



# FALL 2018 Newsletter

## Program Director Update: Melina Sergent



Agape is always changing and growing as each season throughout the year looks different. Agape in the “off-season” involves planning in various ways for the following summer. Fall begins with debriefs between all the organizations with which we work, followed by group registration for the next summer. This fall I had the incredible honor of sharing Agape at the Youth Ministry Fall Gathering. There we got sign ups from parishes new to Agape, and we are so excited to welcome them into our program for the first time. I also received the opportunity to represent Agape in an intercommunity dialogue about

hunger relief for migrant farm workers in Whatcom County. We are excited to continue this conversation throughout the year and beyond to work together to improve our hunger relief efforts for farm workers in our region.

Agape has such an incredible potential to reach out and serve more families and youth, which is why we are seeking to grow our program. Some of our goals are to work with local food banks to serve 20-40% more farm worker families at our food bank this coming summer; work with local school districts to bring more educational opportunities to the youth at the migrant camps; and be more intentional in serving the migrant farm worker community by hiring a migrant community liaison within the next two summers. In addition we recognize the life-long impact our program has on the global awareness and faith life of youth in the greater Seattle Archdiocese. Therefore in the next five years we intend on opening a second Agape in the county. Our vision is to share this “agape” love with as many people as possible in order to make a tangible difference in our community and bring Christ to the whole world. In order to make our vision a reality, we are first starting with making the head Director position full-time for the first time ever. To do so, this Fall I have been meeting with supporters all across western Washington (and beyond) to do development work for Agape.

I never envisioned myself doing development work, but this process has been an incredible eye-opening journey that is an opportunity I am so grateful to have had. I have met the most wonderful and genuine people; people who are now (or always have been) on this journey of love and growth with us. God has pushed me in ways I never knew I needed. I now actively seek an hour a day with Him. I have been forced to confront and break down lies hiding in the depths of my heart. I have grown more than I could have expected. My introvert self is now excited to meet new people and invite them into this ministry with us. I know that God is making me into the leader and person that is needed for this program and my own life. For this, I am so thankful.

I am excited to announce my position will be officially full-time in January! We are at about 70% of our support raising goal, and I know it will be reached very soon. Thank you so much to everyone on our support and prayer teams. Our program, community, and world are changing for the better because of you. If you know anyone who would like to support or be involved in Agape, please have them contact me at [agape@wwunewman.com](mailto:agape@wwunewman.com). Peace in Christ and Merry Christmas,  
—Melina Sergent

## Featured Parish: St. Louise Bellevue

### Youth Summer Reflections

This was my second year doing the Agape Service Project. My favorite part of the trek was playing with the children at the migrant camp and the most impactful part was when we worked on the farm. I enjoyed serving others and putting others before myself.

—Helene Oen, Lynden Trekker

My Agape Service Project experience was totally amazing! I had so much fun and I made so many new friends. My favorite part was going to the camp every day and playing with the kids because I got to get to know them and play tons of fun games with them. One of the parts of the trek that impacted me the most was Migrant Immersion Day. Having to wake up at 5 in the morning and then having to go pick blueberries and weed for hours showed me how much work migrant farm workers have to do every day. It was also really impactful to see how little migrant farm workers are paid, and having to buy dinner with how much money we would have earned that day.

—Sophia, Lynden Trekker



## Featured Sponsor: Christine Kerby



Agape has impacted my life through the opportunities it offers for youth and adult leaders throughout the Seattle Archdiocese. I personally have had the opportunity to participate as an adult leader in the summer of 2016. It was everything I had hoped and more. I witnessed the youth of the community encounter Christ and be humbled by their experiences, forming them into compassionate informed young adults.

Being an active student at the WWU Catholic Newman Center, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the hard work and dedication of the student directors. Year after year my friends have poured their hearts and souls into running Agape for the summer. Each answering their call to service by working 65+ hours a week on a small stipend. It is beautiful to see motivated young Catholics helping those that participate in Agape encounter Christ, while growing in their own faith. Agape is a unique program that I desire to see continued for decades to come.

—Christine, Sponsor