



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIVITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

What do I do as a Nativity Fellow? What is a typical week like?

Nativity Fellows are full-time members of the Nativity staff. They teach an average of 2-4 class periods per day while serving as advisors, tutors, proctors, coaches, nurses, janitors, drivers, monitors and all other responsibilities that promote the success of the students' well-being.

Students arrive at the school beginning at 7:30am. Many participate in the school's breakfast program. Morning Assembly begins at 8:00am. Academic classes are scheduled until 3:30pm. Competitive sports and seasonal club activities occur until 5:00pm. Volunteer tutors help the students to complete their homework until the school day ends at 6:30pm. Occasional Saturday activities are offered. Nativity Fellows share the responsibilities for daily Evening Study and various field trips in rotation.

Where and how do Nativity Fellows live?

Nativity Fellows are provided with a furnished, community house – *Casa Maria* – which is located a few miles away from the school. Life in *Casa Maria* is an opportunity to form community and to engage in the tough work of sharing responsibility with each other for the myriad details which make life together possible and worth the effort. It is also a unique opportunity to engage in “simple living.”

What is “simple living”? How simply will I be living?

Simple living is a chance to “feel” what life on a tight budget means, particularly as the overwhelming majority of our families struggle to make ends meet. While we can never achieve complete solidarity – financial or otherwise - with the community that we serve, the *Casa Maria* Community is our attempt to gain a deeper sense of the disadvantaged conditions from which our boys come. To accomplish this goal, each Nativity Fellow receives a food stipend per month, an amount which is then pooled to purchase food for the community. Additionally, each First Year Fellow will receive a \$300 personal living stipend per month, and each Second Year Fellow will receive a personal living stipend of \$500 per month.

How is living in *Casa Maria* different from dorm life?

The Fellows are invited and challenged to move beyond dorm life by living with community members. Each volunteer has his or her own room and shares common living space within the residence. All members of the community share the responsibility of running the household, by taking on collective and individual responsibilities. For example, Fellows regularly cook and eat meals together and meet to discuss social and spiritual issues.

What expenses are covered through the Nativity Fellows Program?

Room and Board

Nativity School covers all costs associated with housing and utilities. As noted above, Nativity also provides volunteers a stipend for food and other household needs.

Transportation

Fellows are responsible for the initial travel expenses to Worcester. The Fellows travel to and from *Casa Maria* in three school vehicles (large 11-passenger vans). Nativity covers all costs associated with these vehicles including gas, maintenance and insurance. Fellows are invited to bring their personal automobiles, but parking at *Casa Maria* is limited.

Insurance

All Fellows are provided with health insurance through Fallon Community Health Plan. In addition, Fellows receive car insurance for school-related transportation.

What happens to my student loans during my two years of service?

All previous Fellows have received an AmeriCorps Educational Award (\$4725 for each year of service up to two years maximum). An AmeriCorps award can be put towards future educational costs or towards current educational debts. Additionally, volunteers can receive forbearance or deferment on their college loans during their time of service as a Nativity Fellow via their respective loan service organizations.

Fellows may also receive cancellation of a portion of their Perkins Loans as Nativity School is a qualifying school under the Perkins Loan Low-Income School Cancellation Program (15% cancelled for each year of service).

What professional development opportunities does Nativity provide to its Fellows?

Fellows have the opportunity to pursue at Assumption College a number of graduate degree programs, *free of tuition costs*. Nativity will schedule teaching responsibilities to accommodate this unique opportunity. It is the responsibility of the employee to apply, to be accepted into the program, to enroll and to provide Executive Director with sufficient notice of Assumption College classes. Fellows may pursue the following courses of study at Assumption College free of tuition costs:

- ❖ Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology
- ❖ Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling
- ❖ Master of Arts in School Counseling
- ❖ Master of Arts in Special Education
- ❖ Master in Business Administration (M.B.A.)

How do I apply to be a Nativity Fellow? What is the process?

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume and references to:

David Roach, Principal
Nativity School of Worcester
10 Irving St.
Worcester, MA 01609
droach@nativityworcester.org

Completed application materials are accepted on a rolling basis until February 15th. Nativity will be in contact with applicants as application materials are received by the school. The Principal will facilitate the application process. After an initial conversation, prospective Fellows will be invited to spend a day at the

school. The number of Fellows newly hired each year varies according to the school's needs and will be determined by mid-spring for the following academic year.