



February 2013

Dear Friends and Family,

My name is xxx. You may know me as the daughter of xxx and xxx. I am a sixteen-year-old junior attending xxx. This year I am volunteering with an organization called Amigos de las Americas (“AMIGOS”). AMIGOS is a private, non-profit, non-religious organization that trains and sends youth leaders to Latin America to live with a host family and carry out a community-based project. I am writing to ask you to consider making a donation to AMIGOS. The mission of AMIGOS is to empower youth leaders throughout the Americas by giving them the opportunity to participate in multicultural, meaningful, and self-directed projects. I decided to participate in AMIGOS because I am up for the challenge of full immersion, and I am interested in the ways in which the new experience will affect me as a person. If you would like to learn more about AMIGOS, you can visit the website: [www.amigoslink.org](http://www.amigoslink.org).

As a volunteer for AMIGOS, I will be going to Latin America this summer for six to eight weeks. I hope to go to Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua, or Panama. Wherever I go, I will live with a host family and help organize the community to carry out a project. My main purpose is to bring community youth and leaders together to start a community-chosen project that they can continue even after AMIGOS volunteers leave at the end of the summer. I will also lead two-hour summer camps each day for local youth. The most exciting, but also the most nerve-racking part of it, is that I will be fully immersed in the culture, language, and daily activities of my community.

AMIGOS’ work in Latin America would not be possible without the help of much-appreciated donors. Any and all contributions are welcome. To give you an idea of how contributions are used, here are some examples: \$10 pays for paint for a mural or toothbrush supplies for 30 people, \$45 buys a water storage tank to provide safe drinking water, and \$250 provides seeds for family gardens in 20+ communities. While every family is responsible for a fee which pays for volunteer training and travel, not all families can afford the full fee, and your donation also could be used for scholarships. This makes it possible for a broad range of youth to participate in the program.

I am writing to request that you make a donation to AMIGOS. If you choose to donate, you may write a check and use the enclosed envelope to send it to me. Or, if you prefer to donate online, you may do so by following this link: <http://www.eastbayamigos.org/letters/>[xxx]. Checks should be made payable to “AMIGOS de las Americas”. Contributions made by donors are tax-deductible; AMIGOS is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter, and for considering my request to donate to AMIGOS. When I return at summer’s end, I will be happy to share my experiences with you!

Sincerely,