

Introduction/ Background Information

The Special Interest Group, AGAPE, was formed on the basis that we have found that the other individuals in this group challenge and encourage us to work toward our full potential. During our time as first-year students we have formed bonds and supported each other in both individual and communal efforts. We find that the people we chose to surround ourselves with have an immense effect on our activities, actions, and lifestyles. We have become the most productive and most inclined to make positive decisions when we, as a group, interacted. Therefore to continue this tradition of constructively utilizing the college experience we would like to stay closely connected and continue to do things together.

Our group statement that defines our identity and purpose is as follows:

We are a group of students who strive to improve and grow through our college experience. In our time at Augsburg we will develop as a tight-knit and supportive community. We will encourage each other spiritually hold others in our group accountable for their goals and actions. AGAPE is accepting of differences in values, morals, and religious beliefs. Sexual orientation, race, and gender will not be discriminated against in our organization.

The theme of our house is AGAPE which in Greek simply means love, especially love that is spiritual and selfless in nature. Our house will find creative ways of sharing love which will benefit individuals, our campus, our community, and our world. We will grow through this love and as it transforms us.

This house will benefit us as individuals by having the opportunity to work together for a common cause. We believe that working together we will accomplish more in an efficient and timely manner. With other house members pushing us to succeed and complete our goals we will be more inclined to do so. AGAPE will provide yet another avenue to view, experience, and establish spiritual connections. The group will challenge, question, and learn from each other as well as support and accept differences. AGAPE will serve as a supportive living environment for all the individuals. Holidays and birthdays will also be celebrated in order to form community bonds. We believe that the study groups and goals will aid us academically and the bible studies will aid us spiritually and with personal growth. There will be many benefits to being part of AGAPE for the individuals involved.

This individual advantage will affect the campus through increased involvement. All of our activities will be filled with the spirit of welcome. Hopefully this attitude will encourage and increase involvement in campus-based activities. We will set requirements for each of the members to participate in certain campus activities so as they will graduate with a full and well-rounded experience. Each member will have been involved in or seen performing arts, sporting events, and attending multiple convocations / guest speakers. We will also do our best to follow the rules and regulations that are set by the college. This in turn giving the college a reputation for being a safe and healthy environment for prospective students. Our activities both on and off campus will be completed in a manner that will reflect positively on Augsburg College. Our group will also work with members of Augsburg staff and

faculty on some projects therefore building a foundation and forming a tie with the school and combined resources. AGAPE will in these ways be beneficial to the college and campus as well.

The community will also benefit from this special interest group on campus. We have set goals and options to be more involved in the community as well. We are planning to increase awareness about several world issues and try aid them. For example, to learn more about world hunger a number of us will be promoting and participating in the 30 Hour Famine. This is an activity through World Vision in which participants go without food for 30 Hours in order to better understand what starving children experience. There are sponsors for each participant and which helps to raise money for hungry children around the world. Also we plan to collect clothing donations and toys for children who wouldn't otherwise have Christmas presents. We will also work with some of Augsburg's services that extend to the community such as tutoring through Augsburg reads and building low-income housing with Urban Homeworks through LINK. There are multiple ways in which our presence as a special interest will assist the community as well.

We believe that allowing AGAPE to become a Special Interest group multiple levels of the college living experience would be improved. AGAPE would act in the interest of the college and community to improve and increase attendance, participation and support of students. We will strive to work toward our goals and complete that which we have proposed.