

Farther Foundation Mid-year Report, 2011

Mission & Vision

Farther Foundation enables students from economically disadvantaged circumstances explore interests, expand horizons, gain inspiration and elevate aspirations for leadership and success.

We do this by providing opportunities for students to participate in significant educational travel programs. While traveling, students interact with people from diverse backgrounds, become immersed in new cultures and experiences, learn and develop skills, engage in community service, cultivate leadership potential and attain personal growth.

Experience makes the larger world real. Participating in a unique endeavor builds confidence. Success fosters higher aspirations for what is possible and greater expectations for what is achievable.

Go Farther.



I came across two facts recently that speak to the mission of Farther Foundation and challenge us to intensify our efforts in providing life changing opportunities for deserving students.

Fact #1: The National Summer Learning Association has compiled research that suggests that more than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

Fact #2: A recent New York Times story reports that many of the most capable low- and middle-income students attend community colleges or less selective colleges close to their home. Research has shown, doing so makes them less likely to graduate from college at all. Only 44% of low-income high school seniors with high standardized test scores enroll in a four-year college, compared with about 50% of high-income seniors who have just average test scores.

Bonus Fact: All Farther Foundation travel scholarship alumni who are now college age have graduated high school and are enrolled in college – all but one in four-year colleges including, University of Chicago, Colgate, Williams, Vassar, University of Wisconsin and Penn State.

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! I am enjoying my college experience and I have survived my first semester as a freshman already. I am currently involved in fencing, Vista (spanish club), Tango club, and Eucharistic ministry for the church. I took English class, Biology 101, Calculus, and a Women’s and Gender Studies class.”

-- Nitza Solis, Farther Foundation alumni, 2010 and current freshman at Williams College

Jasmine is eager to serve and explore

Jasmine is one of five siblings (all of whose names begin with “J”) supported by a single mother with modest means. Growing up where the odds are often against you, it takes a lot of determination to make good choices, build a network of support and find the resources to help you succeed – and that is what Jasmine is doing.



Jasmine with her mother and Farther Foundation president, David Weindling

Like all Farther Foundation scholarship recipients, Jasmine works with a school or organization that backs her ambition to succeed with extra-curricular support programs. Jasmine’s partner in her application to Farther Foundation is the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund. DMSF provides Jasmine with a scholarship to attend Mother McCauley High School, where she is an “A” student, as well as a variety of counseling, mentoring, tutoring and college prep activities throughout her high school years.

This summer, Jasmine has chosen to travel to Costa Rica with Global Leadership Adventures on a three week program that combines cultural and geographic exploration with volunteer service to the local community. Jasmine specifically chose this program because it was service based, giving her the opportunity to help people improve their neighborhoods. This is an extension of her dedication to community service at home where she participated in a leadership building program through DMSF designing and implementing a community clean-up project.

Jasmine is eager to experience new people and places and ready to be a positive member of her traveling group, *“I will contribute my ideas, follow the tasks given to us, and always be on top of my game.”*

Where are the rest of our scholars going this summer?

Melissa	Egypt	Boluwatife & Linda	Kenya and Tanzania
Jocelyn	Mexico	Ariella	Israel
Lester	Peru	Sandra	Turkey
Reagan	Ghana	Marilyn	Smith College
Monique	France	Evelyn	George Washington U.
Ryan	China	Kevin	USC
Yamari	Spain	Cherese, Corbin & Teserae	New Mexico, pueblo

The Measure of Success

We assess the impact of our programs and measure their success in several ways.

- We survey our students before and after their participation in the educational travel program to gauge their attitudes regarding the importance of education at both the high school and college level, their perception of their own opportunities in the world, their awareness of different people and cultures and their confidence going forward.
- We survey the parents regarding the benefits they saw in the programs, the attitudes and behaviors they see in their children and their own belief in the value of education.
- We survey the travel program providers to ascertain how the students participated in their programs and the value each brought to the group.
- We have a year-end photo and essay contest where we get to hear what the students learned on their programs and how they are able to communicate those lessons to others.

But most importantly, we want to see how our students succeed – in high school, in college, in life -- and, are their experiences and successes being transmitted to their families, their friends, their schools and communities.

We are beginning to hear from our current group of alumni who are graduating high school this year. They will be going to college next year at schools including; University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Pomona College, Knox College, University of Illinois College of Engineering and Augustana.

A newspaper article recently profiled one of our partnering organizations, HighSight. One of the students mentioned in the story is the younger sister of a Farther Foundation alumni, Brenda, who, in 2009, traveled to Japan with help from a Farther Foundation scholarship and is now a freshman at Kalamazoo College. Now, her sister says she wants her sister's experience. Success breeds success and experience is the best inspiration.

That is the measure of success that we strive for and that we now see taking root in each individual we serve and all the lives that they touch.



How can you help?

3 ways to help Farther Foundation without opening your checkbook:

- 1) Spread the word: “Like” Farther Foundation on Facebook and “Like” or “Comment” on our occasional posts so that your friends learn about us as well.
- 2) Can you or someone you know donate an item or an experience that would make a fun auction item? Help us solicit the donation for the auction at our fall event.
- 3) Do you shop online? Download the *GoodSearch – Farther Foundation toolbar* for your browser at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/farther-foundation>. The application works in the background when you shop online, prompting the online store to donate a percentage of your purchase to Farther Foundation. The GoodShop process has become easier and nearly transparent to use and it has no effect on your online shopping experience. You go to the same websites, get the same products and pay the same prices you always do. Almost every online site imaginable is a partner in this program.

1 way to help Farther Foundation by opening your checkbook:

- 1) Open your checkbook and send a check to:

Farther Foundation
223 S. Elmwood
Oak Park, IL 60302

You can also go online at www.fartherfoundation.org to donate via credit card or PayPal

Andrew traveled to Uganda in the summer of 2010 where he shot this photo depicting the difficult way of life for many across Africa. Andrew learned many lessons in Uganda and then took 1st place in our 2010 photo contest.



Thank You!

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