

Dear [Sponsor Name]

Hand-written greeting

Introduce yourself

Hello from Madison! As you may know, I am currently a senior at West High School, and I will be graduating this coming spring. I can't believe I am almost finished with high school! While nervous, I am also excited to begin my college experience in the fall at Iowa State University. For the past few years, I have been involved in the youth group at my church and have been discovering the amazing plan that God has for my life.

Bring the reader up to date

This summer my youth group will travel to Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a one-week mission trip (July 7th-20th)! I will be joining approximately 60 other students from not only my own church but also a few other churches from across the country to serve alongside a student missions organization called Next Step Ministries (www.nextstepministries.com). Since 2007, Next Step has partnered with over 20 communities around the world, inviting thousands of students—like myself—to join alongside the work they are doing with local community partners.

Who

Explain the mission

During my time in Milwaukee, we will be partnering with a local non-profit initiative birthed by a local church called Bridge Builders. The vision of Bridge Builders, run by a local pastor, is to transform neighborhoods physically, economically, culturally, and spiritually one block at a time. What this means is that I will have the opportunity to come alongside Bridge Builders through construction projects on individual homes, meeting physical needs like roofing and wheelchair ramps while also digging into meaningful conversations about Jesus Christ.

What

I have prayed and thought a lot about this trip, and to be honest, I am both excited and nervous. My hope is to grow in my understanding of who God is, what it means to serve and love well, and to look for ways to encourage and learn from the ministry partners who live in Milwaukee throughout the year. I know my faith will be stretched as I do things I have never done before which I hope will be a building block of learning what it means to live out my faith as I continue to prepare for college in the fall!

Why

Explain need

In order to make this all possible, I need a team. A team of ministry partners, people like you, willing to support me through prayer and donations. Knowing I have a team of people who are cheering me on, will greatly help me to endure through the challenging moments of the trip! For this reason, I am inviting you to be on this team with me!

Ask for ministry partners

The total cost of the trip is \$550 and needs to be turned in by May 1st. The best way to contribute financially is through our church website (www.thechurch/milwaukeeemissiontrip) or by mail in the pre-addressed envelope that came with this letter. If you mail in a donation, make sure to write your check out to "The Church" with my name written onto the memo line. All donations are tax deductible.

How to give

Express thanks

Thank you in advance for partnering with me in this big adventure. Your prayerful support means more to me than any donation. I can't wait to see what God teaches me through this opportunity. Thanks for being a part of it!

Sincerely,
[Signature]

Hand-written signature