Honorable Mention, 2012 Dear George Washington Contest Giselle Berrilon, Third Grade Shuman Elementary School

Dear President Washington,

My name is Giselle and I'm 9 years old. I live in New York. My town needs a school. I don't know how to count, read, or write. I asked my preacher to write this letter for me but I want to know how to do these things for myself. It's really important to count money when my mom sends money with me to the market. I want to be sure that no one will trick me and give me the wrong amount of money. I could help my mom if I had a school to go to. Can you please build a school in my town?

My mom, brother, and sister are sick and there aren't any hospitals in my town. My mom has a really bad disease. My brother has been sick for three months and my sister has been sick for seven months. We need a doctor to take care of the sick people. Many people are sick. Please help our town.

We also need help with our roads. Sometimes my dad has problems traveling on the roads on his way home from the army. The roads are so bad that sometimes it takes him a long time to get home. When I go to market to get sometimes the milk spills and the eggs break. The roads are too bumpy. Sometimes the roads are so bumpy that the wheels break on the wagon. Can you build better roads so people can use carriages and horses on safe roads?

I think your new job will be a lot of responsibility. People all over our new country need your help. My town needs your help and everyone will feel thankful for your help.

Your friend,

Giselle