

## Scholarships Make a Difference

### ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

"I'm overwhelmed by the job possibilities with my major. There's so much that I can do," says Melissa Dziejcz, a senior human services major.

Studying human services is an ideal fit for Melissa, someone who enjoys helping those in need and listening to their ideas. She had the opportunity to support her own community this summer through her first internship. As a camp counselor for a Mercy Neighborhood Ministry's summer enrichment program, Melissa acted as a social worker for underprivileged children living in North Philadelphia.

"I've always enjoyed working with the less fortunate. Many times their voice goes unheard and I like to be there to listen. I was lucky enough to receive a private, Catholic school education since kindergarten and I was always taught to give back to others," says Melissa, a Philadelphia native.

To complete her major, she will need one more internship, something she will have to fit into her already full schedule. She's busy fulfilling the roles of president of the Student Government Association, peer mentor, Griffin Ambassador, work-study student in the Student Activities Office, member of the Orientation Planning Team, Alpha Kappa Delta (International Sociology Honor Society), and Sigma Phi Sigma (National Mercy Honor Society). Each activity teaches her something about herself, she explains.

"As I found my role in these groups I've been able to grow as a person and find who I am as a leader. I've learned to be assertive, not aggressive, listen to others, hone my social skills and stay professional in a leadership position – all things that will undoubtedly help me in the future."

With graduation around the corner, Melissa envisions what she will be doing after she earns her degree. Continuing community service, possibly with Mercy Volunteer Corps, is an option and counseling children is at the top of her list. Traveling also interests her, she says, as an Alternative Spring Break trip to the Bronx in her junior year helped her to see the variety of people who are in need of a helping hand. She met children at an inner-city camp, underprivileged young women working on earning their GEDs, and the homeless in a soup kitchen.

Wherever Melissa goes and whichever profession she chooses, she knows she will be prepared with the compassion and experience to help the people who need it most.

#### **Melissa's Scholarships:**

**Gwynedd-Mercy Scholarship** – This partial tuition award is based on academic achievement and financial need.

**Mercy Circle** – This unrestricted scholarship was founded from excess campaign money from the building of Keiss Hall. Additional funds donated by College employees were also named for Mercy Circle.

**Sister Isabelle Keiss Memorial Scholarship** – This scholarship is awarded to a full-time student on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, leadership ability and demonstrated evidence of a commitment to community service.

**Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)** – The TIP Grant is an award offered to incoming, first-time freshman who are graduates of a Catholic high school.

