Date

Name

Address

City, State Zip Code

Dear Name:

Everyone at the International Student House has a story of how this experience has changed them for the better. Living and dining with 300 other students and interns from dozens of countries has a profound impact on our residents. It helps them promote understanding and serve as leaders around the world. Now more than ever, we need to build bridges of mutual understanding and collaboration between groups of people.

You made these changes possible. Your support has changed their lives for the better, so thank you. Now, I would like to share a few of our residents’ stories with you. I hope that you will see how your generosity has impacted these young leaders and that you will renew your support for the ISH-DC.

Gayatri was a resident scholar from India. When she arrived at the ISH three years ago, she was very shy and she didn’t talk much. That had certainly changed by October 2017, when she marched into my office and demanded to attend our Annual Awards Dinner! She wanted to meet our honoree, former US Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Her exact words were: “I want to go to the reception; I want to meet Biden.” I was surprised and proud. Gayatri had certainly gained confidence by living here. Needless to say, she met Vice President Biden.

For Manuel, one of our residents from France, living here was a humbling experience. Manuel says, “as contradictory as it may sound, I also felt very humbled and little in this enlarged and diverse world of so many lovely and fascinating people… ISH brought a lasting home away from home feeling I think everyone hopes to find.”

Your generosity made Anna Michel, a resident from Germany, optimistic about the future. “When it comes to me, the time spent at ISH has given me back hope for a (more) peaceful future.”

Lastly, I would like to introduce you to Francoise, an ISH resident from Rwanda. She told us how she overcame poverty and adversity, having grown up in an area where women were not educated, to earn a college degree and follow her passions. “l am a graduating senior and double-major in Banking and Finance & International Business with a French minor. While I was fortunate to stay in school, it is not the case for most girls from uneducated backgrounds in developing nations.

My fields of study aspirations come from my childhood experience. I was born and raised in Rwanda, one of the poorest nations in the world. Neither of my parents had the chance to go to school or had a stable occupation; however, through hard work and shifting from job to job, they managed to keep my siblings and me in school. My parents’ love, support, and guidance are my inspiration.

Though we lived in poverty, Mom and Dad worked hard to make my childhood experience a good one. I had the good fortune to have great educators in my family and my school. My parents and teachers gave me the gift of self-confidence. They implanted in me the love of knowledge and continue to encourage academic, social, and leadership excellence in me.

Thanks to various generous financial supporters, educators, and host families, I am the first female in my family to attend college and to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in one of the most powerful nations. Following graduation, I will be attending George Washington University to pursue a Master’s Degree in International Trade and Investments Policy.

After graduate school, my dream career is to help expand the education and financial literacy in developing nations in Sub-Saharan Africa. My personal goal will be to make sure my younger siblings get a college education, even if I must help pay for this myself. I am motivated by my difficult past to prepare for a better future. The legacy I hope to leave behind is the transcendence of poverty through hard work, discipline, and education.”

Regarding the value of living here, we at the ISH couldn’t say it any better ourselves. Thank you for your support of young leaders such as Gayatri, Manuel, Anna Michel, and Francoise. All of our residents take what they learn at the ISH and become bridge-builders, united in their desire to make the world a better place.

I ask that you help us continue our work by making a tax-deductible, unrestricted gift to the ISH-DC today. This gift will support our mission: to help our residents foster mutual understanding between groups of people and construct better societies for the world of tomorrow.

**With your generous support, we have:**

* Welcomed 300 students, interns, and visiting scholars from 48 different countries
* Broadened our residents’ perspectives through briefings and discussions with Ambassadors and global leaders on the critical international issues of our time
* Supported residents who organized inclusive events and discussions that shared their cultures with their peers and guests at the ISH
* Awarded residential scholarships to ## students from ## countries, providing critical support for students with financial need to be able to study and live in Washington DC

You can read more about our resident scholars and our accomplishments in ISH-DC’s 2017 Annual Report infographic (Link/insert). Please help these future leaders form valuable life-long connections and learn meaningful lessons about cultures, collaboration, and tackling pressing international concerns.

Thank you,

Thomas A. O’Coin

Executive Director