

February 25, 2009

Dear Applicant:

The Service for Social Action Center is looking for up to eight juniors or seniors (some sophomores may be considered) to live in the Mother Jones House next year. This is much more than another housing option. It is an important and unique living and service experience that may very well change how you view service, your future career, and your faith. The Mother Jones House experience, rooted in solidarity with the East Wheeling community, was created by a partnership between WJU and Laughlin Memorial Chapel. The Mother Jones House is located in the most ethnically diverse and economically challenged neighborhood in Wheeling. Laughlin Memorial Chapel is where a majority of the service hours are performed. Residents of the house live among or nearby the families and children they meet at LMC's after school programs (K-12), at the Catholic Neighborhood Center food programs, the Lincoln Center for incarcerated youths, the Wheeling Health Right clinic, and other service sites. If possible, we ask you to avoid scheduling elective courses or work hours in the late afternoon/early evening hours Monday – Thursday in order to make fulfilling these requirements easier. In this year-long program, each student in the house commits to participate in:

- 10 hours of service in East Wheeling each week;
- a weekly “community night” dinner for neighbors, friends, faculty, staff, and guests;
- a prayer session with house members each week;
- a weekly house meeting; and
- a service-learning course, Community Service in American Society.

The goal of the Mother Jones House program is to provide students meaningful contact with people from the neighborhood, university, and surrounding communities. While expanding the capacity of community partner agencies, students both experience the personal side of poverty and critically examine the economic, political and social forces that perpetuate it. The 300 hours of service each House member performs also makes most students eligible for a \$1000 AmeriCorps Education Award grant at the end of the academic year. This grant can be used toward future enrollment or to repay some educational loans. This AmeriCorps grant comes to us through the Bonner Leaders Program, a partnership with the Bonner Foundation and students from 75 institutions across the country. The Bonner Foundation also offers service and leadership training opportunities for which Mother Jones House students are eligible.

***The cost to participate in the Mother Jones House for the 2009-2010 academic year is \$1800 per semester.*** This includes housing and some meals, though most students choose to purchase a commuter meal plan. The Mother Jones House is considered university housing for the purposes of fulfilling the Wheeling Jesuit scholarship requirement to live on campus.

If you're interested in learning more about the Mother Jones House, we urge you to visit for dinner, contact us or talk with some of the current residents. Nichole Lewis, the House mentor, can help arrange this. You can reach her at the House (233-2914), by cell (330-606-5122), or by e-mail ([nlewis@wju.edu](mailto:nlewis@wju.edu)). You can also contact me at 234-8728 or at [emcdonald@wju.edu](mailto:emcdonald@wju.edu).

Each applicant must complete the attached Application and return it to Erin McDonald in the Service for Social Action Center –SSAC (112C ASC) by 4 p.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Once your application is submitted you will be contacted for a personal interview. You will receive notification of the decision concerning your application before campus housing selections.

**Wheeling Jesuit University**  
**MOTHER JONES HOUSE**

**PARTICIPANT APPLICATION  
2009-2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus BOX #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address:

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Anticipated Graduation Date:            Fall            Spring            Year \_\_\_\_\_

Major (and minor): \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_            GPA in Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated course load for Fall 2009: \_\_\_\_\_ credits    Spring 2010: \_\_\_\_\_ credits

Please list current involvement in campus leadership, and/or other campus-based activities. Also provide a history of the community service in which you have participated on and off campus over the last four years.

All Mother Jones House students must commit to residing in the House for the full academic year. Those anticipating clinical, student teaching or internship programs that require residence outside of Wheeling during the 2009-2010 academic schedule are not eligible for house membership. Please list

any anticipated academic commitments for the 2009-2010 academic year that could interfere with full participation in House commitments (e.g., Wheeling area student teaching, , internships, course overload):

Please list any anticipated co-curricular and/or extra curricular activities for the 2009-2010 academic year (e.g., work, sports, leadership positions, student organizations...):

**REFERENCES:**

*(Please provide three recommendations from these three individuals. Recommendations are attached)*

- (1) Personal (character, maturity, etc.):
- (2) Professional (employer or community service site supervisor):
- (3) Academic (WJU professor, advisor, mentor):

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Please answer the following questions in one essay (no more than 3 page).

What is your motivation for applying to participate in the MJH? What past experiences have prepared you to live in the MJH? What personal qualities do you think you will contribute to the house community (your fellow students in residence) and the neighborhood community? What do you hope to gain from this experience?

***I grant permission for the selection committee to verify my academic record, judicial record and information about my status at the university with the Academic Affairs and Student Development offices.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO the SERVICE FOR SOCIAL ACTION CENTER, 112C ACKER  
SCIENCE CENTER  
By Friday MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

