



JVC International Program

Community House Name

Descriptions

It has been a tradition that each JV community has a house/casa name. The houses are typically named after a person from each local community who has been influential in the local culture(s) and/or who has raised awareness around the social justice issues relevant to shaping that locale. These descriptions along with photos and contact information for each JV community (in the U.S. and abroad) will be published in the 2016-17 JVC Global Directory.

The hope is that the JV community names will be one way to draw JVs into an exploration of the local cultural context where they will be living, to learn how the name is significant from the perspective of their hosts, and to carry that meaning as a fire burning for justice wherever they go beyond their 2-3 years of service in that locale.

PERU – Andahuaylillas

Name: Casa Antonio Ruiz de Montoya

Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, SJ embodied the idea of being advocates for local communities. A Peruvian missionary of 17th century South America, Montoya began his work with the indigenous communities of Paraguay. He served as Jesuit Superior of the missions of the Reductions of Guairá and helped lead nearly 15,000 Guaraní people out of harm's way from the slave raiders of Sao Paolo. As he advocated for the protection of the Guaraní, Montoya evangelized through the blending of the Guaraní culture and the European culture. The Jesuits, through the work of Montoya, made impressive attempts to teach the Guaraní through their own language. Today, the Jesuit Volunteers in Andahuaylillas receive inspiration from Montoya, as they witness the delicate blend of local and European cultures of faith, and appreciate the effort the Jesuits put forth to relate the Gospel through these cultures.

CHILE – Santiago

Name: Casa Raúl Silva Henríquez

Raúl Silva Henríquez is a Chilean Cardinal, most well-known for his defense of human rights' during the country's dictatorship, which lasted from 1973 until 1990. He founded the Vicariate of Solidarity within the Church, as a way to advocate for the needs of the poor and social justice issues. His outspoken leadership in the defense of human rights' made the Catholic Church a strong opponent of General Pinochet's military regime. He was named Archbishop at the beginning of the military dictatorship, which was one of the most turbulent times for Catholics across the country. Due to doctrinal differences between him and Juan Paul II, he resigned from his role as archbishop in 1983. After going to visit political prisoner's detained at the national soccer stadium, he decided to create the Pro Peace Committee, which accompanied and advocated for citizens detained by Pinochet. He has received many prizes for his defense of human rights, the most notable of which is his 1971 Human Rights Prize from the United Nations. He died in 1999 of a heart attack. The country declared a national state of mourning for five straight days after his death and buried his ashes in the Cathedral of Santiago.

PERU – Tacna

Name: Casa Fred Green

The Tacna community is named after and largely inspired by Fred Green, SJ, the Jesuit who first invited Jesuit Volunteers to live and work among the people of Tacna, Peru. He has worked among the people of Tacna, Peru for over 50 years, founding an all-boys Jesuit high school, Colegio Cristo Rey, and several years later founding a co-ed primary and secondary school for families of lower-incomes, Colegio Miguel Pro. Both schools are dedicated to education, service, and faith. Fr. Fred has welcomed JVs for over 20 years to Peru and each community is inspired by his humble dedication to the people, his good heart, and his amazing life dedicated to service in faith and justice. He is deeply loved by all those in Tacna, and all those who have come and gone from Tacna.

MICRONESIA – Chuuk, Xavier

Name: Mau Piailug House

Mau. Piailug (pronounced pee-EYE-loog), a native of the Caroline Islands, was one of the last true navigators of Micronesia. Concerned that the practice of navigation would disappear as his people became acculturated to Western values, he sought to preserve navigational traditions for future generations by sharing his knowledge with the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), inspiring traditional canoe voyages and cultural exchanges throughout Micronesia and Polynesia. Mau was respectfully known as a grandmaster navigator, and he was called "Papa Mau" by his friends with great reverence and affection. Mau's grandchildren were students at Xavier High School. Inspired by Mau's life-long commitment to preserving Micronesian customs, Xavier's mascot is the Navigator, and its focus is not only providing an excellent education for its students, but also opportunities for students to embrace and celebrate their heritages and cultural practices.

FEDERATES STATES OF MICRONESIA – Pohnpei

Name: Paulino Cantero House

Paulino Cantero, SJ was the first Micronesian Jesuit and was from the island of Pohnpei. Paulino departed Pohnpei at the age of 12 to study in Manila in 1923. By the time he returned to Pohnpei as a Jesuit in 1948, he was more fluent in Spanish, Latin, and English than in his own native tongue. Fr. Cantero's homecoming was cause for an island-wide celebration, for now Pohnpei had its own priest. To ensure that this gift was not lost on other young Micronesians considering a vocation, Fr. Cantero was sent around to the other island groups in the mission during subsequent years. Much of the new wave of interest in religious vocations could be attributed to the return of Fr. Paulino Cantero to Pohnpei. Fr. Cantero helped with the translation of the Bible into Pohnpeian and was influential in contextualizing the Catholic Church on Pohnpei. Fr. Dave Andrus, SJ, who lives in community with Fr. Cantero for several years, has gifted the JVC community in Pohnpei with Fr. Cantero's walking cane.

TANZANIA – Dar Es Salaam

Name: Wangari Maathai House

Wangari Maathai was a Kenyan environmental and political activist and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 1986, she was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, and in 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace." The Nobel Committee said of Maathai in a statement: "Maathai stood up courageously against the former oppressive regime in Kenya. Her unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression—nationally and internationally. She has served as inspiration for many in the fight for democratic rights and has especially encouraged women to better their situation."

TANZANIA – Dodoma

Name: Nyerere House

One of Africa's most respected figures and Tanzania's first president, Julius Nyerere was a politician of principle and intelligence, and also a Catholic. Known as Mwalimu or "teacher" he had a vision of education that was rich with possibility. Nyerere's integrity, ability as a political orator and organizer, and readiness to work with different groupings was a significant factor in independence being achieved without bloodshed.

BELIZE – Punta Gorda

Name: Julian Cho House

Julian Cho was a Belizean Mopan Maya, born in the village of San Jose in the Toledo District of Belize, the same district as Punta Gorda town. He attended St. Peter Claver School in Punta Gorda and St. John's College in Belize City, both of which have had or currently host Jesuit Volunteers. After graduating from Saint Louis University in the U.S., Cho moved back to Belize where he worked as a teacher and was an active member of the Toledo Maya Cultural Council (TMCC), an organization that advocated for the rights of indigenous people in the Toledo District. Cho was a passionate voice for justice and tireless activist for environmental protection—especially deforestation in Mayan territories—and indigenous rights. Cho died tragically in December of 1998, but his legacy remains strong in Belize today.

BELIZE – Belize City

Name: Beatrice Cayetano House

Michaela Beatrice Cayetano was better known as Mrs. Caye or Bea. Her hands gave so much to the community-- to strangers and to people who were homeless and sick. Every Saturday she would go around the neighborhood and give food to people who were economically poor, using her own money, and she also prayed for them. She started this routine on her own and then asked others to join her, including the JVs serving in Belize City. She also held praise and worship gatherings on Fridays, where she would invite people in the Martin's community to join. Mrs. Caye had a kind and thoughtful spirit, with a gentle caring touch, and as she walked about the neighborhood she would greet people and talk to them about God.

NICARAGUA – Managua

Name: Casa La Luz

JVC's community house in Managua is not named after a person, but rather, after a local community. Casa La Luz embodies the vivacious, familial barrio (named barrio La Luz) that has welcomed JVC since 1998, and this seems fitting given the strong value of community which permeates Nicaraguan culture. The name's English translation, "Light House," reflects the hope, energy and hospitality JVs receive each day and seek to spread in the neighborhood. JVs hope that there is always a ray of light bursting forth from their home, and the name Casa La Luz symbolizes this desire.