



SPRING 2017

# SPRING

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## Welcome!



Frankie Roskam | CEO  
The Justification of Youth

Dear JOY Community,

Wishing you a happy February and a wonderful second semester to our university friends. We are excited to be back in the U.S.A. after a fruitful January in the Dominican Republic and Peru!

In the Dominican Republic, our 12 Miami University students took a leadership course for six credit hours while serving at-risk and orphaned children at four schools and one orphanage.

We partnered with a French chemical company, Air Liquide, to present a Science Day. It was a fun-filled day of science experiments and learning about what it is like to be an engineer. We played countless hours of soccer and painted the first floor of a school in Santo Domingo which will be opening this fall!

In Peru, we took children from the orphanage in Lima on exciting excursions like surfing and hiking. We did a sponsorship project with the children, sending cards to their supporters in the U.S.A.

I want to thank you on behalf of The Justification of Youth for your encourage-

ment, support, and prayer over the past month.

We are excited for our spring trips to the Dominican Republic (spots are filling quickly!) and for exciting new partnerships.

Thank you for being a part of this life-giving community.

With joy,

Frankie



## Our 2016 Impact

As we enter our second year, Team JOY is looking back at an incredible year of service.

In 2016, with the help of our donors, college leaders, and wonderful partners, JOY's impact exceeded expectations and reflected our mission to serve at risk and orphaned youth around the world.

We've watched college students grow as caring and compassionate leaders who are sponsoring children in need, fundraising for deserving organizations throughout the year, and engaging in their communities in meaningful ways.

By travelling with us, students contributed to Kids Alive International through hands-on service and financial support. It has been a blessing to witness their choice to continue that support throughout the year. JOY students are holding medical drives on campus, maintaining meaningful relationships through child sponsorship, starting their own nonprofits, and even returning to the Dominican Republic to teach!

We are in awe of the ways God is working in the lives of our friends all over the world. In 2017, we invite you to be a part of our movement to unite passion with purpose and joy!



Developed partnerships and service opportunities at home and abroad



Student organizations launched at

**6** universities

**62**

students served abroad with JOY

**90**

students participated in child sponsorship

**17**

children became sponsored by college students



over

**\$67,000**

in total contributions to Kids Alive International

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# JOYful January!

2017 kicked off with two JOY service trips!

JOY students from Miami University travelled to our partnering communities in the **Dominican Republic** and **Peru**.

There, they got to sustain meaningful relationships and serve alongside the amazing staff and families of Kids Alive International schools and orphanages.

## Our 5 New Year's Resolutions

While many people were crafting their New Year's resolutions, JOY students were already busy chasing after purpose and sharing joy with others!

Here are 5 New Year's Resolutions that JOY made and met on our January service trips:



### 1. Make time for some spring cleaning!

Together we mixed and poured concrete, cleaned classrooms, organized our donations, and helped with meals in the kitchen. At the new school in Santo Domingo, we prepped and painted classrooms for its fast-approaching opening day!



### 2. Get outside!

In Lima, Peru, we played capture the flag and soccer, did some yard work, and swam with our friends at the Juniper Tree Children's Home. We even got to go to the beach and surf with the kids! In the Dominican Republic, we played lots of soccer and soaked up the sunshine while in P.E. class.



### 3. Reach for new heights!

Whether we were chasing waterfalls, exploring ancient ruins, or enjoying the view from the top of the new school, we found new adventures every week!



### 4. Collaborate and create!

We partnered with a French chemical company, Air Liquide, to put on a Science Day for the students in Santo Domingo. Spending the day doing fun science experiments, playing games, and learning about what it's like to be an engineer was fantastic! While in the classroom, kids dedicated their time to creating, coloring, and crafting sponsorship projects.



### 5. Spend time with friends!

The best part about a JOYful January? The friendships and community, of course! We saw old friends, made some new ones, and were reminded that joy spreads when you share life with others.

## JOY 2017 | Upcoming Trips

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**MARCH 18-26**, SANTO DOMINGO

**MAY 20-27**, JARABACOA

**APPLY NOW!**

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“It quickly became clear to me that we all want to be living for something bigger than ourselves.”

## Seeing Purpose

By Lindsey Rudek

A Miami University student reflects on her first time in the Dominican Republic

There are no words that could explain exactly what I learned and took away from this trip, but there are a few things that I will never forget.

One night, our entire group was gathered in the small living area of the team house where we were staying. We had spent the past week together- serving at the schools, building relationships, playing soccer with kids and learning about what true joy is. An 18-year-old boy named Joel, who lives in Santo Domingo, was over to have dinner with us. After we ate, he shared his testimony of how God has transformed his life and given him a new purpose for all of his days going forward.

When the power went out at the team house, we lit a bunch of candles and Joel picked up his guitar and started playing the song Oceans by Hillsong United. While the majority of the group sang in English, Joel and a few others sang passionately in Spanish. Seeing an incredibly diverse group come together and worship the same God in two different languages was indescribable. At this moment, I realized that although so many of our lives appear to be to-

tally different, all of humanity shares a similar story.

It quickly became clear to me that we all want to be living for something bigger than ourselves. It doesn't matter if a person lives in a dirt house with no electricity and survives on rice and minimal clothing, or if someone lives in an excessively nice house with fancy cars and an overabundance of food. The fact of the matter is that you will not be fulfilled until you have found a purpose for your life- something to live for. At home I am surrounded by people who are searching for their purpose. I have seen people transformed when they come to realize the hope that they can trust in for the rest of their days and the impact this can have on their lives. Seeing this exact same phenomenon happen with people in the Dominican Republic was life changing. Kids shared their stories of broken, tragic lives being forever changed by their realization that God died for their sins and loves them unconditionally. Prior to this I had been stuck in a bubble, only seeing the stories and struggles of people in close proximity to me.

This trip gave me eyes to see the pain of those whose lives are very different than mine, but more importantly it gave me eyes to see the way God's love and power is constant across the world. And how His love changes everything. This realization encourages me to spread His joy everywhere so that those who are searching can find their worth in something bigger than themselves and devote their life to the one thing that will fulfill them eternally.

The hope and trust in God that so many of the missionaries, teachers, parents, and kids have in the Dominican Republic gives me chills. They believe that what they are living for is worth it. Even when things get hard, they continue to fight. I want to live like that, trusting in God more and more each day and genuinely believing that I have a purpose- to spread joy.



## Science Day in Santo Domingo!

In January, JOY partnered with Air Liquide for a day of learning, experiments, and fun! Students learned about safety in science and what it takes to be an engineer. Partnering with businesses and organizations who are committed to realizing the mission of JOY leads to more advocacy, awareness, and awesome experiences like these for our friends in the Dominican Republic.

*“That was awesome! We didn’t know that the invisible air in potato chips was nitrogen.”* That was said by many of our students as we drove them home after the science day hosted by Air Liquide. It was a real blessing to see our children be spoiled with so much knowledge, food, gifts, activity and mostly LOVE. It was a very JOYful day for all involved.”

Luis Oscar | KIDS ALIVE INTERNATIONAL



“This was a great opportunity for our employees to interact with the communities, and empowering them with a project reflecting our commitment to contribute to a more sustainable world in the DR.”

Raphael | AIR LIQUIDE

# It Started With JOY...

Meet Cory Pisano

Since going on my first trip to the Dominican Republic in January of 2016, my life has turned into a whirlwind of seeking purpose, a lot of prayer, and simply saying yes to things that were never a part of my personal plan.



Now whenever I talk about seeking purpose, I don't mean that my life at any point along this journey lacked a sense of meaning. What I mean is that after the experiences I had while serving the children of a small school, in a small village named Carballo, I've thirsted for God's purpose for my life. However, I realized that this clarity in my life wouldn't come from some dream or immense vision; it would come from the people I've had the pleasure of sharing these experiences with. God speaks to us. Not in a booming voice from the sky, but through those who surround us on a daily basis. We just have to be willing to listen.

Since my trip to the Dominican through JOY, I've learned A LOT about the way God influences our lives. When I'm not learning through reading books, interacting with my friends, coworkers, and family, and sitting in church services, I'm learning through prayer. I don't know about all of you reading this, but during prayer I've never heard God's voice answering the

questions I ask him on a daily basis. The answers to the questions I ask usually come from others. Now some may believe in coincidence and random chance when it comes to answered prayers, but I'm not buying it. I'd much rather put my faith in a God who loves me, and cares about me. Since I've made that decision, prayer has led me to trusting in God and the process he has mapped out for me. I've learned to be patient and allow God to work around me and more importantly through me. That doesn't mean I've sat around and waited for opportunity. No, as active as I've been in prayer, I have been just as active in pursuing things in life that I truly care about. This has led to new opportunities, and a lot of simply saying yes.

After returning from the Dominican Republic for the first time, I wasn't sure what I was going to do. Graduation was right around the corner and I had not had much success in the usual job search that takes place for many seniors in college who are unsure of what they

want to do with their lives. For a short time I pursued what had been my plan all along during college, working as an intelligence analyst for the FBI. After an interview and a test or two, that plan got put on hold for an unknown amount of time. So what now? After a desperate attempt at a job fair to find a non-profit that interested me, I found City Year, a branch of AmeriCorps that focuses on helping students in inner city school systems with staying on track to graduate on time. After serving at a school in the Dominican, I thought it would be interesting to serve at a school here in the States, so I applied to the branch in Washington D.C., got accepted, and **it seemed as if the next year of my life was set in stone. Not quite.**

While I was applying for City Year in Washington D.C., it just so happened that the Internship Coordinator for Kids Alive International, the organization whose school I served at in the Dominican, was on campus. "It can't hurt to talk to her, she's an awesome person", said my friend Frankie who knew her quite well. Queue yes number one. That weekend I found myself having a great conversation with the coordinator about me possibly returning to the Dominican for a six week internship this summer. Queue yes number two. A couple days later, my application was in and pending. I soon heard back from the coordinator and after a final interview, she offered me the position. Queue yes number three. Now this yes came at the expense of a no for the internship in the Dominican Republic conflicted with my start time in D.C. With my acceptance of the internship, I would not be able to become a City Year corps member...yet.

The story of my return to Caraballo

in the Dominican is one for another day. If you'd like to talk about it with me, feel free to contact Frankie Roskam, she's got my info. All I can say is that it was an experience like no other that I shared with a group of people that now hold a special place in my heart. So, where am I now? Funny you should ask. The same week I returned from the Dominican, I received an email from City Year asking if I would still like to be a Corps Member, but instead serve in Columbus or Cleveland, Ohio. And just like that, a closed door quickly flung right back open. You guessed it, yes number four.

The next week, I was moving to Columbus excited to serve children here in the U.S. About two months into my service year, tired, frustrated, yet strangely satisfied with the difficulty of working with these complicated children, I received another email from Kids Alive International, this time from the Missionary Coordinator. It was at this point, in a way I told God to leave me alone, but he refused. I thought about it for about another month, and through a lot of difficult prayer and discussions with my family, I decided to start the application process. Now, still in that process, I'm terrified of that fifth yes. Yet that very fear makes me believe that I'm on the verge of something great, something purposeful in the eyes of God. Just two weeks ago my pastor at church said at service that **"we all end up somewhere, but not all of us end up somewhere on purpose"**. That message hit me hard as I pursue this plan of spending two years back serving the children in the Dominican Republic. **This whirlwind started with JOY, and I now want nothing more than for it to end in joy.**



## SUPPORT ONE STUDENT, INVEST IN MANY

**When you support student scholarship, you're not just giving a college student a meaningful service-abroad experience.**

**You are investing** in the schools and orphanages that care for at-risk youth every day.

You are allowing relationships to begin that lead to meaningful friendships, child sponsorship and continued advocacy for children in need.

You are providing the opportunity to learn that joyful service can be a part of students' lives, right here and right now.

You are helping young people to realize their potential and to use their passions for purpose!

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