

Spring 2014

Dear

Saint Joseph's University Collegiate Challenge is a student coordinated, student led service organization that works with Habitat for Humanity to promote awareness of the need of substandard housing in the United States. Every year, students in the organization dedicate a week of their summer break to volunteer with a Habitat affiliate. The organization began in 2004 with a trip to Taos, New Mexico, and it has continued to grow each year. This year, celebrating its 10-year anniversary, SJU Collegiate Challenge is sending student teams to Virginia, California, South Carolina, New Mexico, Mississippi, and New York.

My team will travel to **Goleta, California** from May 25th - June 1st 2014 to work with the Habitat affiliate of Southern Santa Barbara County (SSBC). Goleta is a suburban city with a population of 55,204. While nearby Santa Barbara is a popular location for tourists, urban decay is prominent in Old Town Goleta. In addition, the Gap Fire wildfire destroyed more than 9000 acres of Goleta land in July 2008. Working to keep Southern Santa Barbara County thriving, the SSBC affiliate has completed two multi-home projects and is the process of building 12 new affordable townhomes. Habitat SSBC is also running a *Building Homes, Building Hopes* Campaign to generate more funds to expand the affiliate. We are excited to immerse ourselves in the local culture and to support Habitat SSBC in their mission to eliminate substandard housing in Southern Santa Barbara County.

It is important to note that Saint Joseph's University Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge goes beyond the physical labor of the service project. It offers me the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of another culture within the United States, as well as to grow both intellectually and spiritually. It will challenge me to fulfill the Jesuit ideal of *serving with and for others* in my day-to-day life.

In order to participate in Collegiate Challenge, I need your support. Collegiate Challenge is entirely funded through the generosity of donors. The cost of my service trip averages approximately \$100 a day per person. Your donation will support my travel expenses, food costs, and a contribution to the Southern Santa Barbara County Habitat affiliate for building materials and supplies. Please note that all donations are also tax deductible. You can make a donation either online or by sending a check by mail. Please see the attached donation form for directions.

Thank you in advance for your effort and consideration. I look forward to sharing my experience with you upon my return!

Sincerely,

"The future of this movement lies with the young people."

-Millard Fuller, founder Habitat for Humanity International

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