

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 **Exmore, Virginia** from May 24th-May 31st 2014 to work with the Habitat affiliate of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Surrounded by water to both the East and West, Exmore is known as the "Treasure of the Eastern Shore." It occupies a total area of just 0.8 square miles. The Eastern Shore Habitat affiliate works primarily in Northampton and Accomack counties. Since its founding in 1989, Habitat of the Eastern Shore has completed 40 homes. During our week in Exmore, we will assist in the beginning of their 41st home. In addition, this year Eastern Shore Habitat is celebrating its 25th anniversary! We are excited to immerse ourselves in the local culture and to support Habitat of the Eastern Shore of Virginia in their mission to build homes, communities, and hope!

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 Eastern Shore of Virginia 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