

# THE CATALYST

A publication of the Haiti Plunge

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*The Haiti Plunge mission is to challenge and empower young people to make a difference with their lives and to be of service to others.*

**Holly Palardy, newly appointed Haiti Plunge Inc. Assistant Director with Executive Director, Sr. Eunice Tassone, ssj.**



As a high school student, I had the opportunity to travel to the rural Cabaret mountain region of Haiti with the Haiti Plunge and it was such an exciting, challenging and interesting experience that it changed and focused my academic track and my career goals. I have since traveled with the Haiti Plunge many times, and I am now fortunate enough to continue to do so!

I am incredibly excited to begin working with the organization. Not only will I be able to utilize my undergraduate degree in International Development and Social Change ( Clark University '14) and my Masters in Public Administration ( Clark University '15) but I will also be able to work in and give back to two communities who have shaped who I am –The nine village partnership in Haiti, as well as my home community in Berkshire County.

My academic career and my experience studying and traveling abroad in Namibia and the Southern African Region have taught me that long term sustainable relationships built on mutually beneficial partnerships are at the heart of any successful development initiative. This is what the Haiti

Plunge is all about. There is so much these Haitian and American communities have already learned from each other, and I am looking forward to seeing how these friendships continue to grow in years to come.

International development and cultural exchange programs are fields filled with complexity, challenges and controversy, however if done correctly....unbelievable reward. I am looking forward to all that it has in store for me as I continue working with this Seamless Team.

## PEACE JAM

Haiti Plunge Inc. has formed its own Peace Jam group for high school youth. Peace Jam is an internationally recognized organization which empowers young people to be educated in local and global issues, inspires them to make a difference, and take action (<https://www.peacejam.org/>). Peace Jam will allow students to learn more about Haiti before taking the Plunge, and to help facilitate reentry when returning home. In addition, Peace Jam will work on community projects in Berkshire County that utilize the model of sustainable development. This will take returning student's new found knowledge of global issues and solutions and bring them into their home communities and everyday lives. If you are interested in learning more about the development of our Peace Jam group please email: [palardy@gmail.com](mailto:palardy@gmail.com).

The lifeline of the Haiti Plunge mission is our donors. The choices you make define who you are.

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