



May 8, 2020

Dear Agape Youth and Families,

With saddened hearts, we inform you that we have decided to cancel the youth groups for Agape Service Project for summer, 2020. This was such a difficult decision for us, but it came down to three major aspects: the safety and health of the youth and chaperones, the safety and health of the farmworker families, and a need to redirect our time, effort, and staffing to the social services for our farmworker families in the midst of this health crisis.

We are sad that we will not be able to serve and grow in community with you this summer; we will miss your energy, your joy, and your heart for service! But, we look forward to future summers when we can be together to serve Christ in our farmworker brothers and sisters.

Our staff will still be serving the families and children in many ways this summer and are creating opportunities for you to still engage and serve, even if it is from home.

Some of the social services we will still be providing include:

- **Agape Food Bank** – our weekly food bank will still be operating with some modifications. We will also be collaborating with Bellingham Food Bank to deliver food on a weekly basis to the two largest agricultural housing camps (including Sunrise, the camp Agape has served every summer).
- **Educational & Recreational Activities to the Children of Farmworkers** – we are still developing what this will look like, especially with safety guidelines, but we know even a modified style of service is necessary for the well-being of the kids throughout the summer
- **Farm Support** – we will continue to volunteer with local, organic farms that uphold the dignity and rights of their workers
- **College Scholarships** – if funds allow, we hope to continue the Agape College Scholarship and award 4 scholarships to graduating seniors of farmworker families

How you and your family can still be involved:

- **Financial Contributions** – we need financial support to help us provide our services throughout the summer; please consider donating at:
 - donate.seattlearchdiocese.org/agape-gift
- **Agape Swag** – purchases of Agape sweatshirts and t-shirts support the work of Agape; online ordering information coming soon
- **Agape Wish List** – purchase needed items for our food bank, activities for kids, and school supplies (this will be updated throughout the summer as need arises);
 - [Amazon Wish List](#)
- **Backpack and School Supply Drive** – we are hoping to still provide new backpacks and school supplies at our final food bank of the summer; in the coming months we will provide further information about what is needed and how to donate
- **Volunteer In Person** – there may be possibility for family units and individuals to volunteer in person once logistics are finalized in the next month; we will publish information on our website and social media and through parish youth ministers

Stay Connected:

Follow us on these platforms to get summer updates, pray with our staff, and learn about ways you can serve:

- Website: <https://wwunewman.com/agape> (the 'Get Involved' page will be updated regularly)
- [YouTube Vlog](#) – Throughout the summer staff will share updates, reflections, and service challenges.
- [Facebook](#): facebook.com/agapeserviceproject
- [Instagram](#): @agape.service.project

We are so grateful you are part of the Agape Service Project family. Even though you can't serve with us this summer, we encourage you to find ways to serve your local community and your family. Now, more than ever, Christ needs us to be His hands and feet, and His beacons of hope!

Please keep the Agape Service Project and the families we serve in your prayers. As [Bishop Tyson from Yakima shared in this interview](#), the needs of these families are going to be extremely high this summer.

We are holding you and your families in our prayers,

Kelsey, Ellen, Juan, Kendra, Justin, Ryan
2020 Agape Staff

Kelsey Harrington – Director, Agape Service Project
kelsey.harrington@seattlearch.org