

The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust

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The Man in the Red Bandanna

September 1, 2003

Dear Friends of Welles,

As we approach the second anniversary of September 11th, we would like to thank you once again for the generosity of your gift to **The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust** and report to you on some of the events and gifts we have made from the trust over the past year.

In the spring of 2002, we established The Birchwood Award at Nyack High School where Welles was a member of the Class of 1995. An engraved crystal “Sail” sculpture and \$1,000 is awarded each to a young woman and a young man, graduating seniors who are chosen annually by committee based upon our criteria of excellence in scholastics, athletics and community service. The committee is comprised of the school principal, the heads of the guidance and athletic departments, two coaches and one teacher.

This year the Birchwood Award was given to Jenna DeLeonardis and Eric Clegg. Jenna was high honor roll member and class president for 4 years; played varsity volleyball, basketball and lacrosse; was a member of Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse and volunteered for STEAD, an organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding for physically and mentally challenged individuals. She will attend Fordham University in the fall. Eric was also an honor student and varsity athlete in football, where he played quarterback, and baseball. He is a member of the Valley Cottage Fire Department and will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida in the fall. We are very proud of these high-achieving young people. They are fine representatives of the spirit of our son through the pursuit of excellence in their broad range of endeavors.

In addition, **The WRC Charitable Trust** gave a Birchwood Gift of \$1,000 to help underwrite The Rockland Symphony Orchestra’s Young Peoples Concert which features performances by student musicians who are winners of the concerto division of The Rockland County Music Teacher’s Guild Auditions. Historically, many of these winners have gone on to pursue major professional careers in performance or music.

\$1,000 Birchwood Gifts were also awarded to The Fresh Air Fund; Camp Becket, a YMCA camp in the Berkshire Mountains, Massachusetts, that Welles attended as a boy; Boston College, Welles’ alma mater; The Valley Cottage Indians Youth Athletic Association; and a school for autistic children in Bergen County, New Jersey. We have also made a gift to a children’s cancer treatment center at a major New Jersey hospital.

Every September, we produce a *Concert of Remembrance, 9/11* for the community. Professional musicians from major New York area orchestras volunteer their time and talent to perform in this very beautiful and meaningful event. This year's concert will be Sunday, September 14 at 4 pm, Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY.

Very special tributes have been made to honor Welles' memory this year. Welles was posthumously awarded the Nyack Fire Department's Medal of Honor. New York State has officially recognized his sacrifice as a "Line of Duty Death". He was a member of Empire Hook & Ladder, Co. No. 1 of Upper Nyack, a volunteer company.

Mr. Patrick Carney, a Boston College alumnus, committed \$1 million to create and endow The Welles R. Crowther, Class of '99, Directorship of the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, the newest department at Boston College.

Mr. Patrick Morley, "The Man in the Mirror", who has published 8 books on the subject of spiritual growth and better living through Christian outreach, was inspired by Welles' story to establish a not-for-profit organization "The Fellowship of the Red Bandanna" and to create a website www.redbandanna.org. Visit this site to learn more!

Nyack High School and Boston College friends of Welles have organized annual fund-raisers: NHS Alumni Ice Hockey Game has been organized as a fund-raiser for the trust, as well as special events in Boston and New York City. The Boston fund-raiser was attended by 500 people last year and raised over \$7,000 ! Significant monies are also being raised by Welles' friends through sponsored participation in marathons across the country.

Fund-raising is critical for **The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust** so that we can continue to support these fine programs annually and increase our level and range of support as well. The mission of the trust is to support the efforts of young people in their pursuit of excellence and also to assist organizations that are committed to the betterment and growth of young people.

Some of our past donors have committed to us that they will make significant annual gifts to **The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust**. If it is possible for you to make the trust a permanent recipient in your annual giving plans, we would be deeply appreciative. As time goes by, we learn of many more opportunities to make a significant difference in the lives of young people, not only through our monetary contribution, but also through the sharing Welles' story, which is enormously inspiring. We sincerely hope that you will join us as a permanent member of our team.

With many thanks for your past generosity, most sincerely,

Alison R. Crowther	Jefferson H. Crowther	Honor Crowther Fagan	Thomas S. Weekley
Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee

