

November 1, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ryne Dougherty and I graduated from Loyola Sacred Heart in 2007. I am currently a junior at Carroll College, majoring in biology. I am one of 12 Carroll students that will be accompanying Carroll professors, Dr. Alvey and Dr. Hokit, to West Africa this Christmas Break on a study abroad trip. We will be leaving December 18th and returning January 10. While in Niger we will be staying in the villages of Maorey and Sadore where Dr. Alvey lived during his service in Peace Corps. This semester, we have started fundraising for the mission components of our trip. We are going to the poorest countries in the world and have a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the lives of these impoverished people. We are reaching out to you to ask for your help in this important mission.

We have chosen two areas: Education and Mosquito Bed Nets to focus our fundraising efforts. This is the least we can do for these communities who will so graciously host us during our visit to Niger.

- **Why education?** Niger has a literacy rate of less than 20%, and part of the problem is simply a lack of books and supplies. Students and parents are required to purchase all texts, workbooks, and pens etc. Given that Niger has the lowest standard of living in the world one can imagine how difficult it is for parents to provide these materials. In a past study abroad, students started the creation of a library in the Maorey school, that library was completed two years ago when some alumni and Dr. Alvey returned to Niger after completing sufficient fundraising to stock the school with text books. This time the school project will focus on books and desks for the Sadore school.
- **What are the Mosquito bed nets for?** The bed net project is really an **anti-malaria & anti child-mortality** project. In Niger, 1 child in 5 dies from infectious disease, most commonly malaria prior to their 5th birthday. Bed nets given to mothers and expectant mothers have been shown to lower the risk of low birth weight babies due to malaria (these are the kids most at risk of not living to age 5), and to also lower the malaria risk of young children who sleep with mom.

Any money raised will be going directly to these people since the students have already paid for their trips. These are a couple areas where we felt our activities could have an impact. However, we requesting for your help to have the kind of impact that we want to have! Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Donations are tax deductible. Checks of any amount should be written to Carroll College Restricted Biology Study Abroad Account (account number 22-00-3013-6360). They can then be mailed to Wendy Tonkovich / Office of advancement / Carroll College / 1601 N. Benton Ave / Helena, MT 59625. She will extract the necessary information and send you a receipt for your records.

Thank you for your support and prayers in this important Mission.

Ryne Dougherty
Loyola Sacred Heart Class of 2007
Carroll College Class of 2011