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Dear Friends,

As another year slips away, we reflect on the past. This year is symbolic, it marks twenty-three years since Anne's death just after her twenty-third birthday. Kristin O'Sullivan remarked at the Lexington High School award ceremony last spring:

"As I stand here this evening, it strikes me that I have lived a second life time in the 23 years since Anne was tragically taken from us. Anne died when she was only 23. We miss her terribly and often wonder what she would be doing today- Would she be married? Would she have a family? What would her life's work be? What would she have accomplished in her second lifetime? Even though these questions are difficult to process and she has been gone for a long time, Anne's spirit is still alive. Anne continues to bring her friends together as she did when we were all in high school and beyond."

At the same time we look to the future, to the hope and promise of our young people. Anne's time with us was brief, but her legacy continues in the young people who share Anne's dreams and aspirations. It also continues in the work of the programs this Foundation has supported during the last thirteen years, programs whose goal is to promote community and prevent violence. Like the flame and candle in our logo, the people working in these programs are also representative of those who bring hope to the young, the vulnerable, and the hurting.

In Anne's Spirit continues its commitment to youth with a new grant to Crossroads for Kids. We first visited this residential camp located in Duxbury during a summer session. Campers from the inner city spend two weeks in an environment free from violence where they can walk from activities to dining hall without fearing sound of bullets or confrontation with danger. They develop hope for the future.

Roger attended the recent Robert Coles "Call of Service" lecture at the Phillips Brooks House at Harvard University. This year Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, was honored for his work. He spoke of walking by a homeless person after leaving a meeting while a Harvard undergraduate and realizing then the need to do something about social problems. From this came his dedication to advocate for the homeless. In his words:

"If you serve and you call yourself to be more than what you think you can be, this world can be more than what we think it can be."

Inside you will read more about the programs the Foundation has supported this year and will see how they each bring hope to those they serve. Your continued support and commitment to improving people's lives have helped to bring hope to others ***In Anne's Spirit***.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you and wish you and your family hope and peace during this season of light,

Roger and Betty Borghesani



Crossroads Continuity Initiative Winter Program

"In Anne's Spirit"

A non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to reducing the incidence and effects of violence by promoting development of healthy children and families and to providing scholarships that encourage personal growth through community involvement.

Crossroads for Kids

“One of our most important goals is to help them look beyond their environments and become agents of positive change in their communities.”
Deb Samuels, Executive Director

Several Board members are familiar with Crossroads for Kids in Duxbury, originally founded in 1935 under the auspices of the Boys Clubs of Boston. As such, it provided an overnight camping experience to boys of Eastern Massachusetts. Through the years it was renamed Crossroads for Kids and has grown from its initial mission of providing a summer camping experience into a year round, comprehensive program for at-risk youth as an independent non-profit.

In the late 90’s the camp’s leaders, many of whom were also teachers and counselors in the Boston public schools, recognized that maintaining a supportive relationship with the campers through the school year impacted the child’s academic and social growth. From this grew a formal year-round program, the Crossroads Continuity Initiative. It provides year-round mentoring and enrichment programming, including a monthly weekend at the camp to reinforce the importance of learning and community service.



Deb Samuels recently noted that:

“The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education found that 31% of low-income teens will never graduate from high school and only 40% enroll in college. Our program is making enormous strides in closing this gap for low-income youth in Massachusetts:

- 100% of youth involved in Crossroads’ year-round programming for five or more years graduate from high school
- 93% of Crossroads’ graduates are accepted to college and 85% enroll (the difference is due to insufficient financial aid)
- 78% of Crossroads graduates are first generation college scholars, paving the way for their families
- 25% of our alumni return to Crossroads as staff mentors, giving back to other young people from their communities”



An integral part of the success of this year round program is the role of the Leadership Coach who maintains a close mentorship relationship and serves as a resource and advocate within the community. Looking to strengthen this year-round program, the Foundation awarded a \$5000 grant to Crossroads for Kids to support further development of the

Leadership Curriculum and increase the number of children participating in the year-long initiative.

I can’t thank you enough for all that you have done for my son. I truly appreciate your presence in his life and all of the support that he gets from his Crossroads family. I believe that Crossroads has absolutely put him on the track to success and has possibly saved his life. I think he will stand on your shoulders and offer other young people the support and generosity that he’s received from you.

- Crossroads Camper’s mom

For more information, see www.crossroads4kids.org

Amara

Since its founding in 1921, Amara in Seattle, Washington, has evolved to provide pregnancy counseling, foster care support and facilitation of adoption of infants and vulnerable children. Many children have suffered trauma and need support of nurturing families. Foster care children have no permanent family; when they reach 19, they lose their foster child status and are on their own. Less than half will graduate from high school and more than 25 per cent will become incarcerated within two years of leaving foster care. Amara’s goal is to find a lasting family for every child. Last year the Foundation assisted Amara with a grant to support efforts to place siblings in adoptive homes.

Last spring Roger and Betty attended an information session at Amara for prospective foster/adoptive parents. It was noted that 1/3 of all foster children are less than 3 years old and by that age have often been placed in 5 separate foster homes. The challenge in successful placement of these vulnerable children requires “parenting plus”. To assist foster and adoptive parents Amara has initiated a support group program called CONNECT. According to Amara one of the most helpful resources for parents in dealing with parenting children with

traumatic backgrounds is to speak with other parents in similar situations. While adoptive families need support from social workers and other professionals, they also need the fellowship of other adoptive parents who can provide each other valuable mentorship, friendship, empathy and much-needed respite care. They build a social network of support and have identified mentors, developed relationships with families they know and trust, and helped their kids make connections with other foster and adopted kids. One family reflected on their own experience since starting and leading a Connect group:



Trayvon and Isaiah with their Dad

They build a social network of support and have identified mentors, developed relationships with families they know and trust, and helped their kids make connections with other foster and adopted kids. One family reflected on their own experience since starting and leading a Connect group:

“I love meeting other families who understand our unique family story and have discovered a real sense of community with other foster/adoptive families in my area. CONNECT Groups have been a great idea-sharing venue for me and fun for my kids, too.”
Amber, mother of Trayvon and Isaiah”

John Morse, Executive Director, recounts:

“Over the last three years, Amara’s success rate is 92%. This means that 8% of our placements have resulted in a disruption - when a foster-adoptive placement intended to be permanent does not endure. Nationally, disruption rates range from 10 to 25%. We are now placing children with higher needs. As a result, we expect some of our placements to be at greater risk of disruption. At the same time, we believe our strengthened post-placement support and the CONNECT programs will together help more families as they welcome children with more challenges.”

A \$5,000 grant was given in 2013 to Amara to support the expansion of the recently developed CONNECT program.

For more information see www.amaraparenting.org

Strong Women, Strong Girls

Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG) has provided after school programming to girls in third through fifth grade since it was founded in 2000 by Harvard student Lindsay Hyde. Having also expanded to Pittsburgh and Miami, SWSG last year served 720 girls at 50 Greater Boston sites and involved 155 college women mentors from 5 local universities. The mentors engage with the girls to empower one another while studying contemporary and historical female role models and working on skill building activities, all strengthening self-esteem. In 2010 SWSG expanded its services to Medford and Somerville through the leadership of Tufts University students, Anne’s alma mater.



Betty visited with a Tufts sponsored Somerville group recently. The meeting began with every girl and mentor sharing a rose and a thorn experience from their past week. Girls snapped their fingers to indicate empathy with the speaker. Then they read about Dolores Huerta, who worked with Cesar Chavez in the 60’s. Using her as a role model, they

discussed cultural sensitivity, the variety of cultures represented by the girls present, and the shared set of values that cross cultures. They also discussed the benefits of people working together so their voice can be heard and positive changes can be made.

An important component of the SWSG mentoring process is the annual field trip to the mentors’ college. Betty recently joined the Tufts chapter when the 75 Somerville and Medford girls spent a day on campus. The theme for this year’s visit was “Around the World”. With their *passports*, groups of girls participated in three activities representative of Latin America, Africa, and South East Asia cultures. The African rock game, a variation of musical chair, found the girls sitting in a circle, passing rocks from hand to hand as they chanted the song “Ala sadiki baabu” faster and faster, until all but one

girl was eliminated. In spite of the competition, at all times the girls were engaged and supportive of each other.

A \$5000 grant was made to SWSG in 2013 to support the further expansion of the Tufts program in Medford and Somerville.



I enjoy seeing the happiness on my daughter's face when she tells me about SWSG each week. She has been motivated to do a little better in school because she wants to go to college like her mentors. Keep encouraging my child and empowering her with confidence to exceed and excel above all expectations.
A mother of a SWSG participant

For more information, see www.swsg.org.

Victim Rights Law Center

The Foundation has supported Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) for 12 years since its founding. VRLC advocates for the interests of sexual assault survivors within the civil, criminal, and academic justice systems, and works to meet the complex socio-economic needs of diverse survivors. Using a holistic approach they work collaboratively with other victim service providers. VRLC is a nationally acclaimed developer of best practice methods and provider of services to assault victims. With assistance of pro bono attorneys and paraprofessionals, they provided free civil legal assistance to more than 400 rape and assault victims in Massachusetts last year. Nearly half of these victims were under 24 years of age and some were less than 13 years old. Executive Director, Stacy Malone, recently recounted the following example of a VRLC client protected by a restraining order.

“Sean” (not his real name) is an 8 year old male. Last year, he was living with his mother and stepfather during the week and with his father on weekends. One weekend, he disclosed to his father that his stepfather’s teenage son touched him inappropriately. Sean’s father immediately brought him to the hospital and contacted the police. He also filed for a 209A restraining order to protect Sean while he was at his mother’s home. The VRLC became involved earlier this year when Sean’s father requested representation at the 209A extension hearing. Sean’s mother was unsupportive of the restraining order and had repeatedly told Sean that soon the assailant would be allowed back in the home. Sean’s father feared that without representation, Sean’s mother would convince the judge not to extend the order and Sean would again be living with the assailant and unsafe. The VRLC represented Sean at the hearing and was able to obtain a one-year extension to prevent the assailant from living in the same home as the victim.”

At the recent VRLC Shining Star Gala, Ms. Malone said: “We believe in hope, we believe that VRLC can provide options and choices to enable victims to heal.”



Anita Hill,
Stacy Malone,
actress and
humanitarian Ashley
Judd,
Lindy Aldrich of
VRLC
At Shining Star
Awards

In response to this pressing need to provide direct legal services to young victims, especially to those under 13 years of age, for whom federal funding cannot be used, the Foundation recently awarded VRLC a grant of \$5000.

For more information see www.victimrights.org

Franklin I-O Summer Program in Dorchester

The Franklin Summer Urban Program, sponsored by the Phillips Brooks House, a student-run public service organization at Harvard University, is a community based day camp in Dorchester serving 80 at risk youth. In fulfilling its mission “to create a community of mutual respect and support, in which youth build strong foundations of academic and social skills”, it incorporates classroom learning, field trips to area attractions, swimming and games, and community building activities in the neighborhood.

An important component of the Franklin program is providing academic enrichment. Mornings are spent in class



rooms working on units designed by the counselors to strengthen reading, writing and math skills. One summer morning Helen Carr and Betty visited Franklin. We met in the cafeteria at the old Dorchester High to witness the Franklin chant as the campers began the day before visiting several classrooms. The younger children were creating frogs and butterflies seen on a recent nature walk. In the older boys group Betty talked with three young teens about a book they were reading, *The Pact-Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill Their Dream*. This led to a discussion of what they themselves would like to do in life, as well as the importance of reading. At another table 4 boys played a lively Parcheesi game where there was cooperation, respect and lots of laughter displayed. A group of 6th-7th graders were reading *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia. Jim, the counselor, was leading the discussion to help them understand issues of civil rights in the historical context of the sixties. Helen Carr saw first-hand a successful example of using Peace Process in making choices for how to handle responses when a small dispute arose in the classroom she was visiting. And all

this was just what we saw in a two hour visit. Imagine if all the learning moments could be tallied up. The Franklin children benefit in so many unrecognized ways.

The Foundation awarded \$4,000 to the 2013 Franklin I-O Summer Program in Dorchester to support violence prevention training, a trip to the Garden of Peace Memorial to Victims of Homicide, and to support the Senior Counselor in Training.

For more information see www.pbha.org

Sojourner House

Sojourner House provides temporary shelter and services for homeless families, including extensive services to children. Parents are given assistance in job-training programs, financial management, and parenting. Sojourner House has become a trusted part of the Roxbury community. A recent note from Director Anastasia Lopopolo relates the following story:

“One night at 3:30 in the morning, a 13 year old girl rang the shelter’s bell and stood on our porch in her pajamas and slippers. She said her foster parents were abusing her and she couldn’t take it any longer. When we asked why she came to Sojourner, she said, “my friends told me this was a safe place to come.”

In the Sojourner grant request, Ms Lopopolo states:

“Over the past three years there has been a dramatic increase in family homelessness with over 1,200 families living in 2nd rate motels. There have been numerous deaths, including children. Because of the dangers involved in motel living, the Commonwealth is now putting their most vulnerable homeless families into shelters whenever there is an opening because it recognizes the need for more oversight and supports for these families. As a result, we have many young families come to the shelter along with families with substance abuse and mental health issues. We have children who cannot see



because their parents weren’t able to get them glasses and toddlers with failure to thrive after being in motel stays.”

Sojourner House receives state funding for its care for the homeless, however, the Children’s Program is supported entirely by private donations and run by Sojourner staff and Boston College volunteers. They offer afterschool activities and tutoring, field trips to museums and sporting events, and special celebrations. Services to assist these highly vulnerable families include seeking appropriate educational testing and placements, as well as counseling and mental health supports for children and parents.

Many of the children remain connected to Sojourner House even after finding permanent housing. A previous newsletter

spoke of Sasha, a young woman who spent time during high school at Sojourner House and was assisted by our grant. Now a junior at Bryn Mawr College, she has been active in school organizations, tutoring low-income high school students, and working in the café. She sent a recent letter to the director of Sojourner House:

I have had ups and downs in my life that have helped shape who I am today; one of the ups was living at Sojourner House because it taught me the importance of helping people and how taking the time to support and give someone a hand can change someone's life. This is why I am a Sociology major with an Education minor. Because of my interest in being a teacher, this summer I will work at the University of Pennsylvania for their Upward Bound Program, a college-prep program for students from low-income communities to help them be better prepared to finish high school and be ready for college material. I am also working for the CHICA Project which focuses on recruiting 14-18 year old Latinas from Boston, Lawrence, Springfield and Holyoke to create a year-long mentorship to provide them with the skills they need for professional environment and to aid them in their academic career.



This year we are awarding \$4000 to Sojourner House for use by the Children's Program. The grant will be used towards transportation, special events, summer camp fees, maintaining a play space, educational and recreational supplies and special services as needed for a specific child.

For more information see www.sojournerhouseboston.org

AEB Memorial Prize at Lexington High School

This award, established by Anne's classmates in 1990, honors Anne by recognizing a female graduate who exemplifies Anne's qualities of school and community spirit. Upon making this year's presentation to **Kate Powers**, recipient of the 2013 *Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize at Lexington High School*, Kristin O'Sullivan remarked:

"We enjoy the process reviewing each carefully prepared application together, because we see Anne's enthusiasm, humor, joy and optimism in them. One of Kate's teacher's recommendations stated that: 'She loves to learn, and she loves people. She will always have an immediate, powerful impact equally with peers and staff. In short, she possesses a unique ability to bring out the best in others.'

Our committee saw Anne in these words, and we know this candidate will continue to grow in her curiosity about the world around her while continuing to serve her community and sustain her personal relationships."

In her application essay, Kate, who is now attending Bowdoin wrote:

"My involvement in activities has been motivated by my genuine belief that we all have not just the capability but

the responsibility to make a difference in the lives of those who surround us.

We enjoy hearing from recipients of the LHS Prize. Isabel Eccles, a 2007 winner, wrote recently:

"Anne had a new vision for the world ... I felt the same longing for change ... I attended Tufts and was a Peace and Justice Studies major with a focus on interpersonal conflict and resolution. I studied the sociology of war, creation of social movements, violence prevention and, most importantly, how to attain peace. I am pursuing a PsyD in Clinical Psychology at the Mass School of Professional Psychology where I worked last year with elementary-age students. Currently I am working with people who struggle with substance abuse. In some small way I feel as if I am helping carry on Anne's vision. Although Anne's time was taken from her, her hope and compassion have lived on through this fund and have impacted many young lives, including mine."



Kate Powers and Kristin O'Sullivan

Comprised of Anne's classmates, the LHS Committee is separate from the Foundation, managed by the Trustees of the Town of Lexington. The scholarship is a \$2000 award to a graduate chosen by Anne's peers. *In Anne's Spirit* again gave \$2000 to the scholarship fund in 2013.

AEB Memorial Prize at Tufts University

More than 75 students have received the *Anne E. Borghesani Prize at Tufts* since it was established in 1991. This prize enables recipients to increase their international exposure to social, economic, political, and cultural differences through participation in an internship, study, or research project in another country. Under the guidance of Professor Drusilla Brown, director of the International Relations Program (IR), and Asst. Director Kathleen Devigne, this incentive prize encourages the promotion of personal growth, knowledge, and independence, increases understanding of diverse cultures, and fosters commitment to community.



The selection committee is comprised of IR Program faculty, Roger, Betty, and Philip Borghesani, Judith Henry Scinto, T92, and Lyn Lustig, T89. The value of the Prize has grown and three to four students receive grants each year.

Last spring four students were awarded prizes which took them to three different continents. At the annual symposium in November the students present the results of their experiences. **Taina Paredes**, a Child Development and American Studies major, interned in Quito, Ecuador with the Yanapuma Foundation, a service learning program. She lived with a host family and worked with third and fourth grade

