# Individual Letter Writing Campaign

The individual letter writing campaign is an exciting way to reduce the cost of **your** mission trip. That’s right! Any money that is raised from this letter goes to your Workcamper’s **personal fundraising** first and any extra money gets distributed into the workcamp trip’s scholarship fund. We are a community of travelers on a mission and this is why any money in excess of the cost of your workcampers trip will go into this fund.

This letter is extremely successful amongst those that participate. In fact, through this letter writing we sent 3 youth on complete scholarship last year. That is amazing!

This is an expensive trip and if we could get everyone to participate in this letter we may be able to reduce the number of fundraisers that we do throughout the year. It is because of this that I am asking every workcamper to send at least 10 letters out. It may be that the response to your letter is prayer or financial support, we need both. All support, regardless of size, helps your bottom line and that’s why I so strongly encourage everyone to participate.

There are 2 sample letters enclosed in this packet as well as a tracking form. The letters are also available on St. Joseph’s webpage under Life Long Faith Formation →High School Youth Ministry (workcamp is at the bottom of the page).

## Sample Letters

**Dear Family and Friends,**  **Insert Date**

This summer our youth group will be traveling to Workcamp in the rural community of Rushville, Indiana on July 8-16. We will work on repairing homes (and hearts!) for families in need financially or physically, and meet others at Workcamp from all over the country. More than 45 teenagers and adults from our church will be part of a group of over 450 people from around the country.

*This summer I will be on a crew with 4 other youth and an adult. We will be assigned a home with a list of repairs. Last summer I helped paint a house that desperately needed painting outside for a grandmother in Sommerville, TN. I feel it was an eye-opening experience to see other families living conditions, I felt grateful we could serve them, and especially grateful for my life.*

Personal Story

*On the way to Workcamp, the first night we usually sleep in a parish school gymnasium, and the rest of the nights we sleep on the floor in a classroom of a local high school. We eat all our meals in the cafeteria of the high school. The majority of the money purchases building supplies such as paint, shingles, nails, drywall, tools, wood for railings, wheelchair ramps, sheds, fences, etc. More than two-thirds of the $1000.00 raised goes for tools and building supplies for the homes we work on.*

Would you be willing to help us fund the repairs on the house we are going to work on this summer? Help us reach our goal of raising $1000.00 for our share of the house repairs. Please help by checking off any of the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_ $200.00 buys the exterior paint for an average home!

\_\_\_\_\_ $150.00 buys the supplies for a new porch and wheelchair ramp!

\_\_\_\_\_ $100.00 buys the supplies for a wheelchair ramp!

\_\_\_\_\_ $50.00 buys a bundle of shingles for a new roof!

\_\_\_\_\_ $25.00 buys a gallon of exterior or interior paint!

\_\_\_\_\_ $10.00 buys 3-5 paint brushes!

$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL Donation Checks can be made out to: St. Joseph Church for your tax-deductible donation. We will need donations by March 1st 2017. Please mail to us at: **(list your address here)**

Thank you very much for choosing to make a difference in others’ lives. God bless you!

November 20, 2016

Dear Name ,

Recently, I have decided to spend this next year, and part of my upcoming summer vacation, to prepare and go on a mission trip to (city), (State), (dates of travel). Along with about 60 other teenagers and adults from my church, I will join other people from around the country to help rebuild and repair the homes and hearts of our host community who are experiencing economic and/or physical hardship. (Similar to Habitat For Humanity)

Once I arrive at camp, I will be placed on a crew consisting of 5 teenagers and one adult. Each crew is assigned to work on a house for the week. Assignments are based on the experience of crewmembers. In addition to repairing homes, a very important part of the camp is the time spent with the residents and their families and neighbors. For some residents, the workcampers are some of the only people that they will see all year! Another important part of the camp is the spiritual aspect, so we also spend time sharing our faith with our residents and each other.

(Include a personal story of previous workcamp experiences or your hopes for this upcoming trip)

Our transportation and housing needs are minimal; we take buses, sleep in classrooms of the local schools, and eat in the school cafeteria. However, we need to raise money to purchase the supplies needed to make the necessary home repairs. We will be doing the following types of home improvement work: painting (interior and exterior), siding, building and repairing wheelchair ramps, porches and stairs, dry walling, light carpentry, yard work and other miscellaneous repairs. The cost of each Workcamp participant is $1000.00, which brings the total for our trip to $54,000! Over two-thirds of this amount goes directly toward funding the projects for the residents of ( ).

I really believe in this cause and the positive effects it has on individuals and the community! I would greatly appreciate any prayer and or financial contribution you would be able to give. On the next page you will find a number of ways you can support our mission trip. We apprieciate the support of prayers, financial support to our general fund or financial support for my mission trip. Please complete the form and return it to St. Joseph Parish.

I’m excited about this opportunity to make a difference in this world!

Yours in Christ,

I am excited to support St. Joseph Parish on their Mission Trip to Rushville, IN!

Supporter’s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ St. Joseph Parishioner

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We are unable to financially support the Mission Trip at this time, but will support you in prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to support you on this Mission Trip with prayer, and with the enclosed amount of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

General Fund  or Specific Workcamper : Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail responses prior to March 1, 2016. Please make all checks out to St, Joseph Parish.*

*All financial support will be kept confidential*