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PERSISTENCE IN CRUMPLING CLAY - LAUREN PUGH, NEWCASTLE

Hello everyone, I want to start off by introducing myself. I am Lauren from McHenry, Illinois, and I am living in Newcastle England for 1 year to work in Kids Kabin teaching things such as art, woodwork, pottery, drama, and cooking to kids. I'm going to be honest, this wasn't easy to write, because it's hard to express what something feels like to those who haven't experienced it. Telling a story, painting a picture for those who haven't had your experiences. So, in this writing I am going to do my best to illustrate what my experience in Newcastle and Kids Kabin has been.

"YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PERFECT; YOU JUST NEED TO SHOW UP AND DO THE BEST JOB YOU CAN DO."

Since arriving at Newcastle just a mere 11 weeks ago I have already grown so much in so many aspects of my life. When I first got to Kids Kabin, I was so determined to prove myself and take on as many things as possible. I eventually through trusting God and my teammates at Kids Kabin realized that I didn't have anything to prove but rather I had something to learn. You do not have to be perfect; you just need to show up and do the best job you can do. Through learning this, I started focusing more on building relationships with the kids and being more confident in my role on the team.

It reminds me of my journey with pottery. It can be very frustrating when you are pushing the clay to build upward but it doesn't want to listen, so you push it harder and the clay crumples. It isn't the clay's fault that it crumpled it was just pushed past its limit. We all have limits and when we're pushed past them, we ourselves can crumple. But crumpling isn't bad in itself. Crumpling is, in fact, one of the most important parts of the process. Without pushing the clay, we wouldn't know it's limit and without knowing its limit we wouldn't know it's full abilities.



"CRUMPLING IS, IN FACT, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE PROCESS."



We are the clay. Becoming an AMA is pushing me to find my limits and maybe go beyond them.

Gratitude

Another wonderful aspect that has brought its own set of challenges and benefits is living in a community of volunteers, in which we're fortunate enough to have people from four continents, we love sharing parts of our cultures with each other. We share dishes during our community meals, holiday traditions, movies, and stories. Living with people from different cultures has challenged my idea of how to live and gave me an insight into how vast one can spend their life and how diverse each person can be.

While preparing for my adventure here I was fully prepared to live this year with few friends and to grow on my own, but I have not only made so many amazing friends but found a community here that looks after each other and loves each other like a family. I can not express the gratitude I feel for the experiences and kindness that has been shown to me this far and hope that I was able to thoroughly express the beauty that has been my experience in Newcastle so far.

- Joseph Luca
- Paul Mahon
- Bernadette Manning
- Lourdes Martinez
- Maureen & Greg Maskarinec
- Ann McCarthy
- Gerald McCarthy
- Francis & Diane McGuire
- Joan McIlvaine
- Joseph & Emily McLaughlin
- Fr. Carlos Melocoton
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- Christine Smith
- Dan Smith
- David Szelest
- Thuvan & Son Tran
- Marie Valdes
- Margaret Vance
- Patti & Paul Verderese
- J. Robert & Mary Wagner
- Catherine & Mark Woodbrooks
- Gwendolyn Yu
- Margaret & Alex Yu

*our deepest
Gratitude*

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION DAYS IN LONDON



**LAUREN ON RIGHT, PICTURED WITH HER
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAILING FROM THE
PHILIPPINES, RUSSIA, MEXICO AND BRAZIL!**

AMA MILESTONES



*Baby Natalie May Violet Miskulin was born to Mama Stephanie Glass (Worcester 2008-09) and Papa Jacob Miskulin on December 15, 2021. Welcome to the family, Baby #4!!

*Tiebreaker baby Eileanora was born to AMA alum Meghan Zack-Cramer on January 21st. Tiebreaker? Yes! Girls rule! Big Sister Abigeal and baby Eileanora = two girls vs. Big Brother Zack = one boy. Congratulations, Cramer family!

*Maggie McCormick McCabe (Chaparral 2005-06) and her family of Papa Dan and siblings Sam, Murphy and Evie welcomed little Josie Louise on July 23rd. Welcome to the AMA family, Josie!



-Congratulations to Kate Stone (L'Arche Cork, 2011-12) who married Fernando, the love of her life, last May. Our friendship and prayer accompany you as you begin your life together.

-Liz Haggerty (Kids Kabin, 2016-17) got engaged to Tom Martin last October. Congratulations and God bless you!

-All good wishes to Caitlin Goodhile (Pendower 2014-15) on her marriage this Fall. God bless your life together!

+Sr. April Hoffman professed her perpetual vows as a Salesian Sister in August. April was an AMA in Ecuador, 2009-10. God bless you always!

+Conner Morgan (Worcester, 2019-2021) continues with his seminary formation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Worcester. The Worcester Sisters are always happy to welcome him back to The Woo whenever he's on vacation. We pray for you, Conner!

*Hearty congratulations to Elizabeth Koroleski (Worcester 2013-14) who graduated last May with – not just one – but TWO Master's degrees: one in Library and Information Science and another in Public History. Way to go, Elizabeth! Proud of you!

*Congratulations to Kristin Prinn (Chaparral, 2003-04) who is the Founder and Executive Director of LUCY Outreach (Lifting Up Camden Youth). Last October their dream was realized: their Youth Center opened its doors – a 10,000 square foot state of the art space for Camden city and county youth ages 7 – 19. Keep the dream going, LUCY. Congratulations to Kristin and all her staff!

*Congratulations are in order for Sindy Collazo (Worcester, 1998-2000) on her new job as the Associate Director of Hispanic Ministries for the Office of Ignatian Spirituality (a ministry of the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus). We wish you a fruitful and fulfilling ministry, dear Sindy!

-First AMA ever in Chaparral Eva Castilla (2003) and hubby Eduardo Hope visited with the Chaparral Sisters in August on their farewell tour of the USA before heading off to begin life in Eva's native country of Spain. Adios, good friends! God bless your new beginnings. Stay in touch!

