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Marymount Manhattan Fundraising Letter

***“Our young people are our nation’s hope for a promising future. Your contribution will provide our best and brightest the experience they need to become our next generation of leaders.”***

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

No matter whether you’re a Republican or a Democrat, you’re sure to agree: we’ve just witnessed a milestone in American history. A black man from Illinois proved what we’ve always been told: in America, anything is possible!

But he didn’t do it on his own. To have come this far without help simply wouldn't be possible. He gained experience and developed his strength as a leader because of support from countless individuals like you.

Today, I’m honored to introduce you to *our* community’s next generation of exceptional leaders – and to give you a chance to help shape the future.

The Marymount Outreach Club is made up of young men and women determined to make the world a better place. These outstanding young people already display that rare quality found only in natural leaders: the maturity to understand that service to others results in a better life for everyone.

**Today, I'm asking for your help in nurturing this virtue – help for our future leaders in their efforts to serve with dignity, honor and respect.**

You see, this spring break the Outreach Club has taken on an ambitious project. They will travel to the jungles of Guatemala - a country still recovering from the longest civil war in Latin American history. There they will work with the non-profit group Volunteer Peten to improve the lives of children and others in the Guatemalan community of San Andres.

Projects completed by similar groups in the past include:

- ✓ Teaching English to school children to improve their chances for good jobs in the future
- ✓ Building a school, library, and playground
- ✓ Starting a trash collection program to keep the area beautiful and prevent disease
- ✓ Establishing an ecological park and working with citizens to re-plant the rainforest and reverse environmental damage
- ✓ Protecting the area's water reserve
- ✓ And many more

Our students will continue the work to monitor, protect, and reforest this area so that future generations can enjoy its beauty and benefits.

Just as importantly, our young volunteers will return to our own community wiser and more experienced. They'll be enriched with skills they'll need to become our leaders of tomorrow.

And they won't keep it to themselves. You can be sure they'll educate and inspire others with the knowledge and experience they gain.

The students taking part in this Alternative Spring Break have to cover their travel and other expenses out of their own pockets. Not a small thing, if you're aware of the costs of education these days.

Your generosity makes all things possible. **Please consider supporting these exceptional young men and women. Your contribution of \$100, \$50, or any amount will create a ripple of goodwill, reaching over borders and expanding over time.**

Thank you,

Erin Schwartz  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Center for Academic Achievement

P.S. 37.4% of Guatemalans subsist on less than \$2 a day. You might not feel your contribution could make a difference. But I assure you, in the hands of these courageous young people it will stretch farther than you could ever imagine.

