

Dear Woodstream Family,

I am Danielle Rouse, salutatorian of Woodstream Christian Academy's class of 2013. After graduating from Woodstream, I moved to New York to attend St. John's University and received a Bachelor's degree in psychology this past May. I am now living in Brooklyn, as I pursue an MFA in Creative Writing & Poetry at The New School for Public Engagement.



As I reflect on my years at Woodstream, I think of how the classical Christian values and curriculum equipped me with skills to excel in higher education. I wrote a thesis paper, from grades 4 to 12, which strengthened my research and writing skills. Understanding logical reasoning, tools of rhetoric and apologetics eliminated distractions and propelled me to high achievements. I invested time tutoring and working for the afterschool program. I participated in cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, track & field, and flag football. These experiences, in conjunction with the values of my family and God's divine plan, prepared me for the journey I am about to embark on.

This summer I will teach Math and English literacy to students in Cape Town, South Africa. I've been chosen to be a mentor for a non-profit organization called One Heart Source. This mentorship program provides experiential learning for undergraduate and graduate students. During this four-week program I will teach students in the midst of cultural immersion, while pursuing my life long goals of traveling, teaching, and writing. My time in New York has proved that combining my passions to create a career that serves and sustains is a more fulfilling route. I have been able to use my psychology degree in academic, political, scientific, and creative writing.

If it had not been for my time at Woodstream, I would not have this opportunity. The intrinsic lessons I've learned have formulated the words I write and share with my colleagues and community. I will use them on this journey as well. As I prepare to enter the community of Cape Town, I am asking for your investment in me once again. Since this is a volunteer opportunity, I would like your financial support. My goal is to raise \$5,000 by March 15th. Any form of support would be greatly appreciated. I am currently using two platforms to accept donations. The link below sends donations directly to One Heart Source on my behalf. These donations are tax deductible. https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/Mjc3NTY= To support me directly, donations can be mailed to 1442 Bedford Ave. 2L Brooklyn, NY, or given through the GoFundMe link below.

<https://www.gofundme.com/danielletocapetown>



I never would have imagined at my graduation in 2013 that I would be preparing for a teaching opportunity abroad just five years later. As I begin writing my first book, I plan to document my travels. I look forward to returning to WCA to discuss my experiences and encourage students that great things are possible from WCA alumni. Thanks again for your continued prayers, support, and investment in me.

With Love & Gratitude,
Danielle Rouse
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