

2016 Young Alumna Serviam Award Winner: Amy Patterson '09

Since graduating from Ursuline Academy, Amy Patterson '09 has focused her time and studies on bettering the lives of underprivileged, and often abused, children and young adults.

While studying for her bachelor's degree at Missouri State University, she spent her time outside of school working for [Boys and Girls Town](#) (now Great Circle) as a Youth Care Specialist and an Intern. Here she worked in the residential facility with young men, as well as the emergency shelter. She acted as a role model, caretaker, and friend to children who were orphaned, neglected, and abused. Her devotion and willingness to go above and beyond for these children not only helped them behaviorally, but also helped to develop them as individuals to ensure a brighter future and better life once they left her facility. She helped children who had experienced things no one should ever experience and, through her guidance and persistence, she helped give these kids a future that they certainly wouldn't have had prior to meeting her.

After graduating from Missouri State University, Amy further pursued her goals of bettering lives of underprivileged children at a facility in Chicago, Illinois. [Boys Hope Girls Hope](#) is a residential program that prepares high school students the opportunity to thrive in college, their career, and in life. The program where Amy works is a group home setting that selects young men based on their promising academics and each individual need (many of the young men are from single-parent or low-income households). Amy lives on-site and is available to these young men whenever needed. She provides them with scholastic help and behavioral expectations, and above all acts as a role model to help these young men reach their full potential.

Most recently, as part of her work towards a master's degree in social work from Loyola University, Amy traveled to Guatemala as an intern with [Esperanza Juvenil](#). This charity provides education for young Guatemalans whose families and communities cannot provide them with the opportunity to progress in school or give them a healthy development. She spent her summer working with these children to help them develop the skills, education, and motivation to become productive members of their community and work towards positive changes.

Aside from all of the work she does for the youth of the world, Amy serves as a leader for all of her friends and family--reminding all of us that each life is important, and even the work of a single individual can change the world for the better. She encourages everyone she knows to strive to reach their fullest potential, and to have a positive impact on everyone they come in contact with. She continues to live the Ursuline motto to the fullest.

Nominated by Julie Patterson Washnock '07