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November 3, 2009

Bob Buttrum
Hercules Fence
8194 Euclid Court
Manassas Park, VA 20111

Dear Bob Buttrum,

It has been an amazing 8 weeks since that magical moment when ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (EMHE) knocked on our door and now that the dust has settled, we wanted to reach out and thank you for all that you have done to make our dream of a new facility to serve our students a reality.

We have recently been made aware of all of the amazing people who came forward and contributed their time, talent and resources to the EMHE project. As you know, we were kept in the dark until they moved that bus! And now that we are receiving the hundreds and hundreds of names – to say we are overwhelmed with gratitude doesn't begin to articulate how humbled we are for all that you have done.

This historic gift will mark a new and brighter future for The Fishing School (TFS), our students and their families. Nearly twenty years after our humble beginning in a former crack house and after having served over 2,500 students, we can now implement new and creative ideas that have been on our "someday" list, sooner than we ever imagined possible.

We have some ambitious goals and want to share with you what they are so that you know what you have made possible with your generosity. As quickly as possible, we will expand our commitment to meet the needs of Washington, D.C.'s children by:

- Doubling the number of students we serve in our academic-focused after school and summer programs;
- Matching every child we serve with a trained mentor that will help them reach their academic and life goals;

- Creating a new Rising Scholars program in the new facility to prepare motivated middle school students for success in high school and college;
- Expand our Parent Support Center to empower parent and guardians of our students to become an active part in their child's education and development. The expanded PSC is made possible by the generous donation of the home across the street from our new facility by Mr. Olen Wilson.

It would have taken us many years to raise the funds, demolish the old building and build the new facility. And our design, well, let's just say it would be far less extreme! But with what you have done, our students now have a state of the art computer lab, state of the art classroom and individual study facilities, state of the art video technology and our building is secure from the perspective of physical security and risk of fire. Our students deserve the best and you have given them that and more!

We are eternally grateful for all that you have done to ensure a bright future for TFS and our students. We look forward to hosting you in a series of open houses that we are planning as soon as we have our revised occupancy permit in place allowing us to have large gatherings. We are currently restricted by the occupancy permit related to the old building and are undergoing the process now to get that revised for the capacity of the new building. We envision having that in place shortly so stay tuned for some fun "gratitude" events we will be hosting for you!

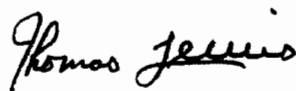
The producers of EMHE have informed us that the episode featuring TFS will air during the ratings sweeps period in February. They've promised to provide a specific date some time in November. Expect to get information from TFS about a number of exciting events we are planning around the airing of the show.

Our sincere and most heart-felt thank you for positioning us to achieve our full potential as a service provider to the children and parents who live in the shadows of our nation's capital. You have been a bright light to them and to our organization and we intend to maximize your investment by taking our programs to the highest levels possible.

Forever grateful,



Leo Givs
Executive Director



Tom Lewis
Founder



Sally Sullivan
Chair, Board of Directors