

SUMMER SEARCH

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE SOAR.

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Dear John,

At Summer Search, we emphasize the importance of gratitude. It's one of our core values. Across our national network, we're the largest nonprofit provider of summer experiential trips for low-income youth in the country. And in San Francisco, our long term investment of relationships and transformational summer experiences helps local low-income high school students develop the skills and character traits they need to become college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities.

We thrive on the gratitude shown by our staff, volunteers and the thousands of students who have benefitted from the Summer Search experience during the past 23 years. We also feel tremendous gratitude to donors like you who have supported our essential work.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our programs are empowering thousands of teens from low-income families. Renew your support today to help us continue to deliver on our promise to help young leaders soar.

You've created transformative experiences for students like Zhi. "Everyone knows me to be a happy teenage girl with a smile on her face almost all of the time. What they don't know is that I use to not get along with my family and had no appreciation for anything in the world." But Zhi is now an emerging leader with a full appreciation for her life, family and future. "I became conscious of how blessed I am to have so much," she told us after completing two weeks of backpacking, hiking, rafting and adapting to a rustic life outdoors.

"At the end of my expedition, I was black and blue and had tumor-sized mosquito bites all over my body, but I was exhilarated," Zhi says. "This trip gave me so much more than was guaranteed. I came back with much more confidence and appreciation of what I have. I have a family, a family that I've been taking for granted. *In fact, I've been taking everything for granted.*"

For students like Zhi, we offer a vital push toward collegiate greatness. For teens like José, Summer Search provides an essential lifeline that helps get them through high school and thrive in college. When he joined Summer Search, José was a lonely teenager coping with depression. But he was also a teenager full of promise: charming and charismatic, a voracious reader, and incredibly witty. Through weekly mentoring, and the opportunities he received over two summers, José came out of his shell. Today, he's in community college, planning his move to a four-year university.

While Zhi and José are in the early and middle stages of their Summer Search journeys, **Dexter** is a long-term success story who knows the opportunities offered through Summer Search transformed his life.

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Dexter always emulated his slightly older brother, and during their teen years this copycat behavior led both into trouble at school. After Dexter joined Summer Search his sophomore year, their paths diverged. His brother's trouble continued and he was expelled from school and spent time in prison; Dexter's trouble did not: he became his family's first college graduate. Now a 26-year-old young man, Dexter is a community leader with a promising career and an inspiring public speaker giving back as a mentor to young African-American men.

Dexter believes Summer Search made the difference. The confidence he gained leading a group of other teens up the side of a 10,000-foot peak in the Sierra Nevada Mountains built a foundation of confidence and self-awareness.

"After reaching the top, I no longer felt the weight of being poor, fatherless and black," he says. "I learned that no matter the circumstance, the true winners keep climbing."

The students participating in Summer Search's long-term program are pushing boundaries and exceeding their expectations in ways they never would have imagined! **Our success stems from a potent combination of challenging summer experiences, combined with partnering each student with a professional mentor and a strong support group.**

Summer Search works! Over 80% of our students are on track to earn their college degrees, compared to less than 10% of their low-income peers. Summer Search alumni, who are often the first in their families to earn a college degree, become beacons of change in their communities.

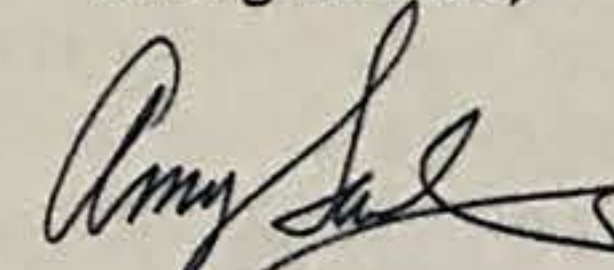
Through Summer Search I've seen countless teens, full of unrealized potential who feel stuck in their current circumstances, then transform into confident young leaders and the first in their families to go to – and finish – college.

As we look ahead, our immediate goal is for Summer Search to end this year in a strong position and, early in 2014, offer admission to 10% more high school sophomores with the potential for greatness. So a generous donation made before the end of 2013 will have an immediate impact on our work.

I'm inviting you to recommit to Summer Search's vision by making a year-end gift of \$1,500, \$1,750 or more. Your donation will mean more youth like Dexter, José and Zhi can benefit from our critical support in 2014 and beyond.

Your gift today will offer promising young people the opportunity to build character, complete their education and become leaders who give back to their families and communities.

With gratitude,



Amy Saxton
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Now is a great time to make a gift to support youth like Dexter, José and Zhi. Please renew your support before December 31.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT SUMMER SEARCH TO GIVE MORE LOW-INCOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$1,750 \$1,500 \$1,250 \$750 Other \$ _____

Enclosed is my check. Please make check payable to **SUMMER SEARCH**.

I want to give \$ _____ per month until ____ / ____ / ____ on my credit card.

Please designate my gift to:

- Summer Search San Francisco
 Summer Search National Annual Fund
 Other _____

Mr. John Q. Sample
4484 Market St Ste 302
Ventura, CA 93003-8021

A 12345

Please charge my Visa Mastercard AmEx

Cardholder's Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Billing Zip Code _____ CVC _____

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Since 1990, Summer Search has partnered with high schools to identify students short on opportunity and long on resilience, altruism and determination—character traits that hold the seeds for success in school and in life. We make a long-term investment in these students (at least five years, from high school through college).

Our character-based program is a unique combination of relationships and opportunities that helps them

build the skills they need to thrive. We partner each student with a professional mentor and build a circle of relationships around them. Then, we offer them experiential opportunities that crack open their view of the world and ultimately reveal what they're capable of accomplishing.

Summer Search alumni, often the first in their families to earn a college degree, are beacons of change who give back to their families and communities.

Summer Search is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Federal Tax ID: 68-0200138

Hear our students' stories or donate online at WWW.SUMMERSEARCH.ORG

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