

Hello Fr. Richard,

I am writing to you about an amazing opportunity I am participating in with my school, St. John Fisher College. Last Spring I received an email about a service immersion trip to Kingston, Jamaica. There was very little information about the trip other it was going to be in May of 2014 and the purpose of the trip was to hold a sports camp for the disadvantaged youth of Jamaica. But, I immediately knew I was interested. I knew after my Mission Trips to Camden, New Jersey (back in high school) that I wanted to do a trip outside the U.S. and this trip was my chance. I filled out the application and submitted my resume. Roughly a week later I was chosen for an interview and the following day was picked for the 2014 JASY team. It is such a blessing to be chosen to go on this trip.

I will be traveling with about 20 other Fisher students, as well as other Fisher staff and alumni, who have gone on the trip in the past, to Kingston, Jamaica to work at the JASY Camp, Jamaican Advantage through Sports for Youth, from May 16 to the 26<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this trip is to bring hope and joy and to positively impact 100+ at-risk youth, age 8 to 15 years-old, utilizing sports training as a vehicle to improve self-esteem, physical well-being, teamwork, Christian values, and cross cultural learning.

This trip, for me, is not just a mission trip but a trip about social justice. It is about making these kids who are shoved aside their whole lives, feel like they are in the spot light. It is about showing them that they have a fighting chance. By offering them this love, despite whatever disadvantage they have, we are showing them the love God has for all of us, without even opening a bible!

The most amazing part about this trip is that we are doing everything in the context of sports, which is relevant to any child. If we were planning on sitting these kids in a room lecturing at them about how they have a chance to overcome hardships, I do not think any kids would walk away feeling like that is true. Instead we are showing them they have abilities that they can work with their peers, even that they can lead their peers, in the context of sports and games. This camp will build character for the kids, but I have a feeling that it will build character for everyone involved, camper and leader alike.

Over all the camp has an Olympic feel. The campers are split up into four teams based on age and the camp itself will begin and end with "Olympic" ceremonies. This camp is a "reward" for good behavior in school and the kids look forward to it all year. My role at JASY is a Sports Ambassador for the Yellow Team, girls ages 13 to 15. So I will be one of the leaders of a team participating with the girls in soccer, swimming, Caribbean Games (gym class sports) and Arts and Crafts.

My teammates and I are currently working hard to raise funds to send the campers to JASY. The camp is no cost to them, so it is my teammates' and my job to cover the cost of camp for them. It only cost 60 dollars to send a camper to JASY and I have until March 10 to complete my fundraising. Knowing how supportive the church is and I was wondering if it would be possible to share this with the parish to see if anyone one or you or the parish as a whole would be interested in sponsoring a camper(s). Above anything, I want those who donate to feel like they are a part of this trip and a part of changing these children's lives. This is a life changing experience for me and for these children of Jamaica.

If this is something that is possible, a check can be address to SJFC JASY 2014 and in the memo Morgan Midwick and mailed to:

St. John Fisher College  
Morgan Midwick Mailbox 1588  
3690 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14618

If you would like to see pictures from previous trips or for more information about the trip, you can go to, <http://www.sjfc.edu/student-life/community-service/servicetrip.dot>. Or I would be happy to answer any questions and discuss the trip further. I can be contacted at [mlm07962@sjfc.edu](mailto:mlm07962@sjfc.edu).

Thank you for your support and for allowing me to share this opportunity with you! God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Morgan Midwick