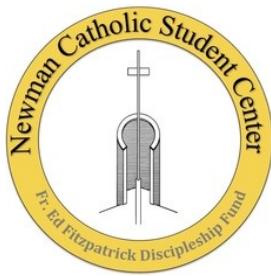


## Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship — 2018 Awardees



Newman Center alumni who carry on our mission of being a disciple for the Church and for the world through involvement in a Catholic parish or non-profit are annually eligible for the Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship Fund Award. Fr. Ed, the Newman Center's director from 1981-2015, envisioned an endowed fund, which on a yearly basis, would provide a way to recognize the discipleship of Newman Center alums. Established in 2015, the Fund makes a \$500 financial award gift to the respective Catholic parish or community non-profit in which recipients are actively involved. The 2018 recipients and receiving non-profits:



**Christina DalPorto '11 — St. Cletus Religious Education Program, LaGrange, IL** — Christina, an optometrist by profession, has been a volunteer co-teacher in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom for St. Cletus Religious Education program for a few years.



**Isaac Doucette '12 — John Paul II Medical Research Institute, Iowa City, IA** — Isaac, an Iowa City native, has been involved with CEW retreats, parish events at St. Mary's in Iowa City, Knights of Columbus, and 40 Days for Life Vigil. Isaac is now a seminarian at Mundelein for the Davenport Diocese. He says: "My faith journey has been busy, but has just begun thanks to my time at the Newman Center."



**Ryan D. Gerling '08 — Divine Mercy Parish, West Burlington, IA** — Ryan has served on regional council and pastoral council, building and grounds committee, finance council, communication committee, the parish assessment and renewal program, co-chair for Christmas Eve Mass coordination, and administration commission for Sts. John & Paul, the newly formed Divine Mercy Parish, or the Des Moines county parishes. Ryan is also an active Rotarian in Burlington.



**Adam Haluska '07 — St. Mary's Church, Solon, IA** — Adam lives in Solon and is currently president of the St. Mary's Parish Council. He is active with their Homebound Communion, is a lector and Eucharistic Minister, has spoken at men's retreats at the parish, has been a confirmation sponsor and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Adam also was a guest speaker at Newman Center Gala 2018.



**Leslie Klipsch '01 — Empower Tanzania, Inc.** — Leslie lives in Davenport, IA and has helped spearhead a grassroots effort that has raised over half a million dollars for clean water throughout the world. She travels to Tanzania often to learn the stories of women and children in need of assistance in healthcare, education, or economic empowerment. She then shares stories throughout the work via multiple outlets, including her book about the intersection between motherhood, faith, and social justice, *Mama Bear's Manifesto: A Moms' Group Guide to Changing the World*.



**Taylor Majher '17 — Peace Corps Guatemala** — Taylor is from Streator, IL. In May 2018, Taylor begins as a Rural Extension Agent for the Peace Corps in the Highlands of Guatemala for two years. She will be working with local farmers and growers to improve their current systems by transferring knowledge from them to community members about agricultural methods, how to combat chronic malnutrition, and ways to maintain healthy households.



**John '03, '07 and Brooke '03 Mickelson—St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, West Des Moines, IA**  
Both Brooke and John are extremely involved in their parish as lector, Eucharistic Minister, special needs ministry, spiritual leaders in Christ Renews His Parish, founders of A Catholic Family Movement Group, and mass greeters. John is a member of the Knights of Columbus and volunteers for Blue Knights (KOC group for boys ages 3-7). Both are also active volunteers at their sons' Catholic school. Brooke was a part of the team which founded the Iowa Wave Shirt, raising more than \$440,000 in 2017 for the UI Stead Family Iowa Children's Hospital.



**Adam Murray '12 — St. Thomas More Newman Center, Mankato, MN** — Adam currently lives in Cedar Rapids, IA. As the previous Director of Development for St. Thomas More Newman Center in Mankato, MN, Adam raised funds for a new building (business offices, gathering spaces and a 250-seat chapel) while also overseeing other fundraising needs for the center. He continues to support it financially and helps the current director of development as needed.



**Erin (Hagen) Schwarz '11 — Inspired Youth Tutoring, Chicago, IL** — Erin lives in Mount Prospect, IL and teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade at a public school in Wilmette, IL. She serves as a volunteer teacher sponsor for Inspired Youth Tutoring which connects volunteer tutors with students in preschool through high school living in underserved communities in Chicago. Erin and some of her 8<sup>th</sup> grade students go into Chicago every other Saturday to spend two hours working with students-in-need.



**Joe Welter '04 — Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, MD** — Joe lives in Kalona, IA and helped coordinate and promote the CRS rice bowl campaigns at St. Mary's, Newman Center and Regina. He and his wife, Katie, are active parent volunteers at Regina Catholic Education Center, active in the RCIA program, are marriage prep coordinators at Newman Center and, together, are living the diaconate life for the Diocese of Davenport. As a deacon, Joe is assigned to the Newman Center, St. Mary's in Iowa City and the Diocesan Office of Social Justice.



**Karen Werner '93 — Ronald McDonald House and Four Oaks, Iowa City, IA** — Karen lives in Tiffin, IA. She worked at Youth Homes/Four Oaks for almost 24 years as youth counselor and program coordinator. She worked with teenage girls, supported children ages 5-12 with behavioral disorders and worked with families coping with founded child abuse. She currently works at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois as the house manager. Karen has just completed the licensing process to become a foster parent.