

# The Bonner Newsletter



## Greetings Bonner Alumni,

We are excited to launch a new format for our Bonner Alumni Newsletter. Each month we will highlight an undergraduate Bonner or Bonner site, to showcase the work our students are doing in the community. The newsletter will also include an Alumni spotlight to see where life has taken you post-grad. Check out the newsletter below!

B-LOVE Always 💜

## Bonner Undergraduate Spotlight:

### Unity House Bonners

This is the first time that Unity House has had more than two Bonners placed in the Development Office! Each Bonner has started their time at the nonprofit in the Development Office learning about how the organization runs from behind the scenes. Now that the team size has doubled, we have Bonners serving in other areas of Unity House as well while still spending some time in Development.

Kelsey is in her Senior year and serves as the Site Team Leader for Unity House's Bonner team. Her role there is to be the liaison between the Bonner Team, our Supervisor and the rest of the Development Team. She spends her time in Development applying for various small scale grants and assisting the volunteer coordinator with outreach and training of new volunteers. She is also focusing her Senior Capstone on Unity House's Community Meals Program!

Meghan is a Sophomore year as a Bonner. Spending most of her time in the Development office, where she aids in grant-writing and special event planning. Her role also includes day-to-day operations of nonprofit management, such as managing the donor database, writing thank you letters, and helping the Unity House site supervisor plan and facilitate various workshops.

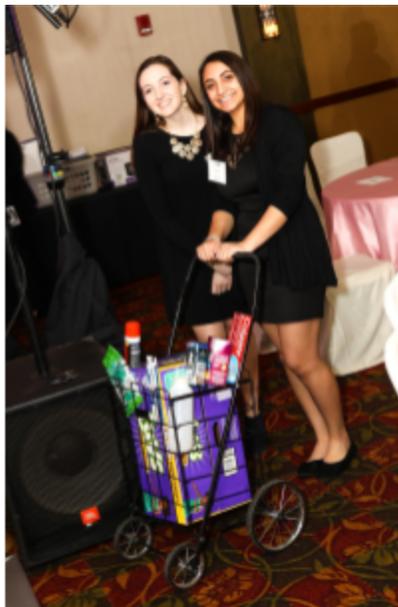
Abby and Alexis are in their Freshman year and both split their time equally between Development and Community Resources. While in Development they spend their time writing In-kind thank you letters, going through donation and grant forms, and assisting the planning of various events such as the Unity House Gala. When not in the Development Office, Alexis spends the rest of her time serving alongside the Food Justice Case Manager, overseeing the food pantry system as well as the Community Meals served daily and Abby can be found in the thrift store, ReStyle, sorting donations and helping with social media advertisements of the latest deals and arrivals.

#### Events

Unity House holds their annual Gala every year in February. They select honorees to celebrate and recognize the work they do in the community. This year there was a silent auction, live mission auction, raffles, a giving tree, the Dion Lewis experience corner (featuring last year's Super Bowl ring), music and a lot of dancing! The Bonners were there to help make the night flow without a single hiccup. They assisted with check-in, the raffles, the live mission auction, and then the close of the silent auction.



Abby, Alexis, Meghan and Kelsey



## Bonner Alumni Spotlight:



# Can't Escape ACE!

## *From the Center for Academic Community Engagement to The Alliance for Catholic Education Program*

When Felicia Comuniello ('17) earned her B.A in Sociology and Certificate in Community Development last spring, she knew that she wanted to further her learning in graduate school and also find an opportunity to serve through education. The Center for Academic Community Engagement (ACE) provided her with multiple opportunities to serve, which prompted her discernment to join the ACE Teaching Fellows Program at the University of Notre Dame.

During her time at Siena College, Felicia served three years as a Program Associate for the Bonner Service Leader Program, mentoring and providing a level of support to underclassmen throughout their academic years. Felicia also served as a Site Team Leader at Albany Leadership Charter High School for all girls, empowering and aiding inner-city students through the college process. Through this work, Felicia began to further understand her vocation as an educator. "I never noticed the many barriers and obstacles at-risk students have to overcome in order to be successful in the American Education system; factors that these students don't have any control of!" Through Global Service Internship (GSI), Felicia spent six weeks teaching high school and college-level English at the University of Carmen Pampa in Bolivia. Felicia spent many summers on campus, interning at the Center for Academic Community Engagement, where she led several projects on and off campus, all while enhancing her professional development. Felicia ended her undergraduate career writing a thesis on *Obligatory vs. Non-Obligatory Volunteerism for College Students: Relationships Between Volunteerism and the Nonprofit Sector*.

Following her time at Siena, Felicia reflected on her many experiences with students and discerned her call towards teaching. Felicia is now studying for her Master's in Education as an ACE Teaching Fellow at the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame's ACE Teaching Fellows program forms talented, faith-filled college graduates from all academic majors to help transform Catholic schools and revitalize marginalized communities. During her two-year fellowship, Felicia serves as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Saint Patrick Academy in Sacramento, California. During this two-year fellowship, Felicia spends her summers taking her graduate courses at Notre Dame. During the school year, she works to serve her 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Saint Patrick Academy and lives in an intentional Christian community with other ACE teachers.

As an ACE Teacher, Felicia draws from her experiences at Siena in order to better serve the community and students in Sacramento. "Siena made me fall in love with education and I hope to inspire younger generations that education is a powerful tool to change the world." Inspired by the community at Siena and her time in the classroom, Felicia hopes to use her Masters in Education to serve as an administrator in higher education.

To learn more about ACE Teaching Fellows visit <https://ace.nd.edu/teach/>



# Highlights January and February 2018:

## 5TH ANNUAL MLK DAY

In January, the Bonner Service Leaders participated in the 5th annual MLK Day of Service. Below are some photos from a successful day of service in the community.



## February Site Visits:

Check out what some of our Bonner Service Leaders are doing:

Emma Henderschedt at the District Attorney's Office ( Photos 1-2)

Amelia Butler and Andrew Tessman at Capital Roots (Photos 3-6)

