

Dear Mr. Aldrich,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend Grab the Torch. The program not only taught me so much about leadership, ethics, and the non-profit sector, but also helped me realize that everyone, including myself, has the potential to make a difference for the greater good. This realization did not come easily for me. Before this summer I never dared to set my sights on abstract goals like "changing the world" because I convinced myself that lofty ambitions were impossible to accomplish and better saved for someone more qualified or experienced.

However, as I completed the Fingerprints leadership curriculum, met many accomplished speakers, and grew closer to the girls at the camp with me, I started to gain confidence in my abilities and felt genuinely inspired. For example, Margaret McKenna, who as head of the Walmart foundation convinced the Walmart company to donate its leftover produce to food banks, showed me how one individual can serve as a catalyst for good; Dr. Stifler, who started his own health company HMR, showed me that people with even the humblest of beginnings can have the opportunity to significantly influence others; and Kelly Peeler, who started a financial literacy program for high school students called NextGenVest even though she graduated from Harvard only four years ago, showed me that ambitious people can start making a difference at a young age. These three people along with many of the others whom I met have accomplished so much in their lives without compromising their integrity, and I only hope that one day I will be able to inspire others as much as they have inspired me. Along with the academic aspect of meeting speakers and taking classes on leadership and philanthropy, the more recreational activities you planned for the camp were probably the highlights of my summer. You helped me discover a new love for sailing when we spent the night on a tall ship

in Newport, and on that ship I had the experience of a lifetime by being able to climb to the top mast of the sail. I still cannot believe I was able to do that. Moreover, I loved the day your aunt and uncle generously opened their Newport home to all the girls because the dock and ocean by their house were beautiful, and I had the opportunity to speak with your aunt who has witnessed many significant changes in American society. To conclude, I simply want to thank you for all your generosity. You always approached campers to make sure they were happy and having fun and offered to do anything to enhance their experience. Also, because of my food sensitivities, you always went out of your way to find food I could eat. I do not think I have ever met someone who gives so freely of his time, money, effort, and resources as you do. Your sincere passion for teaching the next generation how to improve the future is what makes Grab the Torch such a success. I truly loved my week at Grab the Torch and only regret that I did not plan my summer better so that I could attend the program again later this summer in Maine. Thank you again for this incredible journey.

Best Regards,

Isabella