cross.

He carried a cross!

He carried real wood planks; like the wood of our dining room table, it probably splintered into his skin. He labored with the wood of a cross upon his back.

What cross do I carry?

The truth—I don't. I'm really just another person in the crowd surrounding Jesus, completely detached from His physical suffering. I'm a

bystander.

As if carrying the cumbersome cross upon his back was not enough, Jesus accepted that upon reaching His destination, He would be nailed to the cross he carried. He accepted the decision made by the crowd. He would be crucified. He wasn't a criminal; he was a good man. Yet, he accepted the punishment of a criminal. He accepted the label of blasphemer—"Jesus, King of the Jews."

Not within myself, but instead at the intersection of California and Ogden, have I found Jesus. While he doesn't carry a wooden cross, every journey he takes requires him to push his wheelchair. His life would probably be easier with an electric chair, as he is quadriplegic. However, his part-time job means that he makes too much money to qualify for public aid. He works as a peer mentor and a violence prevention speaker to local youth. His previous gang-involvement led not only to several misdemeanor charges, but also to several gunshot wounds: one of which caused a C4 spinal cord injury.

His punishment for this is ongoing. There are buildings that he's forbidden to enter. Public transportation that is not only unreliable, but frequently leaves him stranded at the corner. He's in an economic situation where it is financially advantageous NOT to work, because the cost of his healthcare is so great.

I've used the word "handicap" before, describing people like him. But I can't anymore. How can a person be a disadvantage? And he's definitely a loving, caring, wonderful person. He overcomes such obstacles on a daily basis, and he still continues to be cheerful.

If nothing more, he's definitely a better example of Christ than I will ever be.

## A Reflection on Pentecost - "Accept the Spirit"

Lauren Simendinger



I did not fit in: the lingo, the clothing, the lifestyle. I couldn't have been more out of place at my service site, the Howard Area Alternative High School, where the student population is comprised of gang bangers, wards of the state, AIDS patients, teenage parents, and criminals. Yep. I absolutely did not fit in.

When I first interviewed for a site placement with Amate House, I knew the environment at the Alternative High School would be challenging. Yet, I had always prided myself on my ability to relate to people different from me, especially high school and college students. However, after only a few days on the job, I started to seriously doubt my ability to connect with these students as their health coordinator. In order for them to confide in me about their health, I had to establish trusting relationships with each student. I began to convince myself that these "at-risk" teens were *too* different from me to build such relationships and they would all benefit much more from a volunteer with a similar background. After all, I went to an all-girls, all-white, all-Catholic college prep school where teenage pregnancies were an embarrassment and knowledge of gangs came from movies like "Dangerous Minds." Our cafeteria didn't double as a church soup kitchen, we had a full size gym and tennis courts, both of which we took for granted as basic high school facilities, and flashing gang colors was a non-issue since we sported gray polyester uniform skirts.

The more I thought about my high school experience, the more I convinced myself that the gap between me and the Alternative students was insurmountable. I would have been able to contribute so much more back at my high school, or at least a high school more similar to mine, where I could actually identify with the students' struggles, such as picking a college, failing a driving test, or getting cut from sports teams or school plays. The Alternative High School doesn't even have extracurricular activities since the students' primary after-school activity is taking care of their own children. Again, how was I supposed to relate to this? And how could I be so naïve as to think I could just step into this environment and click? So it was with these insecur-

ities I went to the high school every day, constantly telling myself I was doing work I simply wasn't cut out for.

Sometimes we come across readings that seem as though they were written especially for us in our current situation. This was the case when I came across the following passage from Henri Nouwen:

*"Often we want to be somewhere other than where we are, or even to be someone other than who we are. It is very important to realize that our vocation is hidden in where we are and who we are. We are unique human beings, each with a call to realize in life what nobody else can, and to realize it in the concrete context of the here and now. We are good enough to do what we are called to do. Be yourself."*

Wow. In order to believe this, I had to believe my vocation was actually at the Alternative High School, and I wasn't supposed to have the same background as my students. I was supposed to have the exact background I *do* have. Not only that, but someone with a different background wouldn't be able to realize at the high school what only I could.

**I am good enough to do what I am called to do.**

This passage caused me to look at the way I was approaching my time at the high school and change. I stopped wishing for different circumstances and started accepting the spirit for the circumstances I was in fact living. As I did this, I gradually entered into much more meaningful relationships with my students. I shared ice cream with an eighteen-year-old who just learned she was pregnant with her third child. I accompanied students to the emergency room, counseled a gay student when he first discovered he had an advanced STD, and held students' newborn babies in my arms. I even went to the high school prom!

It is going to be hard to leave these students I have come to love, but I know the experiences I've shared with them will remain with me and influence my life well beyond this year. How could they not? The Alternative students have helped teach me one of life's most valuable lessons:

**Accept the spirit for the circumstances you are in fact living.**

*Have some extras lying around? Amate House could use in-kind donations of: 12 passenger vans, cars, vacuum cleaners, kitchenware, beds, lawn furniture and grills*