

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 is traveling to **Buffalo, New York** from May 24th-May 31st 2014 to work with the local Habitat affiliate. While nationally Buffalo is most well-known for its sports teams, the city also offers much more. It is situated on the eastern shores of Lake Erie, and it's also only a short distance from Niagara Falls. Despite all of the wonderful attractions, Buffalo has been cited as having one of the worst economic inequalities in the world, and affordable housing is difficult to attain in the area. The Buffalo Habitat affiliate was founded in 1985 to address the housing issue, and it has impacted the community tremendously. In 1994 Habitat of Buffalo completed its 25th home, and by 2013 it reached a total of 239 homes. As we prepare to travel to Buffalo, we are excited to immerse ourselves into the local culture, and we are ready to assist the community while working with Habitat.

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 Buffalo 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