

2024 Application Packet - Assistant Program Coordinator (Year 1)



since 2004

Agape Service Project

Agape Service Project fosters service, community, and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.

Encounter & Kinship

Farmworker Community - relational, direct services include food bank & mobile food distribution, summer enrichment for children, increased access to health & human services

Middle & High School Students - service-learning immersion experiences, put Catholic Social Teaching & prayer into action, empowered to be agents of change

College-Aged Young Adults - servant leadership formation, summer of leading & serving all aspects of program

Highlights

- Summer 2023: 309 youth & adult participants from 19 Catholic parishes & schools
- Summer 2023: Served an average of 642 families weekly at our food bank
- Over 30 hours of direct service & 11 hours of formation/prayer led by Agape staff for groups in 5-day experience
- Aug. 2023: 507 backpacks full of school supplies distributed
- Always strive to provide culturally-appropriate items served in a bilingual (Spanish-English) setting



Who are Farmworkers?

- Approx. 1.5-2 million men, women, & children who plant, pick, & pack our fruits & veggies; work our dairies, nurseries, & feedlots
- 71% are Foreign-born workers; at least 50% are working without legal documentation
- Age of 12: one can be legally hired to work
- For every \$1 you spend on produce, a farmworker only gets 9 cents
- Agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the U.S.
- Skilled laborers whose work is dignified & essential
- Our neighbors who have touched our food, and therefore our lives

nfwm.org

Most dramatically of all, farmworkers too often struggle with food insecurity, meaning the workers who feed America too often cannot feed their own families.

- Rep. Joaquin Castro (TX) in *America Magazine*

Learn more ...

Follow

- United Farm Workers @ufwupdates
- National Farm Worker Ministry @nationalfarmworkerministry
- Fair Trade Certified @fairtradecertified

Watch

- Food Chains (documentary)
- Cesar Chavez (2014 film)

- /agapeserviceproject
- @agape.service.project
- Agape Service Project

archseattle.org/agape
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Summer
2024



WHAT IS THE AGAPE SERVICE PROJECT?

A Christ-centered service program that empowers middle and high school students and adults to enter into direct, mutually beneficial relationships with the farmworker community in Whatcom County.

Our ultimate goal is to build personal relationships with the farmworker families. Our relational social services include a weekly food bank, increasing access to health and human services, providing educational and recreational activities for children of farmworkers, college scholarships for farmworkers pursuing higher education, and supporting just-farms with volunteer labor.

For 7 weeks, groups of middle and high school youth come to Whatcom County for week-long, faith-filled service-learning experiences.

Participants learn about issues affecting migrant farmworkers, human dignity, and why and how we as Catholics are called to serve. Through a week of solidarity, all are challenged to meet and serve Christ in every person with sacrificial love.



THE STAFF MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN:

Agape's summer staff is a team of passionate, faith-filled, and well-trained young adults who work together to coordinate and plan the entire program and operate all social services.

This includes the programming for parish/school groups: planning for the summer, facilitating sessions of prayer and reflection, and leading the service activities.

It also includes: operating all of the social services for the farmworker community, service to local farms, volunteer management, and aspects of program operations (ex: social media & donor relations).

Summer
2024



WEEK SNAPSHOT - WHAT THE STAFF DO & LEAD

Sunday: prep for week, groups arrive in afternoon, intro/community building, BBQ & activities at camp for farmworkers

Monday: Volunteer farm work, simulation dinner activity, activities at camps for farmworkers,

Tuesday: food bank prep, delivery of food boxes & activities for kids at farmworker housing

Wednesday (Food Bank Day): Set up & run the food bank that serves 600+ families weekly, Adoration

Thursday: Mass, advocacy work, concluding session, groups leave, admin tasks

Everyday: prayer, formation & reflection



STAFF IMPORTANT DATES - 2024

Spring (End of April & May): Weekly virtual training meetings (2hrs/wk)

*meeting dates will be scheduled after reviewing all staff members' spring schedules

May 26: Ski 2 Sea Parking Lot Fundraiser (fundraiser for food bank)

June 10-14: Staff Retreat & Preparation Week - First in-person week

Program Weeks (8): June 16 - August 9

August 12-16: Staff Retreat & Wrap-up Week



SUMMER - WEEKLY HOURS

Tentative Agape Staff Hours:

Sun: noon-9:30pm

Mon: 7am-9:30pm

Tues: 6am-10pm

Wed: 7am-9:30pm

Thurs: 8am-2pm

(Friday & Saturday off)



AGAPE SERVICE PROJECT - ASSISTANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR (Year 1)

The two Assistant Program Coordinators will work together, under the leadership and support of the Agape Director, Assistant Director(s), and Program Coordinator (Year 2). This position is intentionally a combination of employment and long-term service with unique formation and leadership experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work to accomplish the program mission and goals
- Create a spiritually-focused and service-centered environment and experience
- Build relationships while working with farmworker families, fellow staff, youth, and adult leaders
- Engage in self-reflection and growth in areas such as missionary discipleship, servant leadership, solidarity, and being an agent for social justice
- Plan and implement the service & formation experience for parish & school groups including reflections, prayers, activities, & service projects
- Organize and operate the social services of Agape including Agape Food Bank, mobile food distribution, summer activities for children
- Help with logistical operations (shop for supplies, create documents, manage social media, etc.)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Be grounded in the Catholic faith
- Have a desire to serve others
- Be able to work well with and lead a wide range of ages (children, teens, peers, adults)
- Have a passion for social justice and desire to build community with local farmworker families
- Have a demonstrated commitment to service through projects, experiences, etc.
- Have leadership experience through employment, clubs, teams, volunteering, etc.
- Be able to work well under pressure, use time efficiently, and activate as a self-starter
- Be flexible, teachable, and willing to grow
- Be able to lift and carry at least 25 pounds
- Bilingual Spanish-English is preferred

This position is for at least 2 summers, you must be able to meet this condition to be considered.

Location of Agape Operations: Church of the Assumption/Assumption Catholic School, Bellingham, WA (and greater Whatcom County) – work transportation throughout the county is provided

Reach out to Kelsey Harrington if summer housing in Bellingham may be an issue.

Agape Assistant Program Coordinators will receive compensation of \$7,500 for the entire summer (divided over 10 weeks: prep week, 8 program weeks, and wrap-up week). In addition, all meals throughout the program week are provided.

With the submission of a cover letter and resume, you confirm that you have read the expectations of the Agape Assistant Program Coordinator including the specific dates for meetings, trainings, activities, and summer programming, and the two-year commitment.

In a cover letter, please share why you feel called and qualified for this position. **Cover letter and resume** must be submitted no later than **3pm on April 4, 2024**. You will be contacted to set up an interview once your cover letter and resume are submitted.

Please email cover letter and resume to:

Kelsey Harrington (Director): kelsey.harrington@seattlearch.org