

January 19, 2008

Dear Grandpa & Grandma,

I had a wonderful time during Christmas and New Years while I was home. I know I mentioned to you the service trip that I am going on, but I would like to take the opportunity to tell you more about the trip.

During the spring break, March 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, myself and six other John Carroll students will join students from four other colleges on a service trip to Bethlehem Farm, West Virginia. We will be getting involved in numerous community service projects, while learning about the challenges people face in one of the most impoverished regions of our country. We will also be interacting with children and adults, and repairing homes.

I began to consider going on a service trip last year after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. I had originally planned to go on a service trip to that region, but the group was going right before Christmas. I then looked into other service trips, and found one that was in West Virginia. I believe I have made the right choice in choosing this service trip because now I can help other West Virginians.

In order to go on the service trip to Nazareth Farm, WV, I have to raise \$425. This money is for travel, lodging, and other programming costs.

There are several ways in which you can become involved:

1. Prayers – for safe travel, and an amazing experience while I am serving
2. Financial – monetary donation to help fund the experience
3. Emotional Support – interest and time upon my return

In the envelope is a pink slip of paper that describes in detail how to make a donation. Also, a pre-addressed envelope is included so you can easily send a donation to John Carroll.

Any way that you can help will be greatly appreciated. A monetary donation would be most appreciated. I can't wait to tell you about my trip!

*GRANDMA,  
Can't wait to see  
you on Christmas Eve!  
I LOVE YOU!*

Thank you,  
**KATIE**  
Katie Hansen

March 1, 2009

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Porter,

As a nursing major at John Carroll University, I have been offered an incredible opportunity this spring that I would love to share with you. In late May, I will join eleven other John Carroll students and two doctors on a ten day immersion experience to Nuevo Paraiso, Honduras with a program called Sociedad Amigos de los Niños. The mission of Sociedad Amigos de los Niños (SAN) is to provide a nurturing environment for the neglected and impoverished children of Honduras.

Honduras is one of the 10 poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. The Santa Rosa de Lima Medical Clinic, where we will be volunteering, attends 40,000 patients per year. Our work for the week will be to offer medical services to those who are very poor. We expect to participate in a number of medical brigades where simple diagnoses are made and medicines are distributed.

I am writing to ask you to partner with me in this experience. I hope to gain valuable clinical experience in addition to being immersed in an unfamiliar culture. The trip will challenge me personally and professionally I am sure. I ask that you support us with your prayers in this effort. We are also expected to fundraise about \$1300 for the travel, lodging, and other programming costs. I am investing some of my own money in this endeavor but I cannot do it all on my own. I ask that you send financial support if you are able (see below for details on making a tax-deductible donation).

I am grateful for the ways you have supported me thus far. Any way that you can help will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Roberta*  
Roberta Jones

Please send a tax-deductible donation to:

John Carroll University  
University Advancement  
20700 North Park Blvd.  
University Heights, OH 44118

In the envelope is a pink slip of paper that describes in detail how to make a donation. Also a pre-addressed envelope is included so you can easily send a donation. Please make the check payable to John Carroll University and mark the memo line with my name. Thank you!

*Mr. + Mrs. Porter,  
It was so good to see  
you at Thanksgiving! I am  
glad that Rachel likes Ohio State!  
Thanks for any help you  
can offer!*

MR. SMITH,

I am writing this letter in the midst of wrapping up my fall semester at John Carroll. I have been offered an incredible opportunity this January that I would love to share with you.

At the beginning of January, I will join other John Carroll students, alumni and administrators on a pilgrimage. I will travel with nine other students to Reynosa, Mexico to work in an orphanage called Pilar De Esperanza. Reynosa is a town just across the border from McAllen, Texas.

Pilar De Esperanza is translated as Pillar of Hope. The orphanage is home to approximately 35 children and is run by a group of Mexican Christians who have dedicated their lives to this work. The orphanage was founded in 1997 and they have been steadily building on their property so that they can serve more children. Our group will be doing renovation work at the orphanage and we will also be leading various activities for the orphans and other local children. The activities may include games, crafts, singing, and Olympics, and special outings to the pool or movie theater. Relationships are, by far, the most important thing that we are building at Pilar De Esperanza.

This experience, while educational, will be rooted in service and community. As a student at a Jesuit university, I am excited to live out the Jesuit motto of "men and women for others" within these seven days of wondrous challenge. I have spent this entire semester in reflective discernment and active preparation for this experience.

I am writing to share my experience with you and to ask for your support. The trip will challenge our group to create a community that will be capable of initiating change here on campus and in our world. I ask that you support us with your prayers in this effort.

We are also expected to fundraise \$1,300 for the trip. I am investing my own money in this endeavor but we are asked to find sponsors to support us both by prayer and financial means. I hope you will remember us and Pilar De Esperanza in your prayers and if you are able to send your financial support you will find a pre-addressed envelope and the orange donation slip.

Finally, upon my return to the university, I will be faced with the challenge of working with this group of students to begin making change within our community. I ask for your prayers and support during this experience.

Thank you for your continued support and being part of my life,

Things are great  
here at JCU but  
I still miss everyone  
at Central Catholic!  
Say hello to Mr. Richards  
and the rest of the coaches!

PATRICK